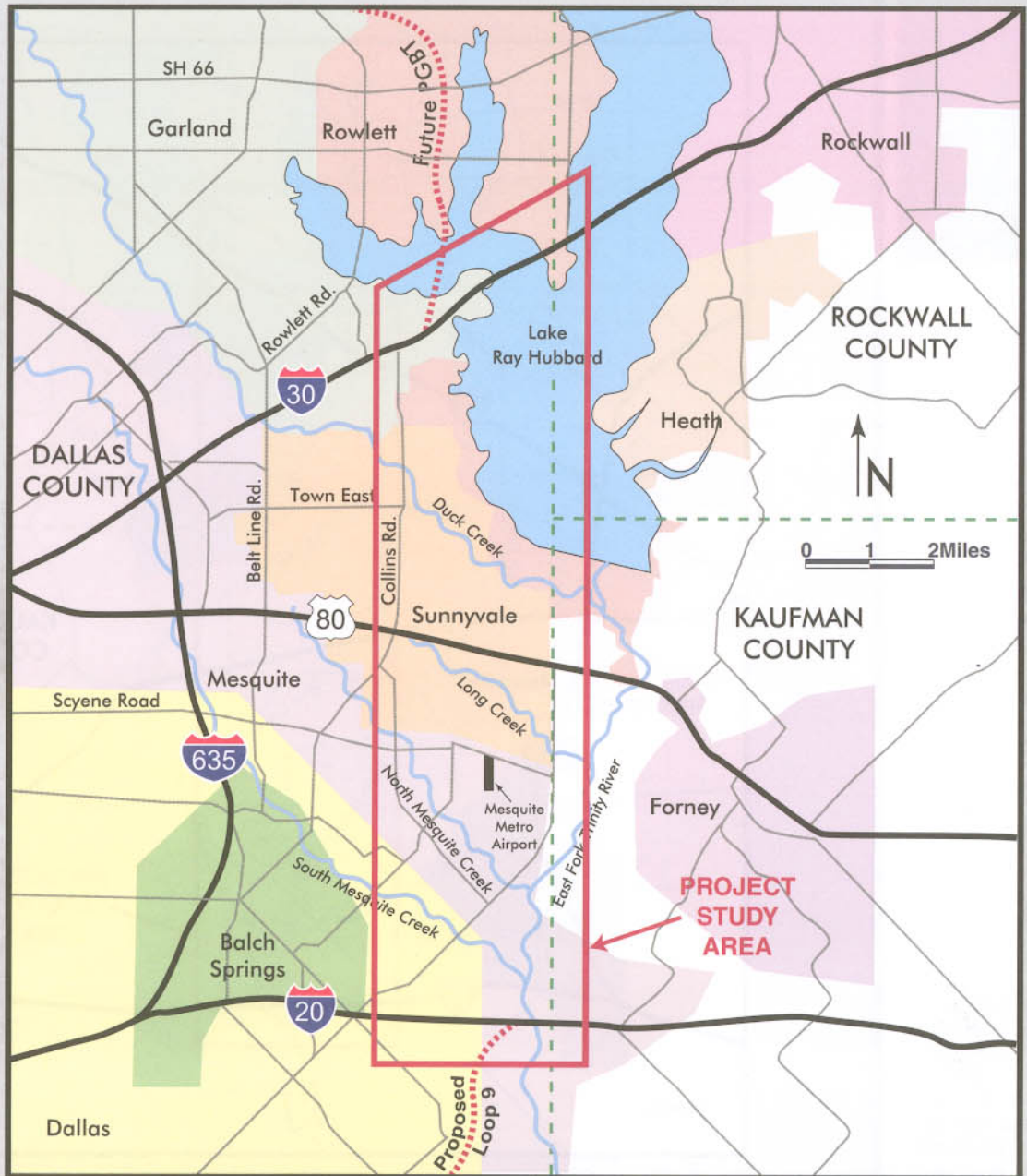


Project Location Map

The study corridor for the SH 190 Transportation Study is from Interstate Highway 30 south to Interstate Highway 20 and is approximately 11 miles long. The potential route(s) under study will directly involve the cities of Garland and Mesquite, Town of Sunnyvale, and Dallas County. The map below shows the project study area.



Texas Department of Transportation
 Dallas District
 4777 E Highway 80
 P.O. Box 133067
 Dallas, Texas 75313-3067
 214-320-6100
 Fax: 214-320-4470

Project Overview

The
East Branch
190

SH 190 TRANSPORTATION STUDY
www.theeastbranch.org



The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is conducting a study to determine the feasibility of developing a new roadway from IH 30 to IH 20 in eastern Dallas County. The study begins along side the cities, towns, and the public to determine alternatives and alignments for the potential new roadway. In so far as the study's "blank canvas" of possibilities, TxDOT will rely heavily on city/town leadership and input in determining what alignment works best for each jurisdiction. It is anticipated the facility would improve local north-south transportation and complete the regional (eastern) SH 190 Loop – connecting the President George Bush Turnpike extension at IH 30 to the proposed Loop 9 at IH 20. Study objectives and evaluations will determine if a roadway is needed, and if so:

- What type of roadway is warranted
- The location of roadway
- The potential environmental effects of building the roadway

This phase involves the development and evaluation of alternatives and the development of an Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with state and federal guidelines. Alternative development and evaluation, public and agency involvement, and schematic design are included. The schedule for this effort is 40-months. This combined planning effort will conclude with:

- Identification of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
- Typical cross-sections with Right-of-Way determination
- Preliminary Design Schematic
- Final environmental clearance through a Record of Decision (ROD)

Future Toll Road?

