

## Appendix C

### Hand-outs



August 12, 2008

Welcome to tonight's Public Hearing concerning the proposed improvements to U.S. Highway (US) 290 from US 183 to State Highway (SH) 130. An agenda of the Public Hearing and information regarding the proposed improvements are attached for your information.

Please feel free to examine the exhibits on display from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Project staff members will be available to answer your questions during this time. A formal presentation on the proposed improvements will begin at 7:00 pm, followed by a brief recess and public comment session.

If you wish to present verbal comments during the public comment portion of the Public Hearing, please complete a speaker registration card (available at the registration table) and return it before the end of the recess.

Comments may also be presented in writing. For your convenience, a comment form is included in this information packet. Written comments not submitted during the Public Hearing should be mailed to: TxDOT Austin District, Environmental Coordinator, P.O. Box 15426, Austin, Texas 78761 or faxed to (512) 832-7157. Written comments must be received by August 22, 2008 to be included in the official Public Hearing record.

All verbal and written comments received at the Public Hearing, as well as written comments received by August 22, 2008, will be taken into consideration during future project development.

Thank you for attending tonight's Public Hearing. Public involvement is a vital part of the TxDOT project development process, and we sincerely appreciate your participation. If you have any questions after tonight's Public Hearing, please call Bonnie Lister in the Austin District Environmental Section at (512) 832-7369. For more information, please go to: [www.txdot.gov/local\\_information/austin\\_district/us290\\_east](http://www.txdot.gov/local_information/austin_district/us290_east)



## **US 290**

**From US 183 to SH 130  
Travis County, Texas**

# **PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

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## **INTRODUCTIONS**

*Bubba Needham, Texas Department of Transportation*

## **HEARING FORMAT**

*Robena Jackson, Group Solutions*

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

*Jim Spackman, LJA Engineering & Surveying, Inc.*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

*Susan Wilder, HNTB*

## **RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE**

*Bob Harwood, Texas Department of Transportation*

## **BREAK**

If you wish to present verbal comments during the *public comment* session of tonight's public hearing, please fill out a *speaker card*, available at the registration table.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Each speaker will have three (3) minutes to make comments. No portion of a Speaker's three (3) minutes may be transferred or given to someone else.

## **ADJOURN**

## **US 290 - From US 183 to SH 130 Travis County, Texas**

### **OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), in cooperation with the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA), are in the process of developing a project to improve a section of U.S. Highway (US) 290 between US 183 and SH 130 in eastern Travis County, a distance of approximately 5 miles (see attached map).

Presently, US 290 is a four-lane divided roadway (two lanes in each direction) with signalized, at-grade intersections. The existing usual right-of-way width is 210 feet. As currently proposed, US 290 would be upgraded to provide six tolled express lanes (three in each direction) and six non-tolled frontage road lanes (three in each direction). The proposed typical right-of-way width would be 415 feet (see attached typical sections).

The proposed facility would consist of three 12-foot-wide tolled express lanes in each direction and two 12-foot-wide non-tolled frontage road lanes in each direction, with one 14-foot wide (outside) frontage road lane which would accommodate bicycle and vehicle traffic. Sidewalks are proposed to accommodate pedestrian travel. A 26-foot wide, depressed, grass median separating opposing lanes of mainlane travel would be reserved for future transportation needs. Proposed grade-separated intersections (places where the US 290 mainlanes will go over or under intersecting streets) would be located at Tuscany Way, Springdale Road, Johnny Morris/Giles Road, Harris Branch Parkway, SH 130, and FM 734/Boyce Road. In addition to the above improvements, all bridges would be upgraded, new pavement surface would be added, signage would be adjusted, and turn lanes would be added where traffic volumes dictate. These locations are depicted on the schematics on display tonight. These improvements are consistent with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Mobility 2030 Regional Transportation Plan.

Approximately 81 acres of new right-of-way would be required. It is anticipated that the proposed improvements would result in the displacement of one residence and ten businesses.

