

Revised  
PUBLIC MEETING #1 SUMMARY

Collin County Outer Loop Study  
U.S. 75 to Rockwall County

February 24, 2005  
Melissa High School  
3150 Cardinal Drive  
Melissa, Texas

Prepared for:  
Collin County



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## 1. Setting

A Public Meeting/Open House was held for the Collin County Outer Loop Study project (East of U.S. 75) on Thursday, February 24, 2005. Due to the anticipated population growth in Collin County, future transportation corridors, including the Collin County Outer Loop, are currently being planned. Collin County Commissioners have ordered the study to identify and evaluate potential corridor and alignment alternatives. The future Collin County Outer Loop Study's boundaries are from U.S. 75 east, then south, around Lake Lavon, to the Rockwall County line. This project ties into the section of the proposed Collin County Outer Loop, west of U.S. 75, which has been under study for a few years.

The Public Meeting/Open House was held at Melissa High School, 3150 Cardinal Drive, Melissa, Texas in the school's Cafeterium. The "open house" began at 6:30 P.M. followed by a technical presentation at 7:00 P.M.

Postcards announcing the public meeting were distributed to all City of Melissa and City of Anna, Texas residents. A letter of invitation, signed by Mr. Ruben Delgado, Collin County Director of Engineering, was sent to elected/public officials.

A display advertisement was prepared in both English and Spanish by HNTB Corporation. The Collin County Public Information Office placed the ads in the following publications: *Dallas Morning News*-Collin County edition (February 18 and 22, 2005); and *Al Dia* (February 21 and 23, 2005). In addition, a press release announcing the Public Meeting was prepared and distributed to area news media organizations."

The objective of this meeting was to present project background information, including study process, schedule, study process, and potential alignments and corridors, to the citizens and to allow citizens the opportunity to offer input into the proposed study area corridor and alignment alternatives.



## 2. Attendance

A sign-in table was located at the meeting entrance for people to register and obtain handouts. They were encouraged to provide their input by completing the comment form and questionnaire.

The first attendee, Bill Caldwell, Mayor of Princeton, Texas, arrived at 5:58 p.m. One hundred sixty-six local citizens and public officials attended and signed in. The following Collin County officials and consulting firm representatives also attended:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency/Firm</u>
Joe Jaynes	Collin County Commissioner
Ruben Delgado	Director of Engineering, Collin County
Angie Stoddard	HNTB Corporation
Scott Forbes	HNTB Corporation
Scott English	HNTB Corporation
Joyce Nix	HNTB Corporation
Rusty Ozmer	HNTB Corporation
Sam Lopez	HNTB Corporation

Elected/public officials who were identified at the meeting were:

David Dorman	Mayor	Melissa, TX
Douglas Box	City Administrator	Melissa, TX
Bill Caldwell	Mayor	Princeton, TX
Kenneth Pelham	Mayor	Anna, TX
Jason Smith	Superintendent	Melissa Independent School District

Attendees had the option of returning comment forms and questionnaires the evening of the meeting or taking the forms home to complete and return. Twelve (12) comment forms were handed in the night of the meeting. One (1) additional comment form was provided to HNTB Corporation on March 4, 2005.

Five (5) additional comment forms were provided to HNTB Corporation in December 2005. As a result, this “Revised” Public Meeting Summary has been prepared.



### **3. Meeting Details**

#### **3.1 5:00-6:30 PM – Meeting Set-up**

Members of HNTB arrived at the meeting location to set up for the meeting. The first meeting attendees arrived at 5:58 P.M.

#### **3.2 6:30-7:00 PM – Exhibit Viewing**

A registration table was set-up just inside the doorway entrance to the Cafeterium. As meeting attendees entered the room, they were given handouts and encouraged to sign-in. The handouts included an agenda, a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, a comment form, a questionnaire and a project newsletter. The newsletter was printed in English and Spanish.

After signing-in, meeting attendees could view the displayed exhibits for the Collin County Outer Loop Study. Exhibits consisted of a project study area map, an environmental constraints map, a Study Timetable, a Public Involvement Process exhibit board, a Contact Information exhibit board and a map of preliminary alternative alignments (from U.S. 75 to S.H. 121) for attendees to view and draw additional alignments or write comments. Representatives from Collin County and HNTB Corporation answered questions and assisted the public with interpretation of the exhibits.

