



I-45N: Beltway 8 North to Loop 336 South (Conroe) Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study



What is a PEL Study?

The Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) process is a high-level approach to transportation decision making that considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the planning stage prior to project development. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is conducting a PEL study for a seamless decision-making process that accomplishes the following:

- Minimize duplication of effort
- Develop transportation solutions with full consideration of public input, and local, State and Federal agency priorities

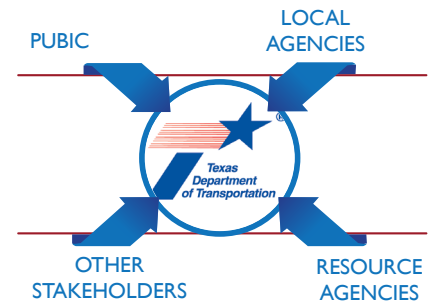
- Promote the most efficient and cost-effective solutions
- Identify goals to be carried through downstream project development phases

The PEL Study can help inform project decisions, develop a corridor vision to inform the purpose and need statement, streamline the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and be a platform for the community to discuss and prioritize transportation issues and project implementation.

This study will follow Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines for PEL documents in order to allow the information

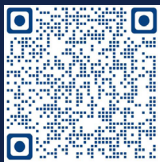
collected and analyzed at this time to be incorporated and referenced in future engineering and environmental phases of the project.

PEL Study Coordination



Why is TxDOT preparing a PEL Study for I-45N?

TxDOT is preparing a PEL study for I-45N to identify solutions to address the existing and future transportation needs of the I-45N corridor by improving mobility for all users and goods, reducing crashes, and enhancing local and regional accessibility and connections between transportation modes. The study engaged with stakeholders and the public to identify a range of alternatives that could improve the I-45N corridor. The alternatives were evaluated against the needs and goals of the study to ultimately identify and recommend the most viable and publicly accepted alternative(s) to move into the phase of project development - the environmental review process.



Questions or Need Help:

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As provided for by 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 450.212, 23 CFR 450.318, and Appendix A to 23 CFR Part 450, the results or decisions of this PEL study may be incorporated into or used as part of the review of one or more projects under the National Environmental Policy Act, otherwise known as NEPA, which would be carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 United States Code (USC) 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and TxDOT.

Recommended Alternatives

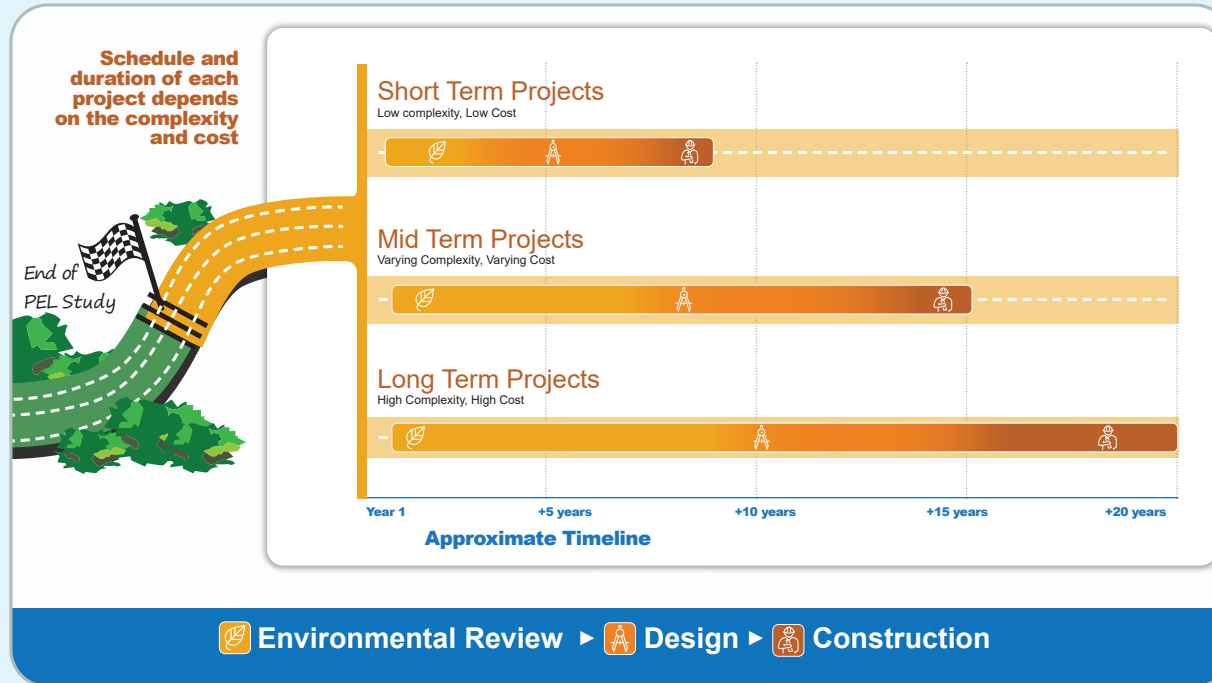
The recommended alternatives were identified from the quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the reasonable alternatives. The I-45N PEL Study recommended alternatives are comprised of various components, including:

