Gulf Freeway Planning and Environmental Linkages Study

I-45S from I-69/US 59 (Downtown) to Beltway 8 South

What is a PEL Study?

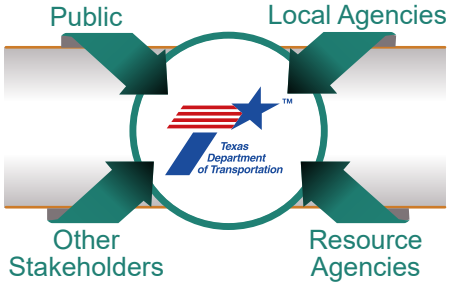
A PEL Study is a high-level, early-planning study process that represents an approach to transportation decision making that considers environmental, community and economic goals early in the planning stage and carries them through project development, design and construction. The goal of PEL studies is to gather feedback during planning to inform the environmental review process, including the National Environmental Policy Act. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is conducting a PEL study that accomplishes the following:

- Develops transportation solutions with full consideration of public input and local, State and Federal agency priorities
- Minimizes duplication of effort
- Promotes the most efficient and cost-effective solutions
- Identifies goals to be carried to future project development phases

The PEL Study can help inform project decisions, develop a corridor vision to inform the purpose and need statement, 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 to allow the information collected and analyzed to be incorporated and referenced in future phases of the project.

PEL Study Coordination



Why is TxDOT preparing a PEL Study?

TxDOT is preparing a PEL for Gulf Freeway (I-45S) to address concerns and need for improvements with traffic, safety, and future growth.

Benefits of a PEL study include the following:

- Helps with planning for the Gulf Freeway corridor
- Streamlines future projects along Gulf Freeway
- Engages the public and stakeholders in the planning process
- Enhances collaboration among agencies
- Identifies key environmental resource issues

Study Timeline: Fall 2019 - Fall 2025

We are here!

Collect Data	Analyze Existing Conditions	Determine Corridor Issues and Concerns	Develop the Purpose & Need Statement with Community Input	Develop Universe of Alternatives and Conduct Fatal Flaw Analysis	Screen Reasonable Alternatives against Criteria and Obtain Public Feedback	Identify Viable Alternatives that Meet the Corridor Needs and Goals	Present PEL Study Findings

Ongoing Public and Stakeholder Involvement

Questions or Need Help:

Call: 713-802-5000, reference Gulf Freeway PEL Study (CSJ 0500-03-633)
Email: IH45SouthPEL@txdot.gov

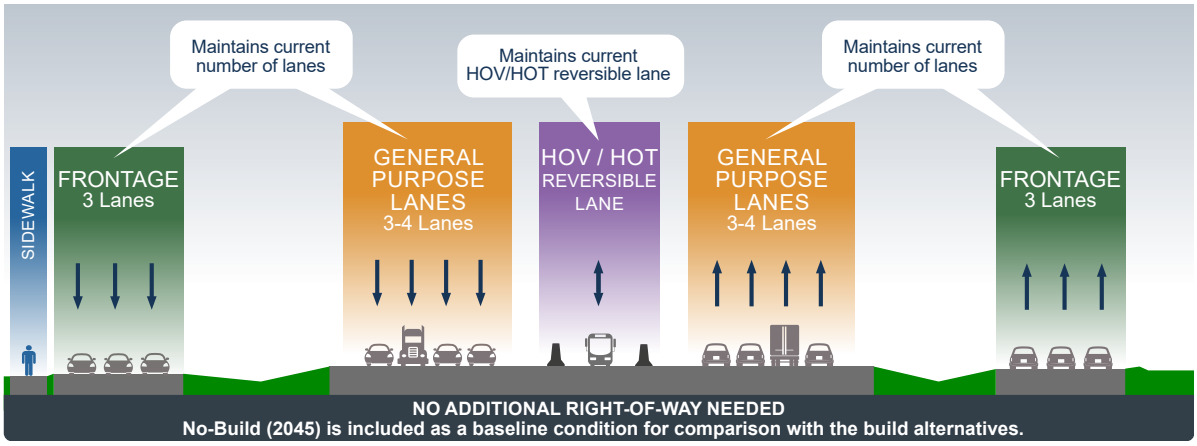
Provide comments on the study:

Mail: TxDOT Houston District
District Planning Director
P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77007-1386
Email: HOU-PIOwebmail@txdot.gov

