



# Welcome!

## Public Meeting #3

Video 1 of 4

Gulf Freeway Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study:

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

Harris County

CSJ: 0500-03-633

June 2024

Script:

The Texas Department of Transportation, Houston District, would like to welcome you to this public meeting for the Gulf Freeway Planning and Environmental Linkages Study, also known as a PEL Study. This is the third public meeting being conducted for the Gulf Freeway PEL Study.

I would like to thank you for participating in this public meeting.



**Please contact Gabriel Adame at 713-802-5199 should you have:**

- Problems accessing public meeting information online
- Requests for special accommodations
- Language or interpretation needs other than English and Spanish

Details on how to submit an official comments will be provided later in the presentation.

Script:

If you experience technical difficulties with the virtual public meeting, please call Gabriel Adame at 713-802-5199. You may also request special accommodation assistance accessing public meeting information and materials, and language interpretation needs other than English and Spanish.

If you wish to submit a comment to be part of the official record of this public meeting, you may do so in the ways outlined at the end of this presentation.



## In-Person Open House Options

**Tuesday, June 11, 2024**

**5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Houston Marriott South at Hobby Airport**

**9100 Gulf Freeway**

**Houston, TX 77017**

**Thursday, June 13, 2024**

**5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Houston Texans YMCA**

**5202 Griggs Rd**

**Houston, TX 77021**

### Script:

This public meeting is being held as two in-person open houses. The first in-person open house will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at the Houston Marriott South at Hobby Airport and the second in-person open house will be on Thursday, June 13, 2024 at the Houston Texans YMCA. Each meeting will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The information presented at each in-person open house is identical to the virtual materials, and the opportunities to comment are the same.

## Study Videos



You're watching video 1

- Video 1** Public Meeting Presentation/Study Overview
- Video 2** Study Background & Purpose and Need Development
- Video 3** Alternatives Development & Evaluation Process
- Video 4** Public, Agency, & Stakeholder Engagement Summary

To learn more about the PEL study and see all four videos, visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and keyword search: **Gulf Freeway PEL Study**

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### Script:

This is the first video in a series of 4 videos that will provide more information about the Gulf Freeway PEL Study. This video, video 1, will provide an overview of Gulf Freeway PEL Study. Video 2 focuses on the study background and development of the purpose and need. Video 3 outlines the alternative development and evaluation process, and video 4 summarizes the public, agency, and stakeholder engagement conducted to date.

To learn more about the PEL study and to see all four videos please visit [www.TxDOT.gov](http://www.TxDOT.gov) and use keyword search Gulf Freeway PEL Study

## Overview



1 Study Overview and Limits

2 What is a PEL Study

3 PEL Study Process

4 PEL Study Outcome

5 Next Step

6 How to Stay Engaged

Video 1: Gulf Freeway PEL Study Public Meeting

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### Script:

This first video will provide a study overview, explain what is a PEL study, the study process, and what the outcome of the study will look like. At the end of this presentation, we will discuss next steps for the PEL Study, outline how to provide feedback, and how to stay engaged. Your feedback is important and will help influence decisions that are made during the PEL study.

## Study Overview and Limits



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

**Study Limits:**

I-69/US 59 (Downtown) to Beltway 8 South (Sam Houston Tollway)

**Project Length:**

14 miles

**County:**

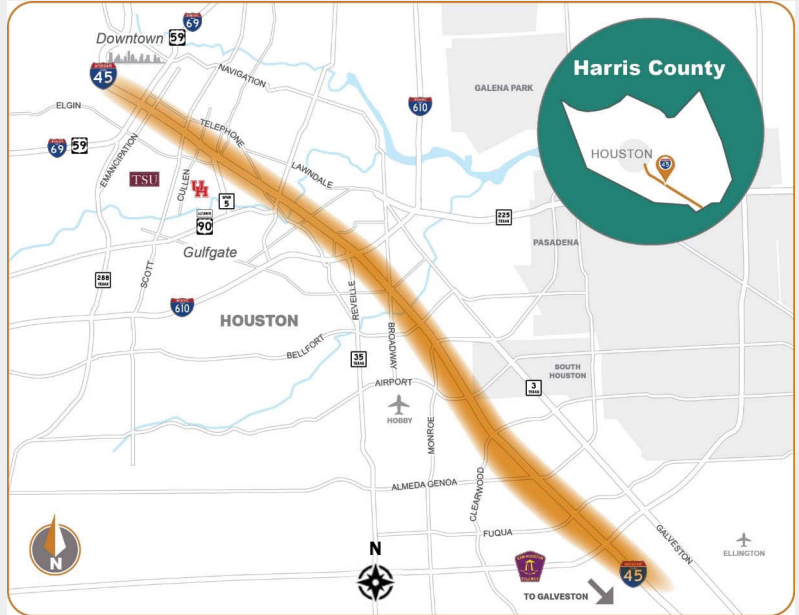
Harris County

**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



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### Script:

TxDOT is evaluating a 14-mile section of the Gulf Freeway in Harris County extending from I-69/US 59 in Downtown Houston to Beltway 8 South.