The purpose of this project is to effectively and expeditiously respond to increased transportation demand while enhancing mobility and improving safety within the US 290 corridor. There is a need to improve mobility and safety as a result of population and traffic growth in the project area.

TxDOT prepared a draft environmental assessment in May 1990 to study potential improvements to US 290 between US 183 and Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 973. The draft environmental assessment was approved for further

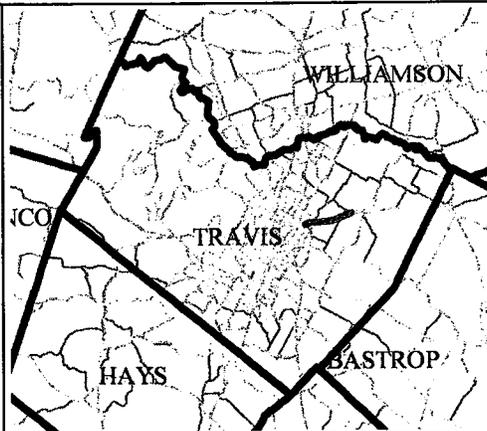
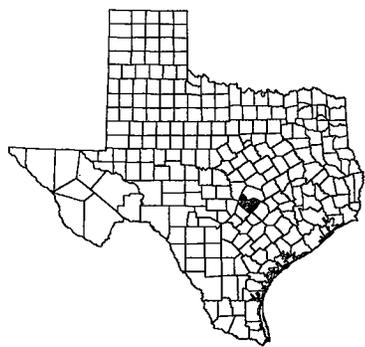
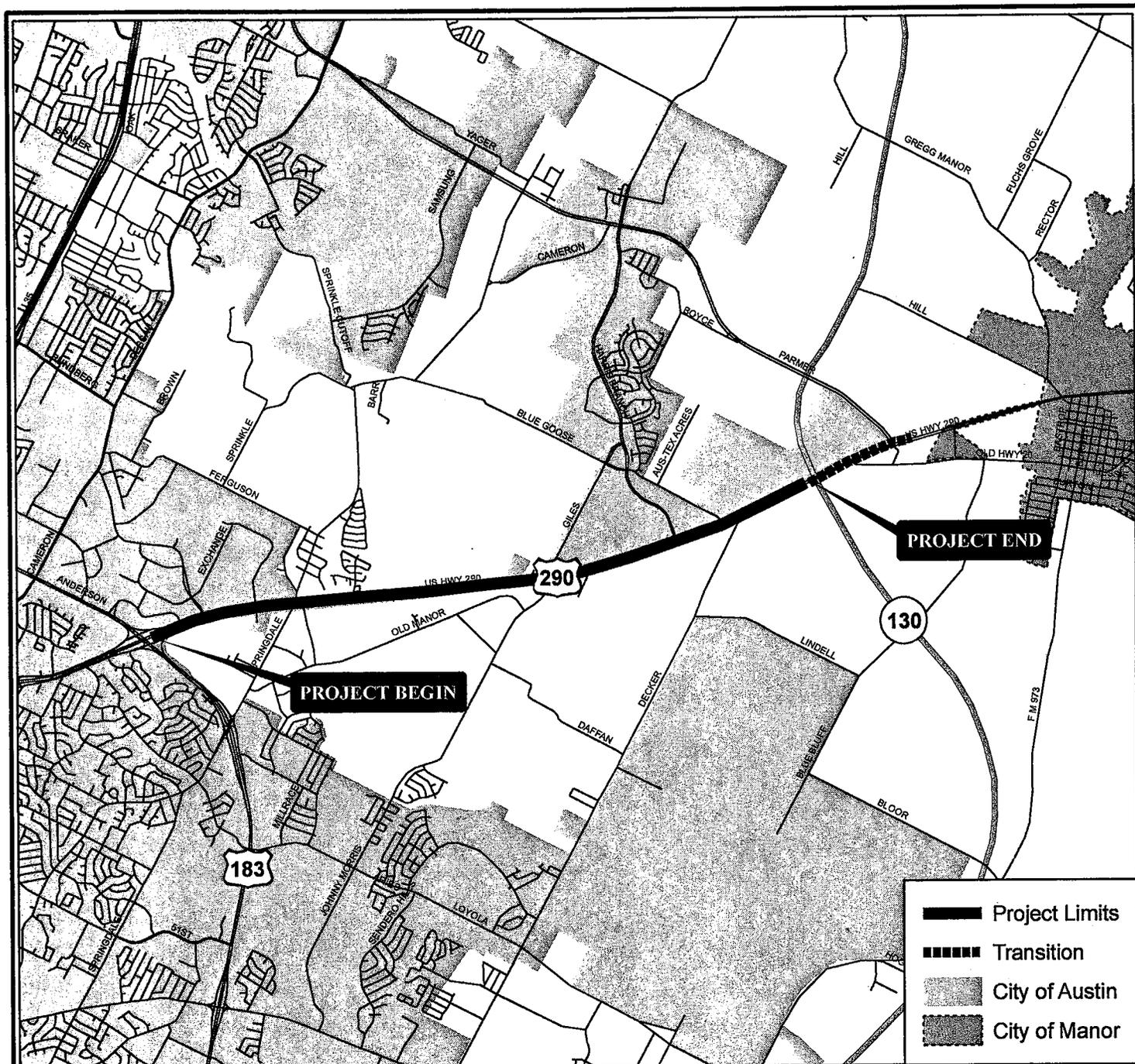
processing by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in February 1991. Following this approval, TxDOT was eligible to hold a public hearing to address the proposed improvements. However, due in part to a lack of funding, the project was placed on hold.

