



September 8, 2025

Public, Agency, and Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Video 2 of 2

Gulf Freeway Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study:
I-45 South from I-69 / U.S.59 (Downtown) to Beltway 8 South

Harris County
CSJ: 0500-03-633

Script:

The Texas Department of Transportation, Houston District is conducting a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study, also known as a PEL Study, along Interstate 45 South from Interstate 69 / US 59 in Downtown Houston to Beltway 8 South. This video will discuss the public, agency, and stakeholder engagement that has been held to date for the Gulf Freeway PEL Study.

Study Videos

Video 1 Alternatives Development and Evaluation Process

You're watching video 2

Video 2 Public, Agency, & Stakeholder Engagement Summary

This is the last round of outreach for this phase of the study. To learn more about the PEL study visit www.txdot.gov and use keyword search: *Gulf Freeway PEL Study*

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Script:

You are watching the second of two videos that will provide more information about the Gulf Freeway PEL Study. This video, video two, outlines the public, agency, and stakeholder engagement conducted to date. Video one outlines the alternative development and evaluation process.

This is the last round of outreach for this phase of the study. To learn more about the PEL study please visit www.TxDOT.gov and use keyword search Gulf Freeway PEL Study.

Overview

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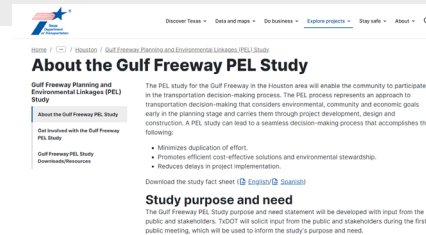
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Script:

In this video we will provide an overview of the public, agency, and stakeholder engagement activities, a summary of what we heard at public meetings one, two and three, and will conclude with future next steps.

PEL Study Engagement: What does it involve?

- Public meetings
 - Comment forms
 - Surveys
- Agency and stakeholder meetings
- Stakeholder surveys
- Online surveys
- Narrated videos on YouTube
- Website study-specific pages



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Script:

Public, agency and stakeholder engagement has taken place throughout the Gulf Freeway PEL Study's entire duration beginning in 2020. There has been a total of four public meetings held through the life of the study. Three public meetings have already been held, which we will talk more about later in this presentation. At the public meetings, input is gathered through comment forms, written comments, and online surveys. TxDOT gathers input from agencies and stakeholders during meetings and through surveys.

Additional engagement includes online surveys, narrated videos on YouTube, and through the study's website. The study's website contains background information, materials presented at past meetings, and study-specific reports and handouts.

Agencies and Stakeholders Invited to Participate

City

- Houston
- South Houston
- Pasadena
- Houston Department of Neighborhoods
- Transtar
- Community Services
- Citizens Assistance Office

County

- Harris County
- Bay Area Commercial Real Estate Network
- Harris County Toll Road Authority
- Floodplain Administrator
- Harris County Flood Control District

Federal

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. Representative
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Highway Administration
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Federal Emergency Management Agency

State

- State Representative
- State Senate
- State Board of Education
- Texas Historical Commission
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- Railroad Commission

Chamber of Commerce

- Houston Metro
- Bay Area Houston Partnership
- Greater Houston Partnership
- Houston East End Chamber of Commerce
- Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
- South Houston
- Pasadena

Institution

- Houston ISD
- Pasadena ISD
- University of Houston
- Texas Southern University
- Harris County Community College

Associations

- Port of Houston
- Port of Galveston
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Houston Building Owners & Managers Association
- Texas Association of Builders
- Urban Land Institute Houston
- Association of Commercial Real Estate Professionals
- Certified Commercial Investment Member: Houston/Gulf Coast
- Houston Commercial Real Estate Millennial Misses
- Super Neighborhood Civic Associates

Management Districts

- East Downtown Management District
- East End District
- Houston Southeast
- Hobby Area District
- Midtown District
- Houston Downtown
- Houston Airport System

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Over 140 representatives from many local, state, and federal agencies are invited to each stakeholder meeting. This slide shows the groups and organizations that have been invited to participate in the Gulf Freeway PEL Study.

Participants are encouraged to actively participate in stakeholder meetings so TxDOT can obtain feedback from as many entities as possible. Input is also gathered through stakeholder surveys and interactive polling during meetings.

Materials presented at the meetings are posted on the study webpage to allow anyone unable to attend the meetings to be able to stay up to date on the study's progress.

Agency, Stakeholder, and Public Meetings

Meeting	Date
Stakeholder Meeting No. 1	April 2020
Public Meeting No. 1	July 2020
Stakeholder Meeting No. 2	January 2021
Stakeholder Meeting No. 3	April 2022
Public Meeting No. 2	July 2022
Stakeholder Meeting No. 4	November 2022
Stakeholder Meeting No. 5	May 2024
Public Meeting No. 3	June 2024
Stakeholder Meeting No. 6	August 2025
Public Meeting No. 4	September 2025

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Script:

These are the six stakeholder meetings and three public meetings that have been held since the PEL study began in 2020. A stakeholder meeting is typically held before each public meeting so that TxDOT can present information to stakeholders and obtain feedback before it is shared with the public. Another stakeholder meeting is typically held after the public meeting to provide stakeholders with updates on the input received and changes that were made to address feedback. The next stakeholder meeting was in August 2025. A summary of the first three public meetings will be discussed on the next slides. The meeting in September is the fourth and final public meeting of the Gulf Freeway PEL Study.