The East Branch will be evaluated for potential toll-application as part of the SH 190 Transportation Study objectives. In Texas, current identified transportation needs exceed available funding by three to one. Traditional, tax-based methods of financing roads are no longer sufficient to handle the statewide and local transportation needs in a timely fashion. The future depends on funding tools that maximize budgets by using strategic partnerships with local communities and private businesses. In the past, Texas highways have been funded by a combination of federal, state and local funds.

The Planning Process



The general process for major transportation projects involves many steps and can take 10 to 20 years before roadway improvements are open to traffic. The flowchart below shows the major steps.

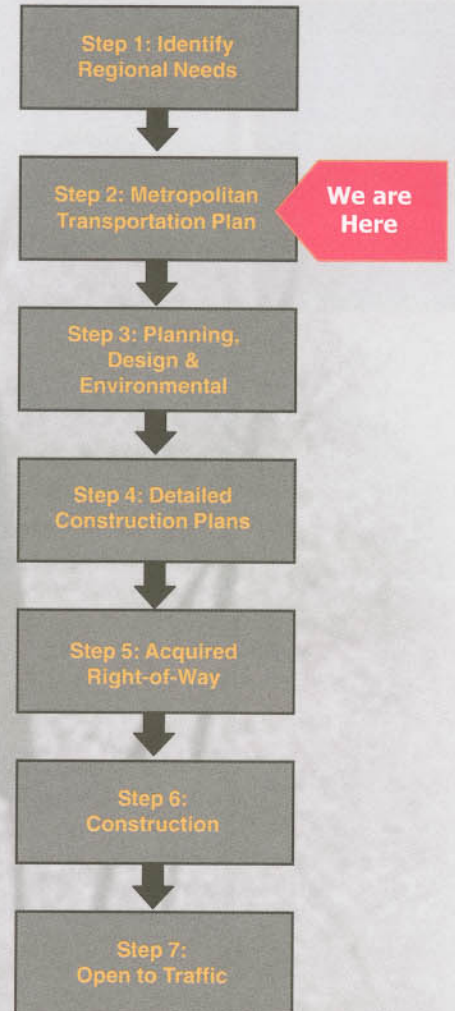
Regional transportation needs are identified through a long-range planning process involving local, regional, state and federal transportation officials (Step 1). The process is based on current needs, future growth and available transportation funding and a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the next 20 years is the result (Step 2). If warranted, Major Transportation Studies (MTS) are conducted during this process for individual projects.

After a project is added to the MTP, corridor-level planning studies can begin. This step includes the development and evaluation of alternatives, public and agency involvement, environmental studies, preliminary design, and cost estimates (Step 3). These more detailed planning studies will both determine if a transportation project is feasible and identify potential effects on the community and environment.

Once these studies are completed and approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), detailed engineering is initiated to develop detailed construction plans and right-of-way maps (Step 4).

Based on the construction plans, the necessary right-of-way for the project is acquired and utilities such as power lines and water lines are relocated such that they do not interfere with construction (Step 5).

When the construction plans are complete, right-of-way acquired, and funding secured, construction can begin (Step 6). As with most large projects, the improvements are typically built in stages (Step 7).



The
East Branch
190

SH 190 TRANSPORTATION STUDY
www.theeastbranch.org



Public and agency participation are critical elements of The East Branch. The process will involve individuals, neighborhoods, community and special interest groups, agency representatives, and elected officials. Meetings and activities will be scheduled to coincide with project milestones.

Program Structure, Roles and Responsibilities

Opportunities for active participation from the public will be provided throughout the study. Public participation will guide the project development process. However, TxDOT, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, will have the final decision-making responsibility.

Website – A website for the project has been developed – www.theeastbranch.org. Project information, maps, alternative development and summaries of Public Meetings are just some of the information the site will contain. There is also a place to e-mail us your comments or ideas.

Public Meetings and Hearings – Five Open Houses with accompanying Public Meetings/Hearings are planned. These meetings will give you an opportunity to follow the progress of the study, to ask questions of the study team and provide your comments. These events will occur at key points within project development when significant information can be provided and in turn, your comments can help further guide the development of the design.

Project Newsletter – Four editions of a project newsletter will be published to help keep you informed of the project development, and the dates, time, and locations of future Public Meetings.

Presentations – The study team will make presentations to various community organizations upon request. If you would like a presentation about The East Branch, please send an e-mail to contact@theeastbranch.org or call (214) 920-8167.

Project Display/Kiosk – A portable project kiosk will be on display at public locations within the project study area to help people remain informed about the project's existence, purpose, need, and progress. If you would like the kiosk displayed at your business or building for minimum one (1) month duration, please send an e-mail to contact@theeastbranch.org or call (214) 920-8167.

Community Work Group – The primary role of the Community Work Group is to exchange information, concerns and ideas between interest groups and the study team relative to the project's design. These Work Group meetings will be open to the public, with times and locations posted on the website. If you are interested in being a member or would like to nominate someone, please call (214) 920-8167 to request a nomination form.

Mailing List – If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive newsletters and notices of events, go to our website at <http://www.theeastbranch.org/maillinglist.asp> or fax your name and address to (214) 638-5632, Attn: The East Branch or call (214) 920-8167.

