

is to be taken by the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System.

Chester P. Fehlis  
TRD-200204705  
Vickie Burt Spillers  
Executive Secretary to the Board of Regents  
Texas A&M University System, Board of Regents  
Filed: July 26, 2002

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**Texas Department of Transportation**

**Notice of Intent, SH 99 Segment B EIS**

Notice of Intent, SH 99 Segment B EIS: Pursuant to 43 TAC §2.43(e)(3), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed project to develop Segment B of State Highway 99 (the Grand Parkway) from State Highway 288 to Interstate Highway 45 (South) in Brazoria and Galveston Counties, Texas.

TxDOT and the Grand Parkway Association, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), are considering an upgrade of the transportation network in Brazoria and Galveston Counties. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will evaluate the transportation alternative strategies, including different combinations of modes of transportation to address existing and projected traffic demand. This study is authorized pursuant to the Texas Transportation Commission Minute Order No. 108543 issued June 28, 2001. The majority of the study corridor crosses relatively undeveloped properties in Brazoria and Galveston Counties. Cities and towns in this region include Alvin, Manvel, Dickinson, Texas City, Friendswood, Iowa Colony, Santa Fe, League City, Liverpool, Pearland, and Houston.

A public scoping meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2002, at Alvin Community College, Nolan Ryan Center Community Room (R109), 2925 South Bypass 35, Alvin, Texas 77511, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Large-scale maps of the project area will be displayed at the meeting. This will be the first in a series of meetings to solicit public comments on the proposed action. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the public hearing as well as any future public meetings. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

Alternatives to be studied include "No-action" (the no-build alternative), Transportation System Management (TSM)/Transportation Demand Management (TDM) alternative, mass transit alternative, and roadway build alternatives. The EIS will evaluate potential impacts from construction and operation of the proposed roadway including, but not limited to, the following: transportation impacts (construction detours, construction traffic, mobility improvement and evacuation route improvement), air and noise impacts from construction equipment and operation of the facility, water quality impacts from construction area and roadway storm water runoff, impacts to waters of the United States including wetlands from right of way encroachment, impacts to historic and archeological resources, impacts to floodplains, and impacts and/or potential displacements to residents and businesses.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested

parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to TxDOT at the address provided.

Agency Contact: Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to Dianna F. Noble, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division, 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701; phone 512-416-2734.

TRD-200204857  
Bob Jackson  
Deputy General Counsel  
Texas Department of Transportation  
Filed: July 31, 2002

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**Public Notice - Environmental Impact Statement**

Pursuant to 43 TAC §2.43(e)(3), the Texas Department of Transportation is issuing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to advise the public that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared for proposed Loop 9, a new location highway, from S.H. 360 to I.H. 20 in southern Dallas and northern Ellis Counties. The project is being developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and the Dallas County Department of Public Works.

The study corridor is approximately 40 miles in length. From a regional and local perspective, there is a great demand for additional east-west transportation capacity and access throughout the limits of the corridor. Over the last 30 years, this area has experienced tremendous growth and has more than quadrupled in population.

As directed by the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), the Major Investment Study (MIS) will be integrated with the EIS. The Loop 9 facility is included in the Mobility 2025 Update, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the Dallas-Fort Worth region, as a new location staged parkway calling for the preservation of right-of-way through this corridor. The environmental study will examine viable alternatives and potential transportation modes including the No-Build; Transportation Systems Management / Congestion Management Systems; controlled access freeway; and other potential options. It will also include extensive and continuous public involvement to address the long-term mobility needs of both the region and local communities. The environmental study will include the determination of the number of lanes (four to six are anticipated), roadway configuration, and operational characteristics. It will also include a discussion of the effects on the social, economic, and natural environments and of other known and reasonably foreseeable agency actions proposed within the Loop 9 study corridor.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed an interest or are known to have an interest in this proposal. A public scoping meeting is planned to be held during the summer of 2002. The date will be announced locally at a later time. This will be the first in a series of meetings to solicit public comments on the proposed action during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and the hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment before the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties.

Agency Contact: Comments or questions concerning the proposed action and the EIS should be directed to Michael C. Burbank, North Central Texas Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive, Suite 200,