The Gulf Freeway corridor connects several communities, including the cities of Houston and South Houston, and serves multiple points of interest including Downtown, Midtown, East Downtown and East End communities, University of Houston, Texas Southern University, Hobby Airport, and Gulfgate Center.



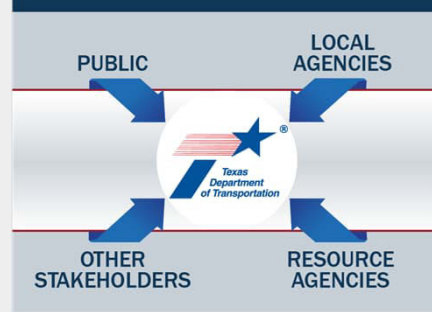
## PEL = Planning and Environmental Linkages

### A PEL Study provides:



- An approach to decision-making
- Early consideration of:
  - Environmental goals
  - Community goals
  - Economic goals

### PEL Coordination



### PEL Study benefits include:



- Promoting efficient and cost-effective solutions
- Minimizing duplication of effort
- Reducing delays in project implementation
- Open and frequent communication at all levels

### Script:

A Planning Environmental Linkage study is a high-level approach to transportation decision-making. In a PEL study, environmental, community, and economic goals are considered early in the planning stages. It streamlines the planning process by minimizing duplication of effort and reducing delays in project implementation. The PEL study process encourages open and frequent public and stakeholder feedback. This feedback will guide the development of potential solutions as the study advances to the next phase.

This PEL study will set a vision for the Gulf Freeway and guide future transportation improvement projects by promoting efficient and cost-effective solutions. Communication and collaboration at various steps are key to conducting a successful PEL study.

As provided for by 23 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, which would be carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 USC 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

## PEL Study Process



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Script:

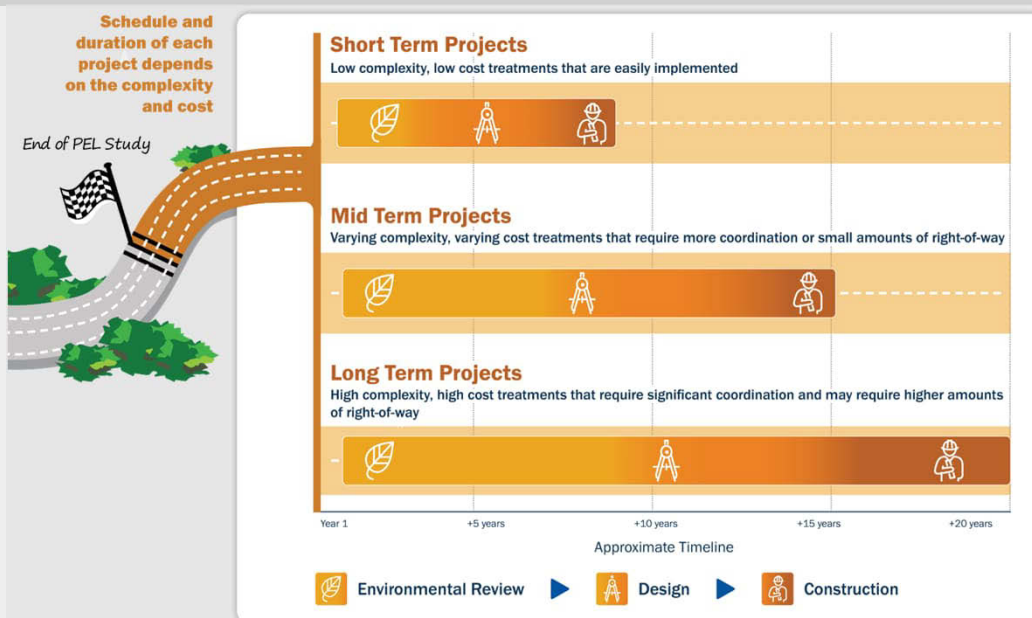
We are in the middle of the multi-step PEL process. Input is collected at every step of the process through multiple stakeholder and public meetings and is incorporated into the analysis and decision-making process for this Gulf Freeway section.

The Gulf Freeway PEL Study began with data collection, evaluation of existing conditions, and identification of environmental constraints. The identified existing corridor issues and deficiencies were used in combination with public input to formulate the Purpose and Need Statement and establish goals for the future. Performance measures from different alternatives were evaluated to meet the purpose, need and study goals, and to help identify the recommended alternatives that best meet the study needs and goals.

At this public meeting, we are presenting the reasonable alternatives and preliminary analysis results. Input received during the public meeting will be used to identify the recommended alternatives. A final public meeting will be held in early 2025 to present the final recommendations identified by this study.



