

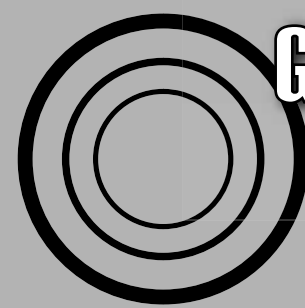
## Public Workshops: Preliminary Alternatives, February 25, 2003

You are encouraged to attend one of these upcoming meetings to learn about and discuss preliminary transportation alternatives for SH 99, Segment B with TxDOT, The Grand Parkway Association and consultant team representatives. For your convenience, two sessions are being held, both discussing the same information:

Tuesday, February 25, 2003  
2-4 p.m. or 6-8 p.m.  
Alvin Community College  
Student Center, Cafeteria  
3110 Mustang Road  
Alvin, Texas 77511

The meetings are being held in a handicap accessible location and will be conducted in English. Any person requiring language interpretation or other special communication or physical accommodations should contact The Lentz Group at 713/864-2623 at least 72 hours prior to the meetings. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

Grand Parkway Association  
c/o The Lentz Group  
2600 Citadel Plaza Drive  
Suite 115  
Houston, Texas 77008



### Issue 2 Winter 2003

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**Public Workshops:  
Preliminary  
Alternatives,  
February 25, 2003  
(See back for details)**



# GRAND PARKWAY SEGMENT B STUDY



The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and The Grand Parkway Association (GPA), a non-profit transportation corporation regulated by the Texas Transportation Commission, are conducting a location and environmental study on Segment B of SH 99, also known as Grand Parkway. The study covers an approximate 25-mile east-west area spanning from SH 288 to IH 45 in Brazoria and Galveston Counties.

This study will evaluate various alternative strategies, including different combinations of transportation modes, to determine if improvements in this area would alleviate congestion, improve traffic flow in the south and southeast Houston metropolitan area and provide an additional, efficient emergency (hurricane) evacuation route. Findings will be presented to the public, local elected officials and area agencies, including TxDOT, to assess the most feasible solutions for addressing long-term needs.

## Study Area

The majority of the proposed study area crosses relatively undeveloped properties in Brazoria and Galveston Counties. Cities and towns within the region include Alvin, Manvel, Dickinson, Texas City, Friendswood, Iowa Colony, Santa Fe, League City, Liverpool and Pearland. (see insert for map)

## Scoping Meeting Recap

The project's first public meeting, or Scoping Meeting, was held on September 12, 2002 at Alvin Community College from 5-8 p.m. Attendance exceeded 300, with just over 250 citizens signing the meeting



attendance log. Attendees of the open house meeting viewed a video presentation describing the project's objective, process and schedule and were encouraged to review the exhibits and talk with study team members.



Overall, the feedback received was positive. Most agreed a new transportation option is needed in the area, particularly as an emergency

## Scoping Meeting Recap cont.

evacuation route; however, many have concerns regarding how the project will affect their communities. The most common issues of concern were:

- ▶ Air quality
- ▶ Displacements
- ▶ Drainage and flooding
- ▶ Noise
- ▶ Preservation of cultural/historic landmarks
- ▶ Preservation of quality of life
- ▶ Preservation of wildlife
- ▶ Traffic
- ▶ Urban sprawl
- ▶ Viability of route for evacuation purposes



In addition to identifying issues of concern, many also offered specific suggestions for possible transportation routes, including suggestions to facilitate hurricane evacuation and minimize displacement of homes and businesses. Based on input received, the southwestern border of the study area has been expanded slightly and SH 96 has been included as a possible terminus.

## Study Progress

The study is now moving into its next phase — identifying preliminary transportation alternatives.

Using the input obtained at the Scoping Meeting and other data and information collected during the initial phase, the team is producing a variety of preliminary transportation alternatives, including "no-action" or no-build, Transportation System Management (TSM)/Transportation Demand Management (TDM), mass transit and roadway build. The alternatives will be evaluated using criteria such as community impacts, traffic demand, ability to maintain circulation and access, hurricane evacuation efficiency and human and natural environmental impacts. As in the previous phase of the study, the team will again seek input by hosting a public workshop on February 25 (see back panel for details) and meeting with local agencies and officials.

The alternatives that receive the most positive feedback and most efficiently address the project's purpose and need will undergo further detailed analysis, after which a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) will be chosen. The latter phases of the study will focus on further analysis of the LPA and the evaluation of its potential environmental impacts. The results will be contained in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which will be made available for public review and presented at a formal public hearing.

## Study Schedule

- August 2002 — Publish Notice Of Intent
- September 2002 — Public Scoping Meeting
- 4th Quarter 2002 — Perform Preliminary Alternatives Analysis
- February 2003 — Public Workshops on Preliminary Alternatives
- 4th Quarter 2003 — DEIS Available
- 1st Quarter 2004 — Public Hearing

## Development Advisory Committee

Many of the comments received at the Scoping Meeting focused on existing and future community development impacts. To better address these issues, a Development Advisory Committee was created. This committee, composed of area county, city and economic development agency representatives, will review forecasts and analysis prepared by the consultant team for use in determining direct, secondary and cumulative impacts that the proposed alternatives will have on communities within the study area and the surrounding region.

Experts in economic and land use analysis and forecasting will formulate area development scenarios with and without construction of the project in order to forecast changes in the study area's population and employment likely to be caused by construction of SH 99.

The committee will review and discuss this data, which will then be used to prepare travel demand forecasts for area roadways. Using the travel demand forecasts, the team can evaluate area mobility for each of the transportation alternatives. The results of this analysis, including community and environmental impacts, will be outlined in the DEIS document released near the end of the study process.

## Public Involvement

Active public involvement is a key element of the study process. Public meetings will be held throughout the process to update you on the study's progress and provide a forum to give ideas and express concerns. Scheduled meetings include:

- ▶ September 12, 2002, Public Scoping Meeting. (See Recap, pages 1-2)
- ▶ February 25, 2003: Public Workshops on Preliminary Alternatives. (See back panel for details).
- ▶ 1st Quarter 2004: Formal public hearing to present the DEIS.

Additionally, communication between team members and the public will be facilitated through:

- ▶ Newsletters: Mailed prior to public meetings, between meetings as appropriate and at the study's end to recap results.
- ▶ Written comments: Comments are encouraged throughout the study process. Written comments may be submitted at public meetings or you may send them to: Robin Sterry, The Grand Parkway Association, 4544 Post Oak Place, Suite 222, Houston, TX 77027, 713/965-0871 or [comments@grandpky.com](mailto:comments@grandpky.com).
- ▶ GPA web site, [www.grandpky.com](http://www.grandpky.com): You can access information on Segment B including project status, newsletters and public meeting dates and locations, as well as information about other segments of the Grand Parkway.
- ▶ Small group meetings: GPA would welcome the opportunity to make small group presentations. If your homeowner's association, church group or civic organization would like additional information, please feel free to contact Robin Sterry at the phone number above.