



Meeting Report

PROJECT: SH 190 (The East Branch)
IH 30 to IH 20

PROJECT NO: 022522

PRESENT: See attached sign-in sheets

DATE: 8/18/2005

The following is our understanding of the subject matter covered in this meeting. If this differs from your understanding, please notify us within five working days.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) conducted a Public Scoping Meeting (open house format) to present the proposed purpose of soliciting public comment on the proposed State Highway (SH) 190 (The East Branch) from Interstate Highway (IH) 30 to IH 20 within southeast Dallas County. The meeting was held in Ballroom C of the Mesquite Convention & Rodeo Center located at 1700 Rodeo Drive in Mesquite, Texas on Tuesday, July 26, 2005. The meeting was scheduled from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. However, persons were allowed into the meeting beginning at approximately 3:30 pm and the meeting was concluded at approximately 8:30 pm.

A total of 18,665 public meeting notices were mailed to persons listed on the mailing list (to include adjacent property owners, elected officials, and interested parties). Newspaper ads for the open house meeting were published in four newspapers:

- *The Mesquite News*
 - Legal notices in classified section on June 23 and July 14, 2005
 - General ad (1/8 page) on July 21, 2005
 - Notice of Intent (NOI) on July 14, 2005
- *Al Dia*
 - Legal notices (in Spanish) in classified section on June 24 and July 15, 2005
 - General ad (1/8 page, in Spanish) on July 20, 2005
 - NOI (in Spanish) on July 15, 2005
- *The Dallas Morning News*
 - Legal notices in classified section on June 24 and July 15, 2005
 - General ad (1/8 page) on June 20, 2005
 - NOI on July 13, 2005
- *The Garland News*
 - Legal notices in classified section on June 30 and July 14, 2005
 - General ad (1/8 page) on July 21, 2005
 - NOI on July 21, 2005

A registration table was set up at the entrance of Ballroom C with sign-in sheets for attendees and elected officials. Handouts made available to the attendees included a fact/information sheet, blank written comment form, a SH 190 transportation survey, and an alignment development map. The registration of attendance totaled 664. No elected officials registered.

Exhibits displayed at the open house meeting included an interactive "alignment maker" map, preliminary alignment map, typical cross sections, and environmental process boards. Viewing of the project exhibits and informal discussions sessions were held throughout the duration of the meeting to give attendees an opportunity to view the displays and to ask questions regarding the proposed project with project team members present. No formal presentation was

given at this meeting. Forty-nine written comment forms, sixty-nine marked up alignment maps, and seventeen surveys were received at the public meeting. The written comments and alignment maps have been reviewed and will be considered during the development of the project. Of the forty-nine written comments received:

- 41 written comments indicated a possible alignment
- 16 written comments indicated concerns for impacts to residences and properties
- Four written comments indicated concerns for noise
- Three written comments indicated visual concerns
- Three written comments indicated importance of protecting wildlife

A comment period was given after the meet to allow comment forms to be submitted to TxDOT. Fourteen additional comments were mailed to TxDOT after the Public Scoping Meeting as well as five alignment maps. Again, the written comments and alignment maps have been reviewed and will be considered during the development of the project. Of the eleven comments received:

- 10 written comments indicated a possible alignment
- Seven written comments indicated concerns for impacts to residences and properties
- Four written comments against the project
- Three written comments indicated visual concerns
- Two written comments indicated concerns for noise pollution

The written comments also included other specific comments regarding the project. The following represents written comments, questions, and concerns that were received at the Public Scoping Meeting or in writing as of August 18, 2005. Due to the overlap and repetition in many comments, similar comments were consolidated and paraphrased to reduce duplication. As a result, the comments that appear are often not precise words found on the comment form. This has been done to reduce duplication of similar comments that elicited a common response and in no way intended to obscure the substance of a comment. Copies of the written comments forms are attached to this summary.

Comment 1: How are we compensated if our house or property is taken?

Response 1: Any property required for this project would be acquired based on an appraisal of current market values. TxDOT hires independent fee appraisers to determine their opinion of the value of the needed property as well as damages to any property remaining. TxDOT then reviews these findings, not to change them, but to assure nothing has been omitted and the appraised value is consistent with similar properties to be acquired. A copy of the appraisal report will be presented to the owner with the offer. Additionally, any household or business that would be relocated or displaced would be eligible for assistance under the requirements of the Federal Uniform Relocation Act. Qualified displaced persons are entitled to reimbursement for moving cost and certain related expenses such as packing and unpacking, temporary storage, transportation, moving insurance, etc., incurred in moving.

Comment 2: How much property are you expecting to take as a result of this project?

Response 2: Typically, a right-of-way width of 275 feet would be needed for the roadway. This would not include additional land needed for interchanges.

Comment 3: When will the project be finished?

Response 3: A construction schedule has not been determined at this time.

Comment 4: Where is the roadway going?

Response 4: At this time, a proposed alignment for the roadway has not been selected or recommended by TxDOT.

Comment 5: This project needs to be built as soon as possible.

Response 5: Comment noted and considered.

Comment 6: Please consider an alignment that takes the least amount of houses and doesn't bisect any communities.

Response 6: As part of the environmental process, community and residential impacts will be analyzed in the socio-economic and right-of-way displacement sections of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS is an environmental study that describes and documents the existing social, economic and natural environmental condition; assesses the effect of the proposed alternatives; and identifies potential mitigation. Efforts are made to minimize impacts to these resources.

Comment 7: How long will the preliminary environmental process take?

Response 7: This study includes the development of an EIS that will provide information on displacements, access, etc. Dependent on city/town input, TxDOT hopes to select several viable alignment options for further study in 2006 and complete the Draft EIS in Spring 2007.

Comment 8: I would like the roadway below the ground level to reduce noise pollution and to make it more visually pleasing.

Response 8: Noise and visual impacts will be analyzed as part of the environmental process; reasonable efforts would be made to minimize impacts.

REPORTED BY: Nathan Drozd

Attachments: July 26, 2005 Sign-In Sheets
Written Comments received as of August 18, 2005