

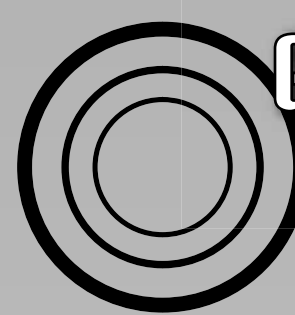
Public Scoping Meeting – September 12, 2002

You are encouraged to attend this upcoming meeting to learn about the study purpose, process and objectives and talk with TxDOT, The Grand Parkway Association and consultant team representatives about your concerns and needs:

Thursday, September 12
Alvin Community College
Nolan Ryan Center, Room 109
2925 South Bypass 35
Alvin, Texas 77511
5-8 p.m.

The meeting is being held in a handicap accessible location and will be conducted in English. Any person requiring language interpretation or other special communication or physical accommodations should contact The Lentz Group at 713/864-2623 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

Grand Parkway Association
c/o The Lentz Group
2600 Citadel Plaza Drive
Suite 115
Houston, Texas 77008



Issue 1 Fall 2002

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September 12, 2002
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GRAND PARKWAY SEGMENT B STUDY



What is the Grand Parkway?

The Grand Parkway (SH 99) is a proposed controlled access highway creating a circumferential loop around the Greater Houston area. The project is under the direction of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and The Grand Parkway Association (GPA), a non-profit transportation corporation regulated by the Texas Transportation Commission.

GPA is conducting a location and environmental study on Segment B of SH 99, an approximate 25-mile section spanning from SH 288 to IH 45 (South) in Brazoria and Galveston Counties. This study will evaluate transportation options and its findings will be presented to the public, local elected officials and area agencies, including TxDOT, to assess the most feasible solutions for addressing long-term needs.

Study Area

The majority of the proposed study area crosses relatively undeveloped properties in Brazoria and Galveston Counties. Cities and towns within the region include Alvin, Manvel, Dickinson, Texas City, Friendswood, Iowa Colony, Santa Fe, League City, Liverpool and Pearland.
(study area map on following page)

Study Purpose and Process

The study's purpose is to evaluate various alternative strategies, including different combinations of transportation modes, to determine if improvements in

this area would alleviate congestion, improve traffic flow in the south and southeast Houston metropolitan area and provide an additional, efficient emergency (hurricane) evacuation route.

During the first phase of this two-year study, the study team will gather information and define the study area. In addition to technical tasks such as mapping and conducting field visits, the team will gather input from local agencies, elected officials and the public to aid in developing possible alternatives for the area.

In the second phase, the team will produce several preliminary transportation alternatives and evaluate them based on criteria such as community impacts, traffic demand, ability to maintain circulation and access, hurricane evacuation efficiency, cost and environmental impacts. The different types of alternatives that will be evaluated include "no-action" or no-build, Transportation System Management (TSM)/Transportation Demand Management (TDM), mass transit and roadway build. Near the end of Phase II, the team will again seek additional input by hosting public workshops and meetings with local officials.

The alternatives that receive the most positive feedback and highest evaluation scores will undergo further detailed analysis and will be presented to local officials who will choose a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). The latter phases of the study will focus on

Study Purpose and Process cont.

further analysis of the LPA and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

The DEIS will evaluate potential impacts from construction and operation of the proposed alternatives on residents, businesses and property owners; transportation; air and noise; water quality; historic, archeological and natural resources and floodplains. At the end of the study, the DEIS will be available for public review and a formal public hearing will be held.