## Future Steps: Environmental Review Process



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Script:

After completing the Gulf Freeway PEL Study, the public recommended alternatives would be broken into several projects. Each project would undergo schematic design, environmental review and final design before each can be constructed. The schedule and duration of each project would depend on the complexity, cost of the improvements, and ease of implementation and coordination. There would likely be three types of projects, short-, mid- or long-term projects:

- Short-term projects would include spot improvements with low complexity, low cost and potentially minor impacts completed in a short duration. Short-term improvements may include: Intersection improvements, signing and pavement marking, pavement overlay, and bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects.
- Mid-term projects take more time due to increased cost, impacts and design complexity. Mid-term improvement examples include frontage road improvements, ramp relocations, and intersection reconfigurations.
- Long-term projects typically have a higher complexity, cost, more impacts, and longer-term construction that would extend over multiple years. Examples include reconstruction, widening for new travel lanes, or a new multimodal hub or Park & Ride.

## Next Steps



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### Script:

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

The study team will then complete the screening of the reasonable alternatives and identifying recommended alternatives that meet the corridor needs and goals.

We are anticipating to have the 4<sup>th</sup> and final series of public meetings in early 2025 during which we will present the study findings and recommended alternatives. The findings are intended to be used to advance the potential projects through the environmental review, design, and construction phase.

## We Want to Hear From You!



### See website for more information:

- Public meeting exhibit boards
- Link to online survey
- Link to study videos
- Gulf Freeway PEL Study Fact Sheet
- Published Study Materials
- Latest News & Events
- Participation Opportunities

[www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)

Keyword search: Gulf Freeway PEL Study



### Submit your comments:

Download the comment card from the website and submit by:

Email:  
[hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov) or  
[IH45SouthPEL@txdot.gov](mailto:IH45SouthPEL@txdot.gov)

Mail:  
TxDOT Houston District  
Attn:  
Director, District Transportation Planning  
P.O.Box 1386  
Houston, Texas 77251-1386



### Take the online survey

Comments must be received or postmarked by June 28th, 2024, to be included in the public meeting documentation.



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### Script:

We encourage you to stay engaged in the Gulf Freeway PEL Study and invite you to view the various study materials on the TxDOT website. For example, the public meeting materials, fact sheet, study reports, schedule and other information are included on the study website.

We would like your input on the reasonable alternatives, study process and progress, and general comments on the study. We encourage you to provide written comments on the materials presented to date. You can submit written comments in the following ways:

- Via email to [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov) or [IH45SouthPEL@txdot.gov](mailto:IH45SouthPEL@txdot.gov)
- Via mail to the TxDOT Houston District, Attention: Director, District Transportation Planning, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas, 77251-1386
- Online by visiting [www.TxDOT.gov](http://www.TxDOT.gov) and searching in the upper right-hand search box for "Gulf Freeway PEL Study." Enter the public meeting link and click on the comment form under the "Downloads" section.

Comments must be received via email or mailed and postmarked by June 28, 2024, to be included in the public meeting documentation.

TxDOT is also conducting an online survey that gives you an opportunity to provide interactive input on the study. To access this survey, go to [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and search for "Gulf Freeway PEL Study" or scan the QR code shown on the screen.

The online survey will be available throughout the comment period for the public meeting so be sure to take the survey by June 28, 2024. The results of the online survey will be included in the public meeting documentation which will be posted on the TxDOT website within the next few months.

## Contact Information – Engage with TxDOT Online



Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions anytime during the study.

### TxDOT Houston District Office

District Transportation Planning Director

(713) 802-5000

[IH45SouthPEL@txdot.gov](mailto:IH45SouthPEL@txdot.gov)

### Social Media



Follow us on X:

[twitter.com/TxDOTHouston](https://twitter.com/TxDOTHouston)



Like us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/txdothouston](https://www.facebook.com/txdothouston)

Script:

Lastly, don't hesitate to contact us with any questions at any time during the study.

Please feel free to contact the TxDOT Project Team at 713-802-5000 with any questions or comments.

Questions and comments can be submitted at any time during the study, but comments will only be included as part of the official public meeting documentation if received during the comment period, which starts on June 11, 2024 and ends on June 28, 2024.



# HELP #EndTheStreakTX

End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

TxDOT.gov (Keyword: #EndTheStreakTX)

#EndTheStreakTX Toolkit



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## Script:

Sadly, November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for nearly 24 years, at least one person has died every single day. We all have a part to play to change that. This message is that reminder – to End the Streak of deaths on Texas highways. We need drivers and passengers to act more responsibly and help us reach our goal of zero deaths by 2050. Texans can play a major role in ending fatal crashes with a few simple driving habits: wear seatbelts, drive the speed limit, put away the phone and other distractions, and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. So please, do your part and share this message with your friends and family.

Scan the QR code on this screen or search #EndTheStreakTX to learn more about #EndTheStreakTX campaign.



# Thank you!

Please complete the interactive online survey and submit comments postmarked on or before Friday, June 28, 2024.

Video 1: Gulf Freeway PEL Study Public Meeting

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## Script:

Thank you for watching this video on the Gulf Freeway PEL Study Overview and Public Meeting. Please complete the online survey and submit comments postmarked on or before Friday, June 28, 2024.

Check out the other short videos on the study webpage to learn more about the study background, purpose and need, alternatives development and evaluation process as well as public, agency, and stakeholder outreach.