Primary Alternatives

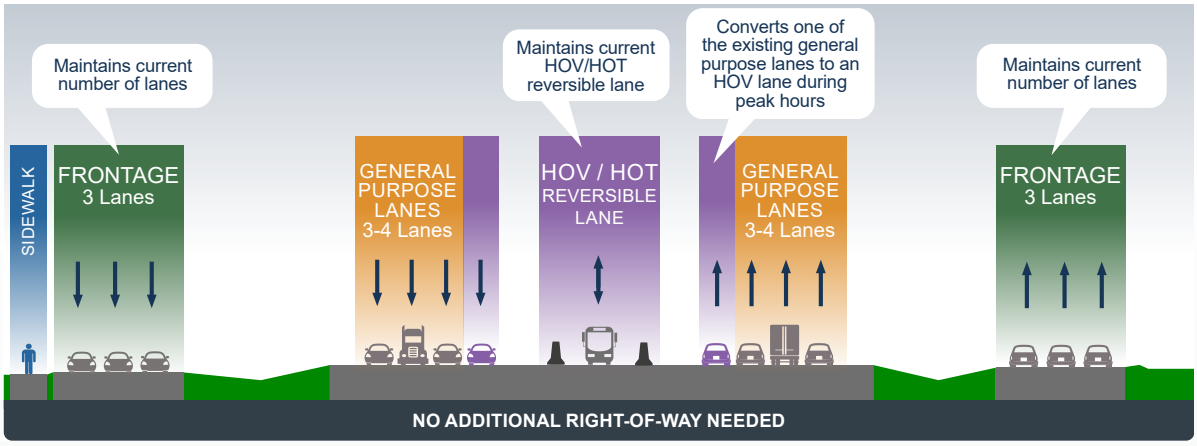
Future No-Build (2045)

Maintains existing lane configuration and does not require reconstruction.



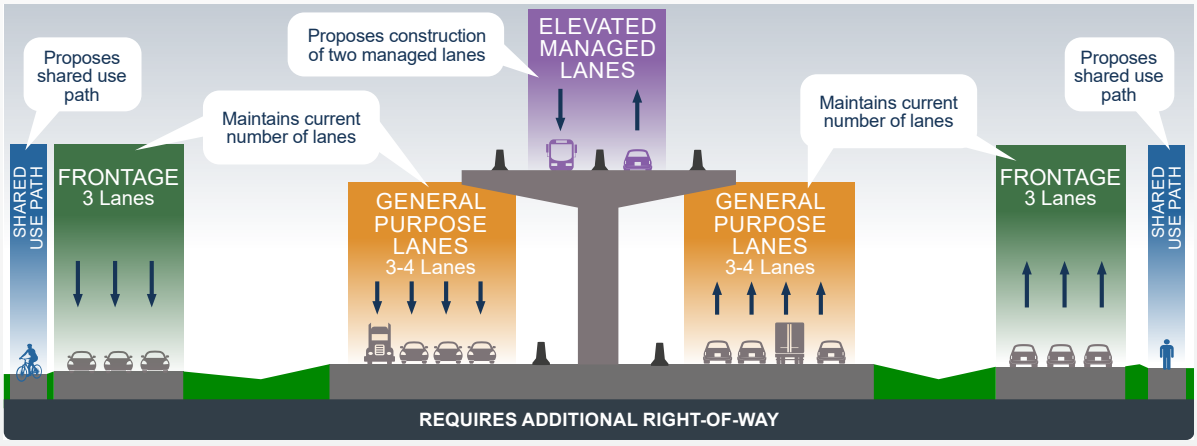
Alternate A

Converts one general purpose lane from the off-peak direction to an HOV lane during peak hours.