- Elevated Managed Lanes
- Intersection Improvements
- Frontage Road Improvements
- Ramp Modifications
- Multimodal Hubs
- Opportunity for Enhanced Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations

Learn more about the recommended alternatives by reviewing the exhibit boards and online story book

Future Project Time Frames

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



Alternatives recommended at the conclusion of the PEL study may become future projects and would be subject to modification during the project development process.

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

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

Environmental Review (NEPA) Resources 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

Learn More

The PEL study findings and recommendations have been included in an online map and story book. Visit the study webpage, or use the QR code to view the story book online.

Stay engaged in the I-45N PEL Study and view the various study materials on the TxDOT website. Current and previous public meeting materials, fact sheets, study reports, and other information are included on the study webpage.



Summary of Public Involvement

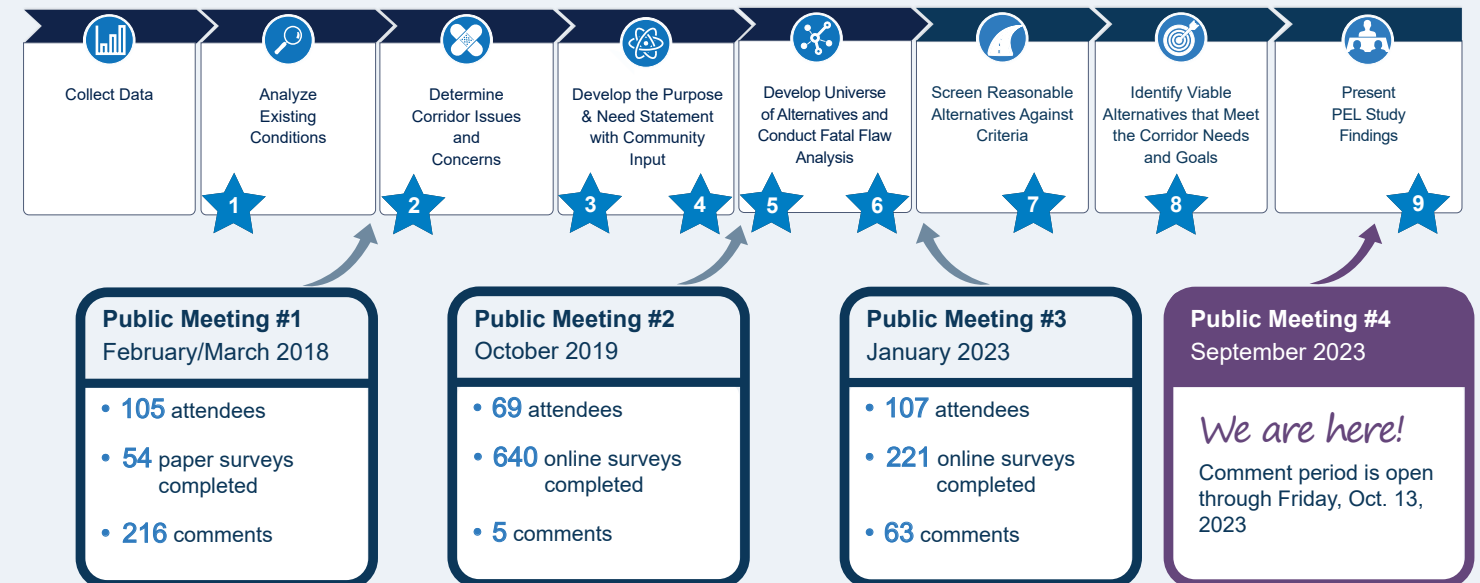
Throughout the PEL study process, TxDOT has conducted four public meetings and eight stakeholder meetings at major study milestones. At each of the public meetings, TxDOT asked for feedback using interactive exhibit boards, paper surveys, online surveys, and comment cards. Feedback was also obtained during the stakeholder meetings. The final PEL study recommended alternatives were developed through public engagement.