What We Heard – Public Meeting #1 (July 2020)

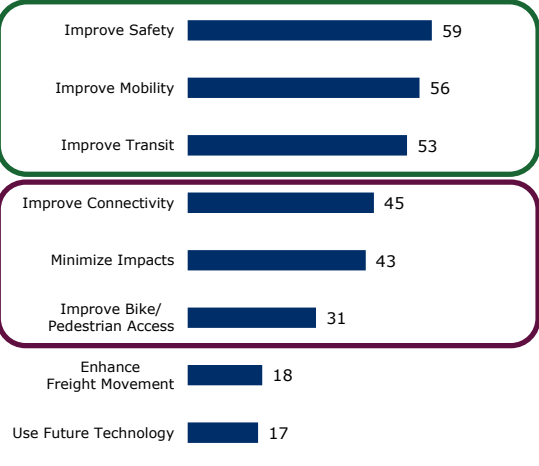
Virtual Public Meeting 1
July 16 to July 31, 2020



Public input was used to refine the Purpose and Need:

- Improve Safety
- Improve Mobility and Reduce Congestion
- Improve Multimodal Connections
- Improve Deficient Infrastructure

Corridor Priority Preferences (Number of supporters)



Script:

The first public meeting was held virtually and had a comment and online survey period from July 16 through July 31, 2020. During that time, TxDOT received 140 completed online surveys and three written comments.

The public identified issues along the corridor which included traffic congestion, safety, transit, air quality, among others.

The top three priorities identified by the public in the online survey are: improve safety, improve mobility, and improve transit. These priorities were closely followed by improve connectivity, minimize impacts, and improve bicycle and pedestrian access.

The input gathered during public meeting one was used to refine the Purpose and Need of the study.

What We Heard – Public Meeting #2 (July 2022)

Online survey was available*:
July 12, 2022 through August 2, 2022

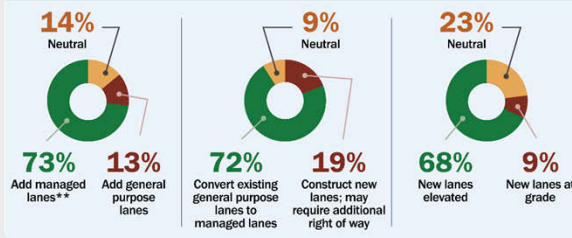
297
online survey
participants



Major Takeaways From Public Meeting #2 Engagement Activities

- High preference towards multimodal alternatives
- Oppose alternatives that require additional right of way

What do you prefer?



Top Rated Alternatives

- Light Rail
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements
- Commuter Rail
- Park & Rides, Transit Centers, Multimodal Hubs

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Notes: * Provided in English and Spanish. ** Also known as special use lanes.

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A second public meeting was held in July 2022 with two in-person open houses held on July 12th and July 14th, 2022. The in-person public meetings were attended by 32 people. TxDOT received 297 completed online surveys and 35 written comments.

Major takeaways from public comments and online survey results indicate a high preference towards multimodal alternatives and opposition to alternatives that require additional right-of-way acquisition.

Online survey participants expressed a high preference towards adding managed lanes over adding general purpose lanes; converting existing general purpose lanes to managed lanes over constructing new lanes; and for new lanes to be elevated rather than at grade. Top-rated alternatives included improvements to managed lanes, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and park and ride facilities, while also considering light rail, commuter rail, transit centers and multimodal hubs as collaborative solutions with other responsible agencies.

What We Heard – Public Meeting #3 (June 2024)

Public Meeting #3 Online Survey was available:
June 11 through July 12, 2024



153

online survey
participants

Major takeaways:

- Preference for alternatives that encourage high capacity travel, such as transit and carpooling
- Oppose alternatives that require additional right of way

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A third public meeting was held in June 2024 with two in-person open houses held on June 11th and June 13th, 2024. The in-person public meetings were attended by 87 people. TxDOT received 153 completed online surveys and 53 written comments.

The online survey aimed to gather public feedback on the reasonable alternatives presented at the public meeting. Participants were asked to rate the future no-build and six alternatives (Alternatives A through F).

Key takeaways from the online survey was participants preferred the alternatives that encourage high capacity travel, such as transit and carpooling, and do not require additional right-of-way.

What Happens Next?

The recommended alternatives and improvements may fall into different future project implementation time frames based on the proposed improvement complexity and cost.

Potential future projects may be sponsored by TxDOT or another agency/jurisdiction

These projects may be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the project development process, which include:

Environmental Review (NEPA) Resource Areas

- Air quality
- Historic and cultural resources
- Community impacts
- Hazardous materials
- Natural resources
- Traffic noise
- Parks
- Wetlands and waters of the United States
- Visual impact assessment
- Indirect and cumulative resources (if required)

Project Development

- Preliminary engineering
- Final alignment determined
- Right-of-way needs evaluated
- Funding sources identified
- Drainage needs evaluated



Continued Public Involvement and Stakeholder Engagement

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The next step in this Gulf Freeway PEL Study is to collect all input received from this public meeting engagement period, which ends Friday, October 3, 2025, and compile and analyze the results.

The study team will use the received input to finalize the Study's recommendations. After the conclusion of the PEL study, the proposed recommended alternatives and improvements would go through the project development process, consisting of preliminary engineering, environmental review, and final design, before construction would occur. Public involvement and stakeholder engagement would continue through each stage of the project development process.

Thank you!

Visit www.txdot.gov
Keyword Search: **Gulf Freeway PEL Study**

Please complete submit comments postmarked
on or before **Friday, October 3, 2025.**



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Script:

Thank you for watching this video on the Gulf Freeway PEL study public, agency, and stakeholder engagement.

To learn more about the Gulf Freeway PEL study or to provide feedback on the recommended alternatives, please visit the TxDOT webpage and use the keyword search "Gulf Freeway PEL Study", or scan the QR on the screen. Please submit comments postmarked on or before Friday, October 3, 2025.

As a reminder, don't forget to view the other short video on the study webpage to learn more about the Alternatives Development and Evaluation Process.

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