#### **3.3 7:00-8:30 PM – Presentation**

Collin County Commissioner Joe Jaynes welcomed the audience and described the format for the meeting. He recognized the mayors and the other public officials in attendance. Commissioner Jaynes began by informing the attendees of the inclusiveness of the public involvement process for this project. The study team is open to public input and their comments are very welcomed. A brief project background was provided, which emphasized the growth that had occurred in Collin County over the last ten years and projected to continue in the future. He indicated the goal was to identify the alignment right-of-way now, so that the land could be preserved for transportation improvements in the future. He provided the study limits (U.S. 75 to Rockwall County) and indicated the aggressive planning process occurring to plan for the future transportation needs in Collin County.

Angie Stoddard was introduced to give the technical presentation. She identified the project's objective which is to identify a corridor to accommodate the long-range transportation needs of the region. The study process, which includes public involvement, data collection, develop/evaluate alternative corridors, develop/evaluate alternative alignments, and prepare the final report, was presented. Each of the corridors and alignments will be evaluated on enhanced mobility/safety, engineering feasibility, cost effectiveness, and minimal environmental impacts. This project is scheduled for one year. It began in the Fall of 2004 with data collection and is scheduled to be finished in Fall 2005 with the completion



of a final report. Ms. Stoddard indicated that the analysis of the U.S. 75 to S.H. 121 section has been expedited due to the aggressive population growth in that section. Information regarding public involvement was provided. Attendees were invited to view the preliminary alternative alignments map and draw alternative alignments and write comments. Commissioner Jaynes then opened the meeting for public comments and questions.

### 3.4 Summary of Written Comments

Twelve written comments were submitted at the meeting. On the preliminary alternative alignment exhibits, there were several suggestions for alternative alignment locations. From the comment sheets submitted at the meeting, two attendees preferred the southern alignment (CR 364), and one attendee preferred the northern alignment (CR 366). However, based on comments on the preliminary alternative alignment exhibits, more attendees preferred the northern alignment. Two comments indicated it was good that plans were currently being made for the future, well ahead of the growth. One individual indicated, the sooner this project begins the better; however, there was a concern related to the amount of land individuals may be willing to donate. Another suggested that mass transit should be a priority in North Texas. One individual recommended that tools, such as “smart signs” to provide motorists information about alternative routes to avoid congestion, should also be reviewed.

Some attendees were in favor and recognized the need to for prepare for future roadways to accommodate the growth. One individual requested to be contacted for input when the design process begins - he is interested in Hwy. 545. Another attendee suggested moving the proposed to the Plano/Frisco/McKinney area where there is currently high population growth. There was also a comment indicating that there were not enough roads labeled on the map to determine whether an alternative alignment would impact their property.

Environmental concerns addressed consisted of prioritizing open spaces and green belts. In addition, nature preserving organizations such as *Native Prairie Association of Texas* and *Collin County Native Plant Society* should be contacted in future planning. There was also a comment regarding low water crossings on CR 413, and CR 475 and CR 476 over Sister Grove Creek, along with safety on Highway 545. Another concern was regarding the reduced air quality and increased noise levels resulting from the project. A final environmental comment was regarding the location of two cemeteries located near U.S. 75

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Five (5) additional comment forms were provided to HNTB Corporation in December 2005. As a result, this “Revised” Public Meeting Summary has been prepared.

One person asked if they could be contacted if the thoroughfare plan map dated Sept. 20, 2002 with the multimodal transportation corridor has been updated. In addition, the individual wanted to be sure that the County was aware of TARLs, cemeteries, and



endangered species and indicated that, in their opinion, none of the land owners along CR 501 and CR 502 would be interested in donating ROW. Another comment indicated he does not feel that there would not be a need for the loop, east of S.H. 121 or south and suggested that existing roads such as Highway 78 need widening. Another comment was to reduce the width of desired ROW to 250 feet, because it will have less displacements and indicated that a toll road is the preferred way to build. Another person asked if the citizens would be able to vote on these issues, and also stated that they are for the loop. Another comment stated “it is very important to identify now the proposed path of the Outer Loop and designate the proper use of the land involved for proper zoning.”

