

Public Involvement Plan

The comprehensive public involvement plan for the Grand Parkway (SH 99) Segments H and I-1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) consists of a variety of activities and components, all centered on providing pro-active public involvement that produces complete information, timely public notice and access to key decisions, and that supports early and continuing involvement in the study process. Objectives to achieve a successful public involvement program include:

- Establish and maintain trust and widespread community involvement in the study process by providing the media and public with accurate, current and honest communications.
- Provide frequent opportunities for the public, including the business community, environmental interest groups and neighborhood organizations, to provide input.
- Be inclusive of individuals in the study area who are minorities and those who have limited English proficiency, low incomes and special communication or physical accommodations.
- Ensure all citizens who wish to provide input have the opportunity and that all ideas are given fair consideration.
- Always remember a public involvement program is a learning process for both citizens and project team members.
- Use visually informative slides, boards, newsletters, handouts and computer-generated presentations to help communicate technical concepts and retain public interest.
- Show consideration and response to public input received during the study process.
- Follow required procedures for announcing, setting up and recording public meetings.

The specific activities involved in the public involvement plan are described below.

Communication Tools

The Public Involvement team will develop the following communication tools to assist with delivering a consistent and thorough message to the public and stakeholders involved with the Grand Parkway.

Fact Sheets – Fact sheets will be prepared to assist with providing general information and responding to questions from the public.

Mailing List

The Public Involvement team will develop and maintain a mailing list of names and addresses to be used for disseminating the study information and public meeting/hearing notices. The mailing list will include but will not be limited to names and addresses of all property owners included within and abutting each studied reasonable alternative. The Public Involvement team will maintain and update the list throughout the duration of the project and following each public meeting/hearing based on the attendees list.

Stakeholder Work Group Meetings and Miscellaneous Meetings

Stakeholder Work Group meetings and miscellaneous meetings with area transportation agencies and other interested resource agencies will be held to discuss methodologies and alternatives to be studied. It is anticipated that stakeholder work group meetings will occur on the same schedule but prior to the public meetings. This will assist in keeping the stakeholders abreast of the project information and better interaction with the public. These meetings will be held throughout the project development as needed to provide updates and gather information and input.

Presentations

Presentations will be made by the Grand Parkway Association with support from the project team upon request by local organizations such as a Chamber of Commerce and other concerned citizens and civic groups.

Presentations to the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

Presentations will be made to the H-GAC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Transportation Planning Council (TPC). These will occur following each public meeting and public hearing.

Public Meetings and Public Hearings

Three series of public meetings and one series of public hearings will be conducted during the study, with each series held at two different locations in the study area. Public meetings will be conducted in open house format, while the public hearings will have a formal hearing format.

Public Meeting Series #1 – The primary focus will be on receiving input from the public regarding the constraints maps.

Public Meeting Series #2 – The primary focus will be to present the preliminary alternatives and reasonable alternatives.

Public Hearings – The focus will be to present studies on the reasonable alternatives and present a recommended alternative.

Public Meeting Series #3 – The primary focus will be to present the completed geometric schematic design for the recommended alternative.

Public Meeting/Hearing Advertisement

In addition to sending notices to the mailing list, all Public Meetings and Public Hearings will be advertised in *The Houston Chronicle* and other publications local to the study area. News releases will also be sent to local media.

Public Comments and Responses

Within two months of each meeting series, a report summarizing public comments and responses from the Grand Parkway Association will be made available to the public. An electronic file of this document will be posted on the Web site www.grandpkwy.com and hard copies will be available at the following locations during normal business hours:

- Grand Parkway Association, 4544 Post Oak Place, Suite 222, Houston, TX 77027
- Texas Department of Transportation Houston District, 7721 Washington, Houston, TX 77007
- Texas Department of Transportation Liberty Area Office, 209 Layl Drive, Liberty, TX 77575

Grand Parkway Association Web Site

Updated information will be posted periodically on the Grand Parkway Association's Web site, www.grandpky.com. The updates will consist of text and graphics for inclusion on the GPA website.