Study Schedule

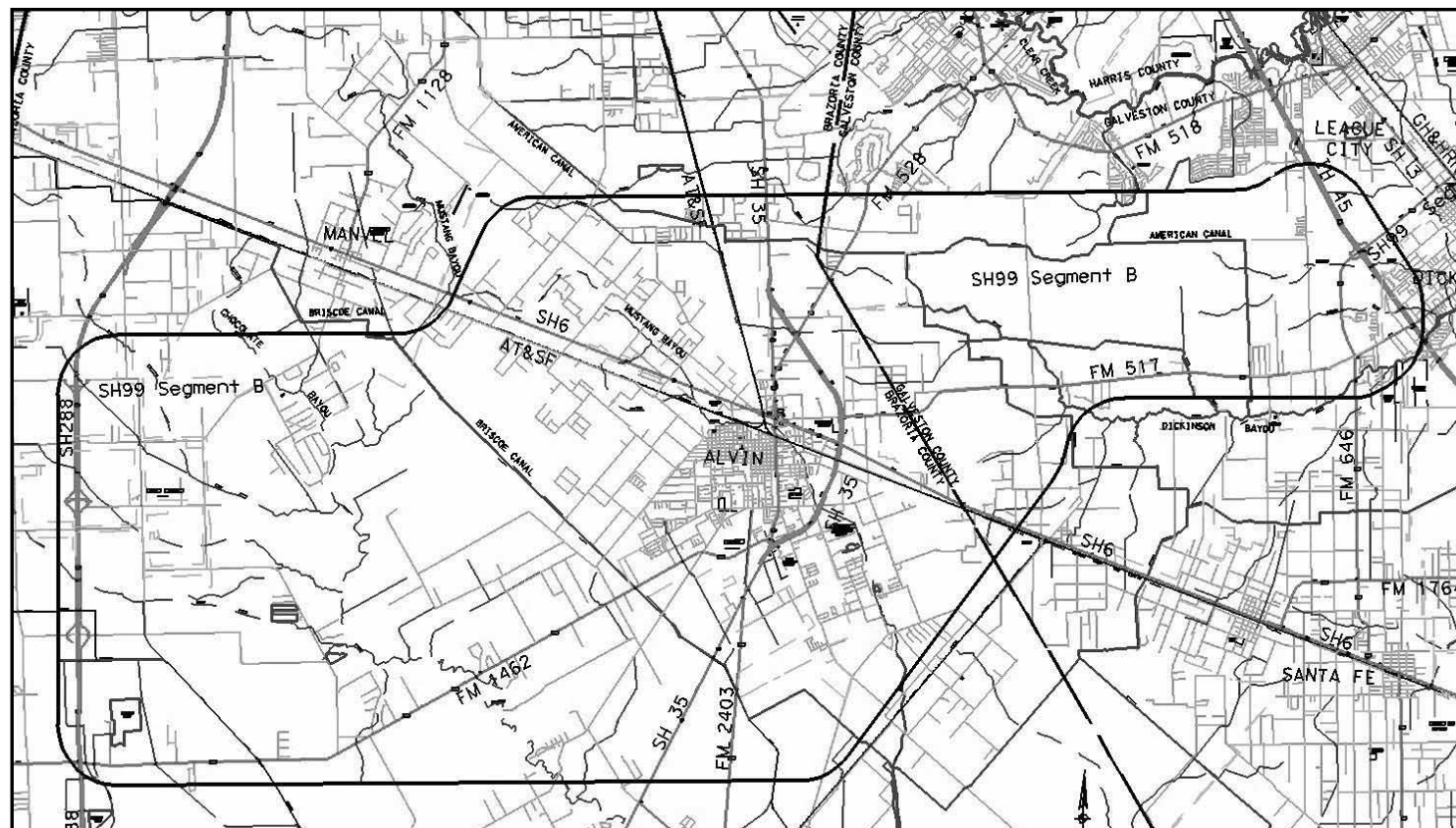
- August 2002 – Publish Notice Of Intent
- September 2002 – Public Scoping Meeting
- 4th Quarter 2002 – Perform Preliminary Alternatives Analysis
- 1st Quarter 2003 – Public Workshop on Preliminary Alternatives
- 4th Quarter 2003 – DEIS Available
- 1st Quarter 2004 – Public Hearing

Study Team and Participants

The Grand Parkway Association has enlisted a team of professional consultants to perform the work. Team members include:

- ▶ **Turner Collie & Braden** – team leader, engineering and environmental
- ▶ **Carter & Burgess** – engineering and environmental
- ▶ **ESPA Corp.** – engineering
- ▶ **Survcon** – surveying
- ▶ **AECOM Consulting Transportation Group** – travel forecasting
- ▶ **Barton Smith, Ph.D.** – economic analysis

Preliminary Study Area Map



Study Team and Participants cont.

- ▶ **Northrup Associates** – land use forecasting
- ▶ **Prewitt & Associates** – cultural resources studies
- ▶ **Moore Archeological Consulting** – archeological studies
- ▶ **The Lentz Group** – public involvement

Agency Participation

Agency representatives will meet regularly with team members to offer suggestions and comments to guide the study's development. These agencies include:

- ▶ Environmental Protection Agency
- ▶ Federal Highway Administration
- ▶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- ▶ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- ▶ Texas Department of Transportation
- ▶ Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission
- ▶ Texas Parks and Wildlife
- ▶ Houston-Galveston Area Council
- ▶ Brazoria and Galveston Counties
- ▶ Municipalities in the region

Public Involvement

Active public involvement is an important aspect of the study process. Public meetings will be held throughout the process to update you on the study's progress and provide a forum to give ideas and express concerns. Meetings are planned for:

- ▶ **September 12, 2002** (see details on back of this newsletter): Topic: Study purpose, process and objectives.
- ▶ **1st Quarter 2003**: Topic: Presentation of the preliminary alternatives and their evaluation results.
- ▶ **1st Quarter 2004**: Formal public hearing to present the DEIS.

There will also be communication between team members and the public in the form of:

- ▶ **Newsletters**: Mailed prior to public meetings, between meetings as appropriate and a final newsletter to recap study results.
- ▶ **Written comments**: During the course of the study, comment forms and questionnaires may be used to obtain input on specific issues. Written comments may be submitted at public meetings or you may contact:

Robin Sterry, The Grand Parkway Association
4544 Post Oak Place, Suite 222
Houston, TX 77027
713.965.0871
or e-mail comments@grandpky.com.

- ▶ **The Grand Parkway Association web site**: You can access information on Segment B including project status, newsletters and public meeting dates and locations, as well as information on the other segments of the project at www.grandpky.com.

- ▶ The Grandparkway Association would welcome the opportunity to make small group presentations. If your homeowner's association, church group or civic organization would like additional information, please feel free to contact Robin Sterry at the phone number above.