



Public, Agency, and Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Video 4 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
CSI: 0500-03-633

June 2024

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 Public Meeting Presentation/Study Overview

Video 2 Study Background & Purpose and Need Development

Video 3 Alternatives Development & Evaluation Process

You're watching video 4

Video 4 Public, Agency, & Stakeholder Engagement Summary

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

Video 4: Gulf Freeway PEL Study Public, Agency & Stakeholder Engagement Summary

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Script:

You are watching the fourth, and last, video in a series of 4 videos that will provide more information about the Gulf Freeway PEL Study. This video, video 4, summarizes the public, agency, and stakeholder engagement conducted to date. Video 1 provides 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.

To learn more about the PEL study and to see all four videos please visit www.TxDOT.gov and use keyword search Gulf Freeway PEL Study.

Overview



- 1 PEL Study Engagement Overview
- 2 Stakeholders Invited to Participate
- 3 What We Heard: Public Meeting 1
- 4 What We Heard: Public Meeting 2
- 5 Future Meetings

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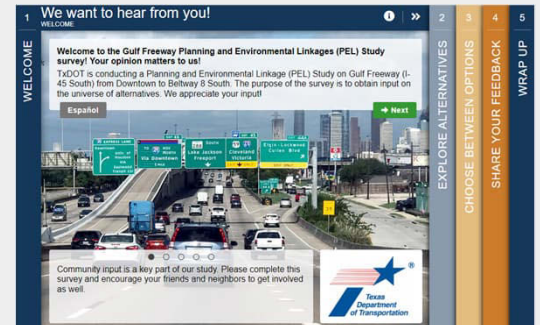
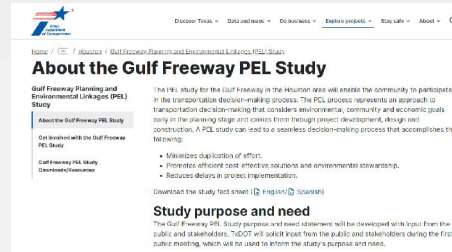
Script:

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 1 and 2, and planned future meetings.

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



Video 4: Gulf Freeway PEL Study Public, Agency & Stakeholder Engagement Summary

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Script:

Public, agency and stakeholder engagement has taken place throughout the Gulf Freeway PEL study, which initiated in 2020. There will be a series of four public meetings held through the life of the study. Two 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 website. The study 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

Script:

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 progress.



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

Script:

These are the five stakeholder meetings and two public meetings that have been held since the PEL study began in 2020. A stakeholder meeting is typically held before a public meeting so that TxDOT can present information 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. A summary of the first two public meetings will be discussed on the next slides.

Two more public meetings and three stakeholder meetings are planned during the remainder of the Gulf Freeway PEL Study and will be discussed more later.

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)

Improve Safety 59

Improve Mobility 56

Improve Transit 53

Improve Connectivity 45

Minimize Impacts 43

Improve Bike/
Pedestrian Access 31

Enhance
Freight Movement 18

Use Future
Technology 17

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 1 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

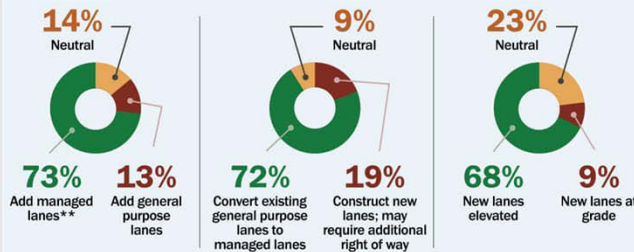
online survey
participants



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?



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

Top Rated Alternatives

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

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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.

Future Meetings



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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, 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 4th 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.



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!

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

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

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, to access the online survey, or to provide feedback on the reasonable alternatives, please visit the TxDOT webpage and use the keyword search “Gulf Freeway PEL Study”. 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, study goals, and alternatives development and evaluation process.