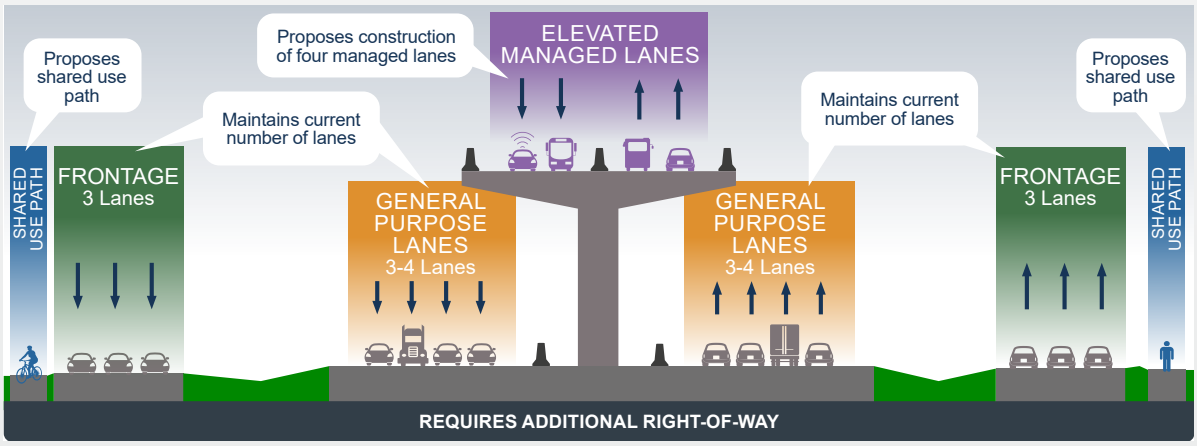
Alternate B

Reconstruct freeway and convert existing reversible HOV/ HOT lane to two elevated managed lanes.



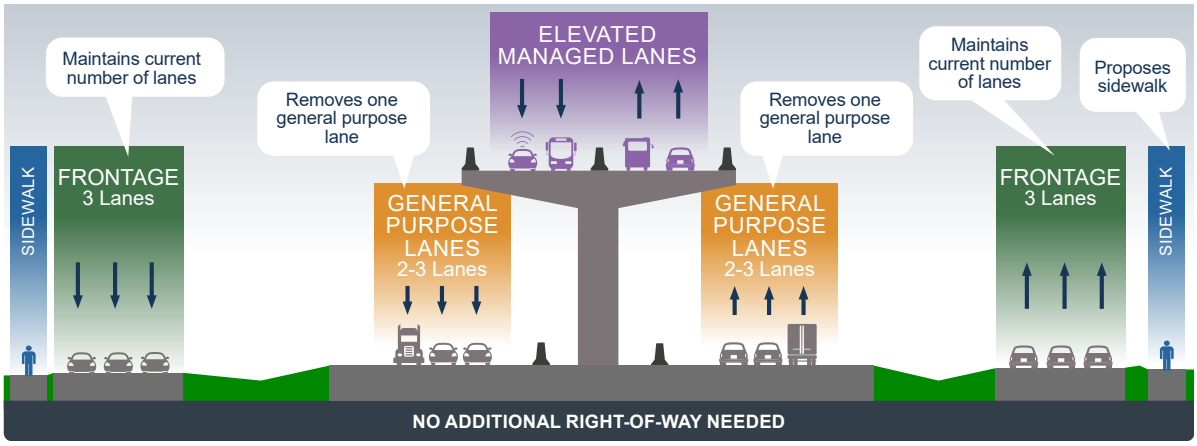
Alternate C

Reconstruct freeway and convert existing HOV/HOT reversible lane to four elevated managed lanes.



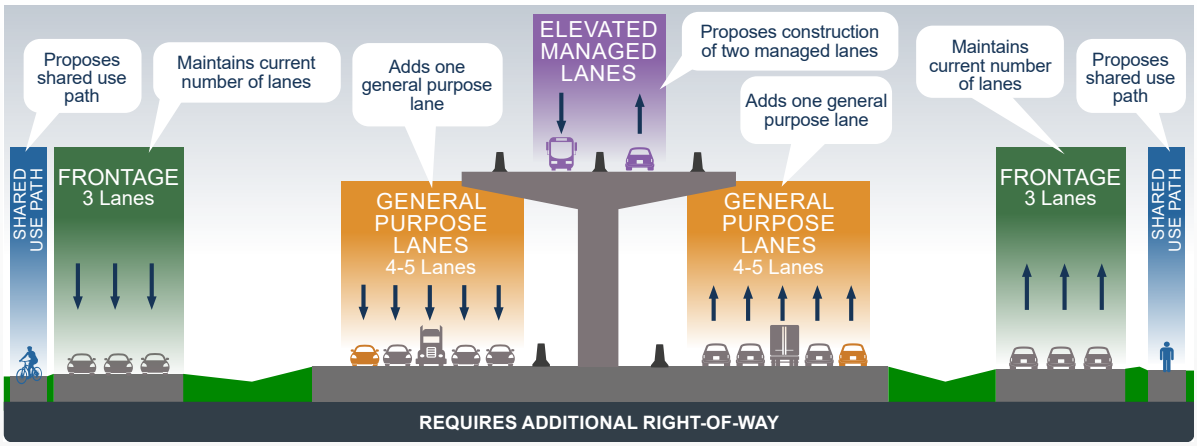
Alternate D

Reconstruct freeway, convert existing reversible HOV/HOT lane to four elevated managed lanes, and remove two general purpose lanes.