PEL Study Begins

Spring 2017

PEL Study Ends

Early 2024

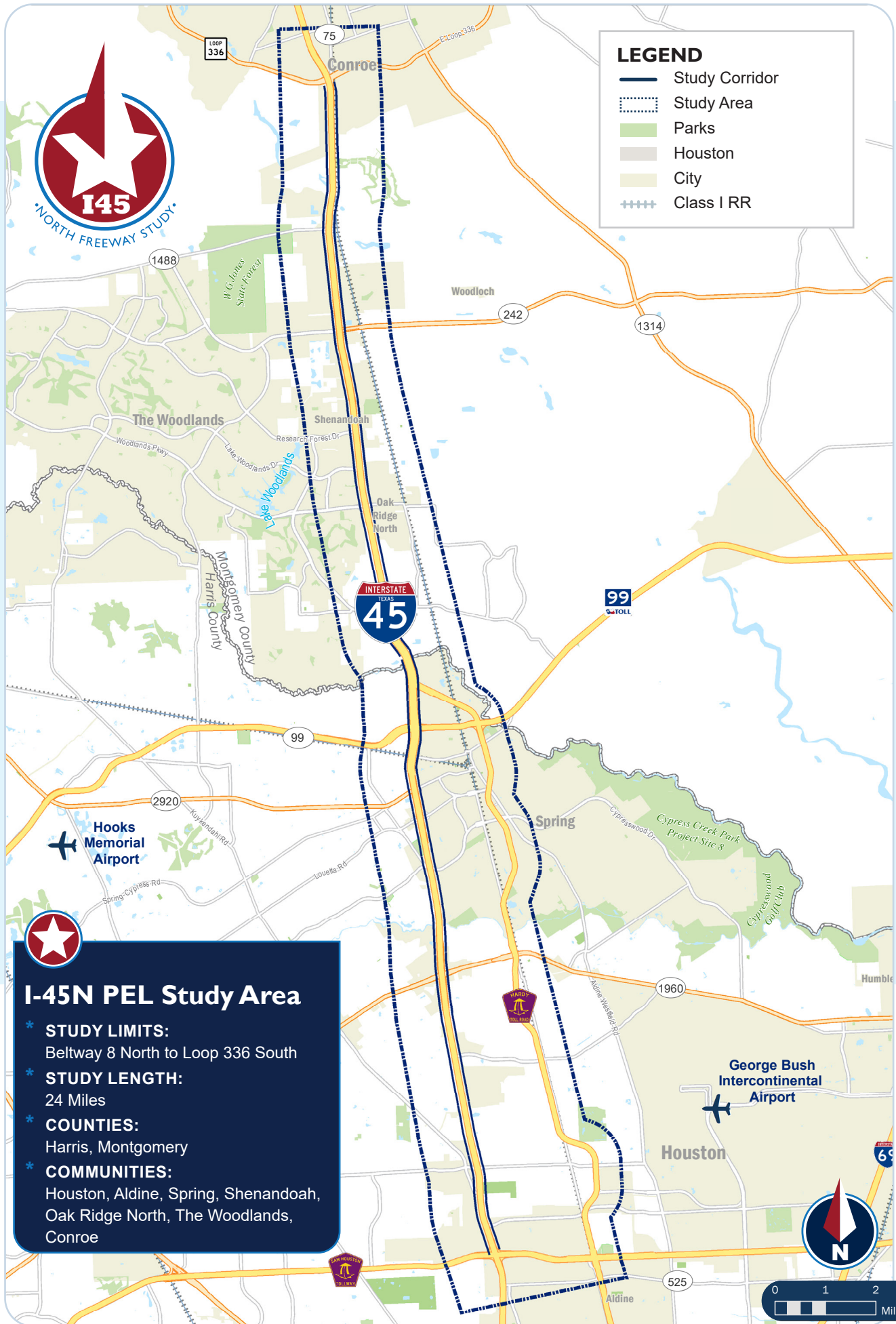



★ Stakeholder Meetings



LEGEND

- Study Corridor
- - - Study Area
- Parks
- Houston
- City
- ++++ Class I RR





I-45N PEL Study Area

- * **STUDY LIMITS:**
Beltway 8 North to Loop 336 South
- * **STUDY LENGTH:**
24 Miles
- * **COUNTIES:**
Harris, Montgomery
- * **COMMUNITIES:**
Houston, Aldine, Spring, Shenandoah,
Oak Ridge North, The Woodlands,
Conroe