The project development process was re-initiated in 2004 – with SH 130 (rather than FM 973) as the eastern project limit, and a public meeting was held in December of that year. In 2006, TxDOT considered extending the limits of the proposed project to FM 973, at which time another public meeting was held. As a result of public comment, a need to consider new alignment alternatives east of SH 130 was identified, and TxDOT and FHWA decided to proceed only with the environmental assessment for US 290 from US 183 to SH 130. The proposed improvements to US 290 east of SH 130 will be evaluated as a separate project.

The purpose of this public hearing is to present the proposed improvements and the results of the environmental assessment, and to allow citizens the opportunity to comment on the project.

The proposed improvements were evaluated based on a combination of design criteria and constraints, environmental constraints, construction feasibility, and other factors. After tonight's hearing, a summary of all comments as well as responses will be compiled into a report. The public hearing summary and comment response report will be available on the internet at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) (keyword search *US 290*) once finalized.

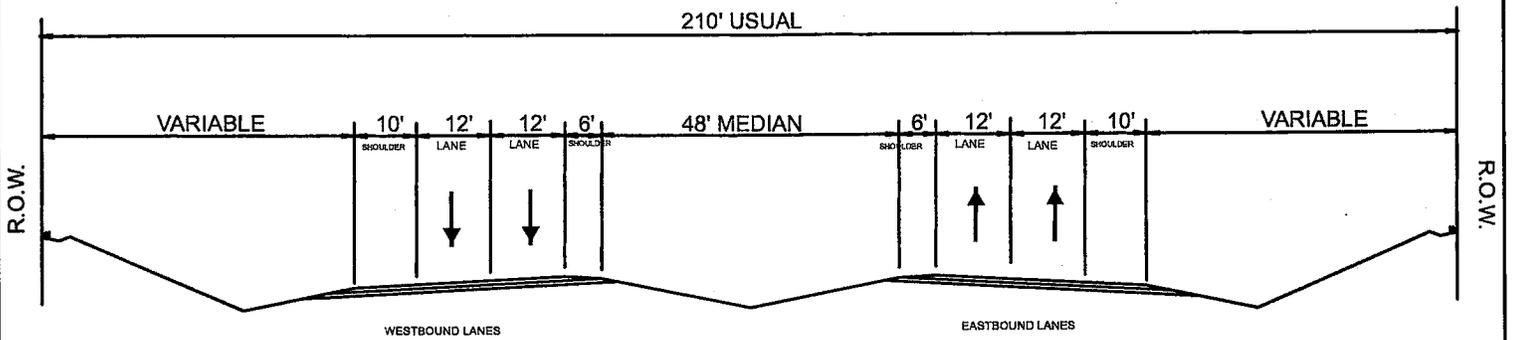
The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will review the public hearing summary and comment response report and the final environmental document. If FHWA issues a *Finding of No Significant Impact*, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation may begin. Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) would be completed and the project would be scheduled for construction.



**PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

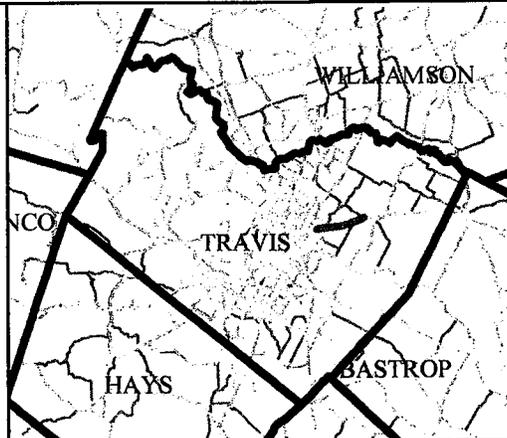
U.S. 290 from U.S. 183 to S.H. 130

Environmental Assessment  
Travis County, Texas



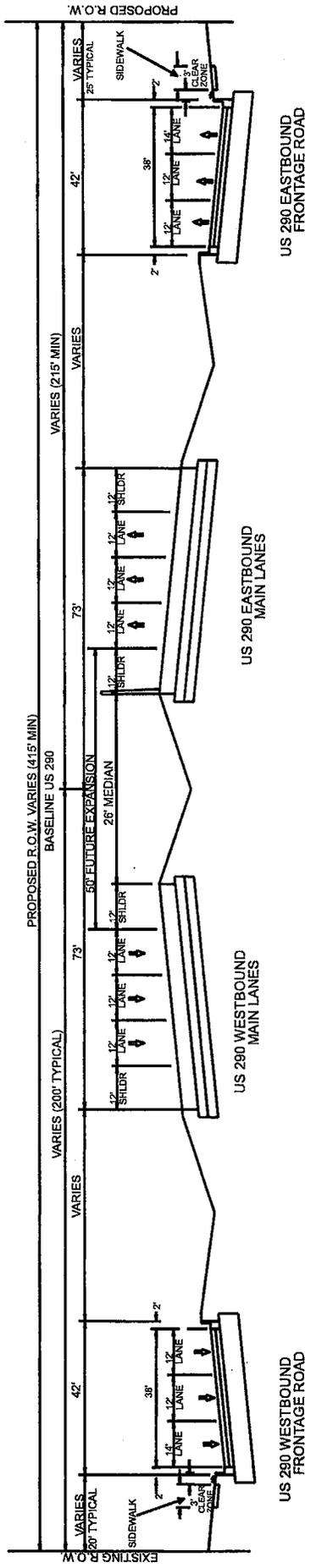
EXISTING TYPICAL SECTION

 Texas Department of Transportation

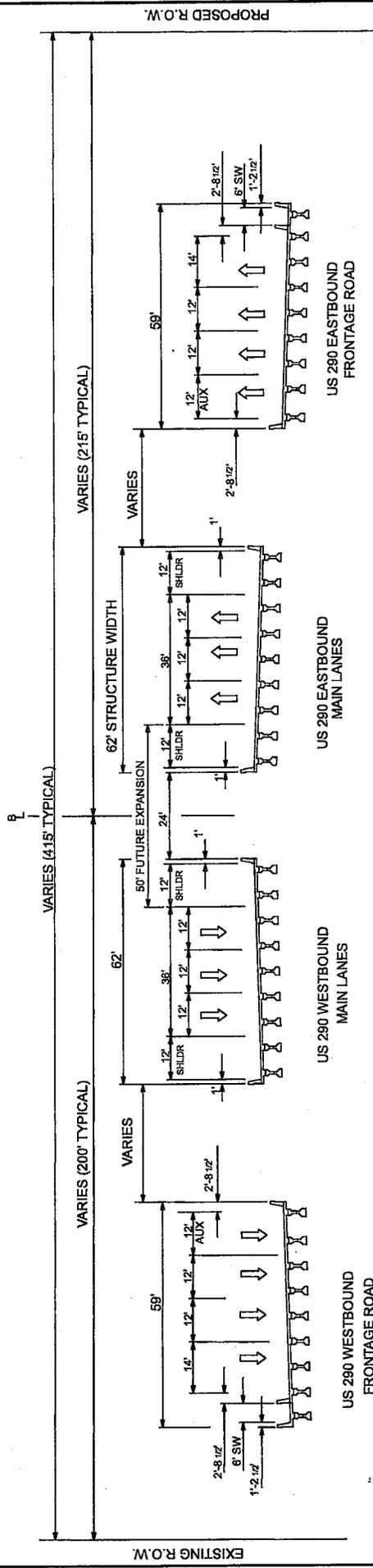


U.S. 290 from U.S. 183 to S.H. 130

Environmental Assessment  
Travis County, Texas



PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION  
U.S. 290



PROPOSED BRIDGE TYPICAL SECTION  
U.S. 290

**RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION  
AND  
RELOCATION ASSISTANCE**

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO US 290  
FROM US 183 TO SH 130**

The subject of tonight's public hearing is the proposed improvements to US 290 from US 183 to SH 130 in Travis County. The proposed project is described in the Overview of the Project, which is included in this information package.

The acquisition of additional right-of-way would be required to construct the proposed improvements to US 290 within the project limits. It is anticipated that the proposed improvements would require approximately 81 acres of additional right-of-way and result in the displacement of one residence and ten businesses.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) would be responsible for the cost of the acquisition of property needed for the project and the relocation of qualifying utilities. For each property acquired, with the exception of donated properties, an appraisal would be completed to determine just compensation under the laws of the State of Texas. The determined value would then be offered to each property owner. Each property owner would be afforded the opportunity to accompany the appraiser(s) during the inspection of the property.