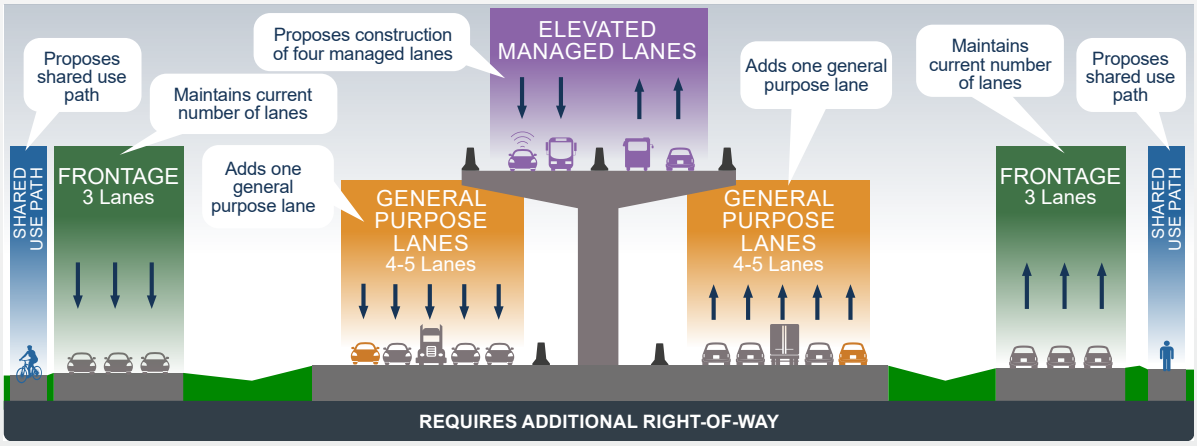
Alternate E

Reconstruct freeway, convert existing reversible HOV/HOT lane to two elevated managed lanes, and provide two additional general purpose lanes.



Alternate F

Reconstruct freeway, convert existing reversible HOV/HOT lane to four elevated managed lanes, and provide two additional general purpose lanes.



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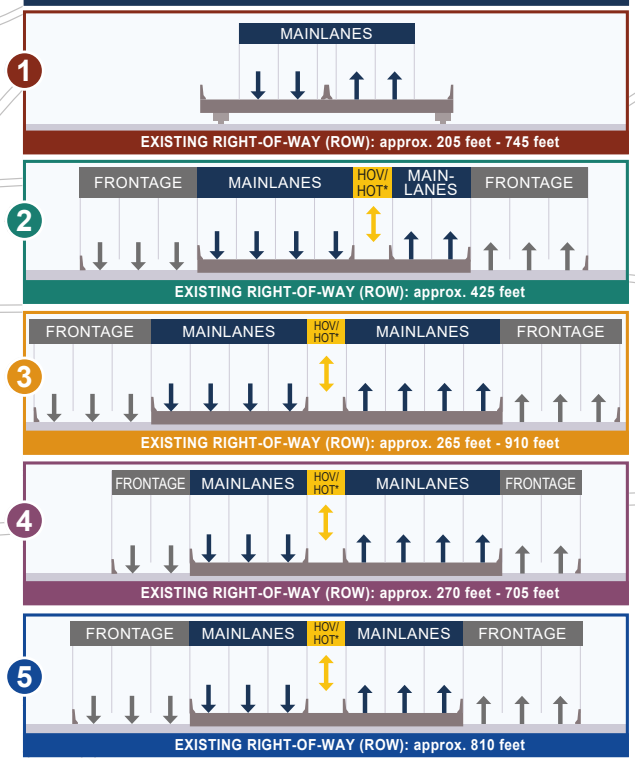
Texas Department of Transportation

Gulf Freeway (I-45S) PEL Study Area Facts

Study Limits:	I-69/US 59 (Downtown) to Beltway 8 South (Sam Houston Tollway)
Study Length:	14 miles
County:	Harris County
Cities:	Houston, South Houston
Places of Interest:	Downtown, Midtown, East Downtown and East End communities, University of Houston, Texas Southern University, Gulfgate Center, Hobby Airport

Typical Roadway Sections



*High Occupancy Vehicle / High Occupancy Toll (Reversible Lane)