

Appendix A
Notice of Intent

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Environmental Impact Statement; Montgomery, Harris, Liberty, and Chambers Counties, TX

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 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement; Montgomery, Harris, Liberty, and Chambers Counties, TX

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), TxDOT.
 ACTION: Notice of intent, Grand Parkway Segments H and I-1 EIS.

 SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed State Highway (SH) 99 (Grand Parkway Segments H and H-1) connecting US 59 (N) to IH 10 (E) in Montgomery, Harris, Liberty, and Chambers Counties, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gary Johnson, P.E., Federal Highway Administration, Texas Division, 300 East 8th Street, Room 826, Austin, Texas 78701, Telephone (512) 536-5960.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with TxDOT and the Grand Parkway Association, will prepare an EIS for transportation alternatives included in Segments H and I-1 of the proposed Grand Parkway. Segments H and I-1 are located on the northeast side of the greater Houston metropolitan area and span the area from US 59 (N) to IH 10 (E) generally between FM 2100 and SH 146 in Montgomery, Harris, Liberty, and Chambers Counties, a distance of approximately 36 miles.

The proposed Grand Parkway is planned as a 182-mile circumferential highway facility around the greater Houston metropolitan area. It would provide access to radial freeways and would serve as a third loop around the City of Houston. The Grand Parkway has been divided into 11 segments of independent utility. Currently, Segment D (US 59 S to IH 10 W) of the Grand Parkway is open to the traveling public. Segment D is 19 miles long and is located on the southwest side of the greater Houston metropolitan area. The remaining Segments A (SH 146 to IH 45 S), B (IH 45 S to SH 288), C (US 59 S to SH 288), E (IH 10 W to US 290), F1 (US 290 to SH 249), F2 (SH 249 to IH 45 N), G (IH 45 N to US 59 N), and I-2 (IH 10 E to SH 146) are in various stages of project development. Segments H and I-1 are planned as a four-lane, limited access, toll facility within a 400-foot wide right-of-way.

The Grand Parkway (SH 99) is a key element of the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan, a transportation program developed by the Houston-Galveston Area Council. The project is proposed as a toll facility in

the 2025 regional plan.

The EIS will include a preferred alternative alignment, number of lanes, roadway configuration, and operational characteristics of the proposed roadway. Alternatives to be studied include ``no-action'' (the no-build alternative), Transportation System Management (TSM)/Transportation Demand Management (TDM) alternative; mass transit alternative and roadway build alternatives. The EIS will evaluate potential impacts from construction and operation of the proposed roadway including, but not limited to, the following: transportation impacts (construction detours, construction traffic, mobility improvement and evacuation improvement), air, and noise impacts from construction equipment and operation of the facilities, water quality impacts from construction area and roadway storm water runoff, impacts to waters of the United States including wetlands from right-of-way encroachment, impacts to historic and archeological resources, impacts of floodplains, and impacts and/or potential displacements to residents and businesses.

Correspondence describing the proposed project and soliciting comments has been sent to appropriate Federal, state, regional, and local agencies, and to organizations and persons who have previously expressed an interest or are known to have an interest in this project.

TxDOT and the Grand Parkway Association will conduct a series of public scoping meetings in March 2006 held in two separate locations. The public scoping meetings will be conducted in an open house format with no formal presentation and both meetings will present the same information. At least 30 days and 10 days prior to the public scoping meetings, notices will be published in newspapers having general circulation in the project area. These will be the first in a series of meetings to solicit public comments on the proposed action as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Persons who have special communication, access, or accommodation needs should contact TxDOT's public information office at (713) 802-5072 at least two working days prior to the meeting. TxDOT offices are open Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding national holidays. The public meetings will be conducted in English. Requests for language interpreters should also be

[[Page 7111]]

made at least two working days in advance of the meeting/hearing/workshop. TxDOT will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate these needs.

Public involvement will occur throughout the planning process. Public notice will be given stating the time and place of future public meetings and hearings. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to a public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to FHWA at the address provided.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205 Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding governmental consultation on federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Gary N. Johnson,
Acting District Engineer, FHWA Texas Division.
[FR Doc. 06-1239 Filed 2-9-06; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

Texas Register

fuel and purchased power costs according to Commission Substantive Rules in effect on July 1, 1995, required that EPE share wheeling revenues and margins on off-system sales with its Texas customers, and continued performance standards for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station.

Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon the action sought should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Commission's Office of Customer Protection at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) 1-800-735-2989. All correspondence should refer to Docket Number 32289.

TRD-200600318
Adriana Gonzales
Rules Coordinator
Public Utility Commission of Texas
Filed: January 20, 2006

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Stephen F. Austin State University

Notice of Consultant Contract Renewal

Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, intends to renew a contract for environmental services with Hydrex, 1128 N.W. Stallings, Nacogdoches, Texas 75964-3428. The firm will perform environmental assessments for projects as requested.

The original contract was in the sum of \$45,000 and was published in the November 18, 2005, issue of the *Texas Register* (30 TexReg 7788). The contract will be renewed beginning February 19, 2006 and continuing through August 31, 2011, with a total amount not to exceed \$150,000.

Documents, films, recording, or reports of intangible results may be presented by the outside consultant. Services will be on an as needed basis.

All inquiries should be directed to Diana Boubel, Director of Purchasing, Stephen F. Austin State University, P.O. Box 13030, SFA Station, Nacogdoches, Texas 75962; e-mail dboubel@sfasu.edu; fax (936) 468-4282; telephone (936) 468-4037.

TRD-200600320
R. Yvette Clark
General Counsel
Stephen F. Austin State University
Filed: January 20, 2006

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Texas Department of Transportation

Notice of Intent, Grand Parkway (SH99) Segments H and I-1

Pursuant to 43 TAC §2.43(c)(8)(B), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Grand Parkway Association, is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for transportation alternatives included in Segments H and I-1 of the proposed Grand Parkway. Segments H and I-1 are located on the northeast side of the greater Houston metropolitan area and span the area from US 59 (N) to IH 10 (E) generally between FM 2100 and SH 146 in Montgomery, Harris, Liberty, and Chambers counties, a distance of approximately 36 miles.

The proposed Grand Parkway is planned as a 182-mile circumferential highway facility around the greater Houston metropolitan area. It would provide access to radial freeways and would serve as a third loop around the City of Houston. The Grand Parkway has been divided into 11 segments of independent utility. Currently, Segment D (US 59 S to IH 10 W) of the Grand Parkway is open to the traveling public. Segment D is 19 miles long and is located on the southwest side of the greater Houston metropolitan area. The remaining Segments A (SH 146 to IH 45 S), B (IH 45 S to SH 288), C (US 59 S to SH 288), E (IH 10 W to US 290), F1 (US 290 to SH 249), F2 (SH 249 to IH 45 N), G (IH 45 N to US 59 N), and I-2 (IH 10 E to SH 146) are in various stages of project development. Segments H and I-1 are planned as a four-lane, limited access, toll facility within a 400-foot wide right-of-way.

SH 99 is a key element of the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan, a transportation program developed by the Houston-Galveston Area Council. The project is planned as a toll facility in the 2025 regional plan.

The EIS will include a preferred alternative alignment, number of lanes, roadway configuration, and operational characteristics of the proposed roadway. Alternatives to be studied include "no-action" (the no-build alternative), Transportation System Management (TSM)/Transportation Demand Management (TDM) alternative, mass transit alternative, and roadway build alternatives. The EIS will evaluate potential impacts from construction and operation of the proposed roadway including, but not limited to, the following: transportation impacts (construction detours, construction traffic, mobility improvement, and evacuation improvement), air and noise impacts from construction equipment and operation of the facilities, water quality impacts from construction area and roadway storm water runoff, impacts to waters of the United States including wetlands from right-of-way encroachment, impacts to historic and archeological resources, impacts to floodplains, and impacts and/or potential displacements to residents and businesses.

Correspondence describing the proposed project and soliciting comments has been sent to appropriate federal, state, regional, and local agencies and to organizations and persons who have previously expressed an interest or are known to have an interest in this project.

TxDOT and the Grand Parkway Association will conduct two public scoping meetings in separate locations. The first public meeting/scoping meeting will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2006 at Wilson Junior High School, 309 Highway 146, Dayton, Texas. The second meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Barbers Hill High School, 9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, Texas.

The public scoping meetings will be conducted in an open house format with no formal presentation, and both meetings will present the same information. At least 30 days and 10 days prior to the public scoping meetings, notices will be published in newspapers having general circulation in the project area. These will be the first in a series of meetings to solicit public comments on the proposed action as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

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and hearings. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to a public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to TxDOT at the address provided.