In all cases, the property owner would be reimbursed for any reasonable, incidental expenses necessarily incurred in transferring title to the property for use by TxDOT. Expenses eligible for reimbursement generally include recording fees, transfer taxes, and similar expenses incidental to conveying the real property to the State and penalty costs that are required for prepayment of any pre-existing recorded mortgage entered into in good faith encumbering the real property.

It is the policy of TxDOT and the United States Department of Transportation that no family or individual would be required to relocate unless and until adequate replacement housing has been made available to all affected persons. Further, replacement housing must be offered to all affected persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. All replacement housing must be fair housing, open to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The information brochures *Relocation Assistance* and *State Purchase of Right-of-Way* are available at tonight's public meeting and can be found in both English and Spanish. These brochures are also available online on the TxDOT website. The direct link for the brochure *Relocation Assistance* is: [ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/row/booklet\\_15.636.pdf](ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/row/booklet_15.636.pdf); the direct link for the brochure *State Purchase of Right of Way* is: [ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/row/booklet\\_15.500.pdf](ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/row/booklet_15.500.pdf).

The *Relocation Assistance* brochure outlines the services offered and any payments for which displaced individuals, families, businesses, and non-profit organizations may be eligible to receive, such as moving expenses and replacement housing payments for residential owners and tenants. The brochure also outlines the eligibility requirements for receiving these payments. A representative from the TxDOT Austin District Right-of-Way Office is available to answer questions you may have.

