



Grand Parkway Background

What is the Grand Parkway?

The Grand Parkway, also known as State Highway 99 (SH 99), is a proposed tolled, limited access circumferential highway that would create a third loop surrounding the greater Houston area. This facility would provide access to major freeways to alleviate congestion, improve traffic flow and provide an additional emergency evacuation route. SH 99 is a key element of the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan, a transportation program developed by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC).

The project is under the direction of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Grand Parkway Association (GPA), a non-profit transportation corporation regulated by the Texas Transportation Commission.

Segments H & I-1

TxDOT and GPA are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for SH 99 Segments H and I-1, planned as a four-lane toll facility within a 400-foot wide right-of-way. These segments would be located on the northeast side of the greater Houston metropolitan area and span the area from US 59 N to IH 10 E generally between FM 2100 and SH 146 in Montgomery, Harris, Liberty and Chambers Counties, a distance of approximately 36 miles. Cities within the project study area include Mont Belvieu, Dayton and New Caney.

Phase I — Scoping and Data Collection

This EIS will evaluate potential impacts from construction and operation of the proposed alternatives on residents, businesses and property owners; transportation; air and noise; water quality; historic, archeological and natural resources; and floodplains. These meetings are part of the study's initial data collection. In addition to gathering technical information about the study area, the study team will gather input from the public, local agencies and elected officials to aid in developing the best possible alternative to serve the community's needs.

The Process

For the study and development process, the Grand Parkway is divided into 11 segments, all in various stages of development. Each segment must go through a comprehensive study and evaluation — an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) development process. The following are the basic steps of the process.

- **Scoping** — a public process to help define the purpose and need for the project and identify issues to be studied.
- **Data Collection** — collecting transportation, environmental and land use data. Also includes developing a tool for predicting future travel.
- **Development of Alternatives** — identifying a wide range of highway, transit and other types of alternatives, then narrowing to a reasonable range for detailed study. Includes a “No-Action” alternative.
- **Analysis of Alternatives** — transportation, social, economic and environmental impacts of the reasonable range of alternatives are studied in detail and comparisons are made.
- **Preparation of a Draft EIS** — a printed report for public review and comment documenting the need for the project, describing alternative courses of action, analyzing likely impacts from each alternative and describing steps to avoid impacts or minimize harm to the environment.
- **Public and Agency Review of the Draft EIS.**
- **Public Hearing for public comments on the Draft EIS.**
- **Preparation of a Final Environmental Impact Statement** — documents preferred alternatives and provides response to comments made on the Draft EIS.
- **Record of Decision** — documents the decision and commits to mitigation of impacts by the lead federal agencies.

How Do I Get Involved?

Active public involvement is an important aspect of the process. Public meetings will be held throughout the EIS process to update you on the study's progress and provide a forum to give ideas and express concerns. Each round of meetings will be held in two different locations within the study area and are planned for:

- **February 28 - March 1, 2006** — Public Scoping Meetings
- **Summer 2006** — Public Meetings presenting viable alternatives
- **Summer 2007** — Public Hearing regarding the Draft EIS document and its findings
- **Spring 2008** — Public Meeting presenting the schematic design of the most viable alternative

You can access information on Segments H and I-1 project status and upcoming public meeting dates and locations, as well as information on the other segments of the Grand Parkway, at www.grandpky.com.

You may submit comments via:

- **Postal Mail** — Grand Parkway Association, 4544 Post Oak Place, Suite 222, Houston, Texas 77027.

- **Email** — segmenthandi1comments@grandpky.com or GPA's general email address, comments@grandpky.com — please specify that your comment is for Segments H and I-1.

Scoping Meeting Comments

Comments are welcome at any point during the study; however, comments must be **postmarked by March 17, 2006 to be included in the public record for the Public Scoping Meeting series**. You may turn in your form tonight or mail to the address on the reverse side of the form. You may also mail or email comments to the addresses listed in the "How Do I Get Involved?" section of this sheet.

Written responses to collective comments received during this meeting series will be available after May 1, 2006 at www.grandpky.com; the Grand Parkway Association, 4544 Post Oak Place, Suite 222, Houston, TX 77027; TxDOT Houston District Office, 7721 Washington Avenue, Houston, TX 77007 or the TxDOT Liberty Area Office, 209 Layl Drive, Liberty, TX 77575.

To request information, please write to Director of Project Development, TxDOT Houston District, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386. Presentation materials from this public meeting series will be available on www.grandpky.com within one week after the public meetings.

Tolling

Due to economic conditions and TxDOT budgetary constraints, finding funding for new roadways is challenging and often adds years onto a project's schedule. The Texas Transportation Commission sees the completion of the Grand Parkway as "essential and urgent" for addressing mobility in the Houston area and the commission has directed TxDOT to investigate developing SH 99 as a toll road. Tolling helps defray some of the construction costs, enabling a project to be built sooner than later with traditional funding such as gas taxes. The current H-GAC 2025 Regional Transportation Plan proposes the Grand Parkway as a toll facility. To remain consistent with the plan, this project will be developed as a toll facility. Should the local plans change and determine that the project will be a tax funded road, then the documentation will be amended and supplemented as required to reflect the project as a tax funded road.

Interstate 69, the Trans Texas Corridor

The Grand Parkway is an independent project from the Interstate 69 (I-69) project, also known as the Trans Texas Corridor. I-69 representatives are present at this meeting to answer any questions you may have about that project or you may visit www.keeptexasmoving.org/projects/i69/ or send project comments for I-69 to TxDOT, Texas Turnpike Authority Division, P.O. Box 14428, Austin, Texas 78761.

Other Segment Status

Other segments of the Grand Parkway and their status:

Segment A, SH 146 to IH 45 S

No activity

Segment B, IH 45 S to SH 288

Draft EIS in review, Public Hearing anticipated Summer 2006

Segment C, SH 288 to US 59 S

Final EIS in review, release expected Summer 2006

Segment D, US 59 S to IH 10 W

Complete and open since August 1994, improvements being planned

Segment E, IH 10 W to US 290

Final EIS to be released 2006

Segment F-1, US 290 to SH 249

Final EIS to be released 2006

Segment F-2, SH 249 to IH 45 N

Revised Draft EIS in review, Public Hearing anticipated Spring 2006

Segment G, IH 45 N to US 59 N

Draft EIS in review, Public Hearing anticipated Summer 2006

Segment I-2, IH 10 E to SH 146

Currently under construction from IH 10 E to FM 1405