**The following written comments were provided on the “Alternative Alignments” exhibits during the Open House and Public Meeting:**

**From U.S. 75 to S.H. 121**

- Use existing stream crossing of county ROW to avoid impacts to waters of the United States and Riparian Corridor (Section 404 of Clean Water Act). (East Fork Trinity River and C.R. 282)
- Locate Coffman Cemetery (immediately west of U.S. 75 and C.R. 366 intersection)
- Consider F.M. 455 (north of C.R. 366) as an alternative route
- Consider Mantua Rd. (north of C.R. 455) as an alternative route
- Consider alternative routes north, into Grayson County
- Display school district boundaries on exhibit
- Texas schools campground located near Sister Grove Creek
- TXU substation identified immediately west of U.S. 75
- Luscombe family community identified
- Sister Grove Creek crossing S.H. 121 should be labeled Brinlee Creek
- Alternative route drawn in to connect the orange alignment at C.R. 366 to the green alignment before S.H. 5

**Orange Alignment (Extension of C.R. 366)**

- 7 yes comments between U.S. 75 and S.H. 5
- 1 yes comment between S.H. 5 and C.R. 419
- 1 no comment between U.S. 75 and S.H. 5
- 2 orchards identified on Martha Jones’s property
- Native Texas Prairie Grass identified (south of C.R. 366 on Martha Jones’s property)
- Alternative route drawn in immediately north of orange alignment, which follows existing C.R. 366, between U.S. 75 and S.H. 5



Green Alignment (Between C.R. 364 and 366)

- 5 no comments between U.S. 75 and S.H. 5
- 2 no comments between S.H. 5 and C.R. 419
- Highview Acres (5 families) west of alignment
- Cemetery identified at beginning of alignment, immediately east of U.S. 75, and south of alignment
- Alignment goes through my property (north of C.R. 364, between U.S. 75 and S.H. 5)
- Move the alignment elsewhere (east of Anna Ranch Partnership and C.R. 419)

Pink Alignment (Extension of C.R. 364)

- 5 no comments between U.S. 75 and S.H. 5
- Do not build on protected wetlands (along Slayter Creek and C.R. 364)
- Alignment goes through my house (east of C.R. 364, turns from north to east)
- Alignment would effect many homes between U.S. 75 and S.H. 5
- Alternative route drawn in immediately south of pink alignment, between S.H. 5 and S.H. 121
- Alternative route drawn in shifting S-curve immediately east between U.S. 75 and S.H. 5



### 3.5 Summary of Verbal Comments

#### **The following comments/questions were expressed during the Public Meeting:**

*Citizen: I do not think that the population supports the need for the Collin County Outer Loop. What is the status of the McKinney Outer Loop project?*

Although the Collin County Outer Loop may not be needed to accommodate the traffic volumes today, it will be needed to accommodate the traffic projections in the future. There is not a McKinney Outer Loop project, because existing development has precluded the McKinney Outer Loop.

*Citizen: I think that a north-south route is needed, rather than an outer loop, based on the existing traffic patterns.*

There are currently improvements planned for U.S. 75 to mitigate the existing congestion, including a schematic currently under development. The Collin County Outer Loop Study is planning for the future of the County, by planning for the future transportation needed.

*Citizen: Will you be evaluating the existing roads for the Collin County Outer Loop*

Yes, the study team will also be evaluating existing roads and the adjacent development for Collin County Outer Loop.

*Citizen: You need to include open spaces and green belts in the study. In addition, you need to evaluate changeable message signs.*

The study will preserve a 500-foot corridor, which will provide plenty of area for open spaces.

*Citizen: The County should be addressing current road projects. There are no improvements proposed for SH 121 and there are a lot of subdivisions being constructed.*

There are several current road projects within the County. It was noted that Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is in funding shortfall; therefore, there are more road projects that need to be constructed than there is funding for.

*Citizen: This project needs to be coordinated with the Trans-Texas Corridor project.*

We will be coordinating the results of the study with the Trans-Texas Corridor project.

*Citizen: Are there any studies on US 380 in McKinney?*

Currently, there are not any studies on US 380 in McKinney.



*Citizen: Once the roadway route has been established, the County will need to put up signs indicating that the land will be a roadway. Through Carrollton, part of the Loop 9 project use to be a park. When the park was taken back to construct the roadway, there were problems.*

The County will be defining the Collin County Outer Loop alignment through this study. Once a route is selected, the County will be preserving the land for the route through the dedication of ROW.

*Citizen: Terrell Farms runs out of water.*

New water lines are being planned for and constructed in the County. In addition, wells are currently being drilled.



## **4. Handouts from The Public Meeting**

- 4.1 Agenda**
- 4.2 PowerPoint presentation**
- 4.3 Questionnaire**
- 4.4 Comment Form**
- 4.5 Project Newsletter**