Agency Contact: Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be sent to Dianna F. Noble, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division, 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701; phone (512) 416-2734.

TRD-200600405

Bob Jackson

Deputy General Counsel

Texas Department of Transportation

Filed: January 25, 2006



Notice of Invitation

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT or the department) announces a Request for Proposal (RFP) for workforce transportation projects in border colonias. The project will be funded through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program and will be administered by the Public Transportation Division of TxDOT. The RFP is available in electronic and printed format from the department. See "To Obtain a Copy of the RFP" later in this notice.

Purpose: The purpose of the funding is to develop, support, or promote access to jobs and/or support services in colonias, recognized by the Office of the Attorney General in 30 counties. (See <http://maps.oag.state.tx.us/colgeog/imagemap.htm>.) Localities have wide flexibility in selecting service strategies that are appropriate to their areas.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants include local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, workforce development boards, public transit agencies, tribal organizations, and private non-profit organizations.

Availability of Funds: A maximum of \$2,379,023 will be available to fund the competitively selected job access proposals requested by this RFP. The department anticipates the project period to be from September 2006 to August 31, 2008.

Program Goal: The department seeks proposals for services to develop, promote, or support transportation to work and work-related services for colonias residents in designated counties. Work-related services include travel to training, job interviews, and day care facilities. Proposers must demonstrate the use of a collaborative human services/transportation planning process that includes: (1) involvement with the regional planning process underway in response to Transportation Code, Chapter 461 mandates for coordinated transportation; (2) outreach efforts to colonia residents; and (3) attention to the work transportation needs of persons with disabilities.

Eligible Expenses: Vehicle purchases, purchase of transportation services, and operating costs are eligible for this reimbursement program. For vehicle purchases only, the Texas Transportation Commission has expressed an intention to consider formal award of transportation development credits for the local match. The local match for all expenses is 50%. Documented in-kind (non-cash) match may be used where appropriate.

Review and Award Criteria: The RFP follows procedures set forth by the FTA in the April 8, 2002 *Federal Register*, available on the FTA website http://www.fta.dot.gov/legal/federal_register/2002/278_1479_ENG_HTML.htm.

Each application will first be screened for completeness and timeliness. Proposals that are deemed incomplete or arrive after the deadline will not be reviewed. The proposals will be evaluated using the criteria and review process described in the RFP.

Deadline: Proposals prepared according to instructions in the RFP package must be received by TxDOT Public Transportation Division, 150 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704 by 4:00 p.m. on April 20, 2006.

To Obtain a Copy of the RFP: A copy of the RFP is available from the Public Transportation Division on-line at <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/ptn/geninfo.htm>, under the heading "JARC Colonias Project". Interested parties should download both the Request for Proposal and the Project Application Form. Interested parties may also contact Karen Dunlap, TxDOT-PTN, 125 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2483, (512) 416-2817 for paper copies of the Request for Proposal and the Project Application Form.

TRD-200600406

Bob Jackson

Deputy General Counsel

Texas Department of Transportation

Filed: January 25, 2006



Public Notice - Aviation

Pursuant to Transportation Code, §21.111, and Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, §30.209, the Texas Department of Transportation conducts public hearings to receive comments from interested parties concerning proposed approval of various aviation projects.

For information regarding actions and times for aviation public hearings, please go to the following web site: <http://www.dot.state.tx.us>. Click on Aviation, then click on Aviation Public Hearing. Or, contact Joyce Moulton, Aviation Division, 150 East Riverside, Austin, Texas 78704, (512) 416-4501 or 800-68-PILOT.

TRD-200600404

Bob Jackson

Deputy General Counsel

Texas Department of Transportation

Filed: January 25, 2006



The University of Texas System

Invitation for Consultants to Provide Offers of Consulting Services

Pursuant to *Texas Government Code*, Section 2254.029, The University of Texas System (the "University") is currently seeking a marketing/advertising consultant to help brand and position the University. The University seeks to enhance the public's knowledge and understanding of the breadth and scope of The University of Texas System and its 15 institutions, their impact on the state in a variety of areas including health care, economic impact, K-16 education, and research breakthroughs.

The University is looking for a Proposer to provide the assistance the University requires to conduct research interviews with key audiences

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TRD-200600320
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TRD-200600405

Bob Jackson

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TRD-200600406

Bob Jackson

Deputy General Counsel

Texas Department of Transportation

Filed: January 25, 2006



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