

Revised  
PUBLIC MEETING #2 SUMMARY

Collin County Outer Loop Study  
US 75 to Rockwall County

May 19, 2005  
Farmersville High School  
499 Highway 78N  
Farmersville, Texas 75442

Prepared for:  
Collin County



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## 1. Setting

A second Public Meeting/Open House was held for the Collin County Outer Loop Study project (East of U.S. 75) on Thursday, May 19, 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 officials have approved a study to develop 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 second Public Meeting/Open House was held at Farmersville High School, 499 Highway 78N, Farmersville, 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 mailed to individuals who had asked to be added to the project mailing list or who attended the first Public Meeting held in February 2005. 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 advertisements twice each in the following publications: *Dallas Morning News*-Collin County edition and *Al Dia*. 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 project need, schedule, study process, and potential alignments and corridors and to allow citizens the opportunity to offer their input into the proposed 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 arrived at 5:00 p.m. Seventy-one (71) local citizens and four elected/public officials attended and signed in. The following Collin County 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
Jerry Holder	HNTB Corporation
Scott English	HNTB Corporation
Sam Lopez	HNTB Corporation
Joyce Nix	HNTB Corporation
Rusty Ozmer	HNTB Corporation

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

Christy Schell	Mayor	Nevada, TX
Robbin Lamkin	Mayor	Farmersville, TX
Donald C. Smith	City Councilmember	Farmersville, TX

Attendees had the option of returning comment forms and questionnaires the evening of the meeting or taking the forms home to complete and return. Three (3) comment forms and seven (7) questionnaires were handed in the night of the meeting.

One (1) 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 4:45-6:30 PM – Meeting Set-up**

HNTB arrived at the meeting location to set up for the meeting. The first meeting attendee arrived at 5:00 P.M.

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

A registration table was set-up just inside the doorway entrance of the Cafeterium. As meeting attendees entered the room, they were given handouts and encouraged to sign-in. The documents 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.

Once signed-in, meeting attendees could then 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, U.S. 75 to S.H. 121 alternative alignments map, S.H. 121 to U.S. 380 alternative corridors map, and U.S. 380 to Rockwall County alternative alignment and corridors map. Two stations were set up for attendees to view and draw additional alignments/corridors or write comments. Representatives from Collin County and HNTB Corporation answered questions and assisted the public with interpretation of the exhibits.

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

Collin County Commissioner Joe Jaynes began the meeting by describing the significant growth Collin County is experiencing, resulting in increased traffic. The purpose of the Collin County Outer Loop study is to prepare for the current and anticipated growth. Commissioner Jaynes emphasized this as a long-term project. The proposed study is for an east-west thoroughfare parallel to U.S. 380. There are currently 650,000 people in Collin County. At the current rate of growth, there will be approximately two million people in Collin County by 2025.

The corridor study started two years ago in the northwest quadrant of the County between the Dallas North Tollway and U.S. 75. Three potential corridor routes were derived from that phase of the study, which included a series of town hall and city council meetings. The three corridors were narrowed down to one corridor. Within the one corridor, five possible alignments were developed. The goal is to narrow five alignments down to two alignments. These alignments will be provided to the cities to incorporate into their master plans. Therefore, the right-of-way (ROW) will be in place as cities prepare for future development.



This phase of the study is divided into sections: U.S. 75 to S.H. 121; S.H. 121 to U.S. 380; U.S. 380 to Rockwall County. In the U.S. 75 to S.H. 121 section, Collin County is currently working with the cities of Melissa and Anna to establish an alignment, because a corridor was not possible due to the rapid growth. There are three preliminary corridors in the S.H. 121 to U.S. 380 section currently being evaluated. In the U.S. 380 to Rockwall County section, there are two preliminary corridors. The overall plan is to provide a loop from the Dallas North Tollway east and then south into Rockwall County. Collin County has also been working with both Rockwall County and Kaufman County regarding future extensions of the outer loop.

Commissioner Jaynes indicated that the objective is to acquire 500 feet of right-of-way. Projected growth is the impetus for this project. If the population continues to increase, the right-of-way will be there for expansion, if not, it may be used for recreational or other purposes.

Commissioner Jaynes introduced Angie Stoddard, HNTB Corporation, to present the technical overview, indicating her presentation would be followed by a period of questions and comments. He emphasized the significance of public participation in the process.

Angie Stoddard presented 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 2004 with data collection and is scheduled to be finished in the Fall 2005 with the completion of a final report. Ms. Stoddard presented the analysis to data on the three sections of the corridor: Rockwall County to U.S. 380, U.S. 380 to S.H. 121, and S.H. 121 to U.S. 75. Two corridors (east of Nevada and west of Nevada) were identified for the section between Rockwall County and U.S. 380. Preliminary analysis has determined that there are more constraints in the corridor west of Nevada (including subdivisions and creeks), than east of Nevada; therefore, the study team has begun to focus their detailed alignment analysis on the corridor east of Nevada. At this point, only alternative corridors have been developed for the section between U.S. 380 and S.H. 121. The analysis of the S.H. 121 to U.S. 75 section has been expedited due to the aggressive population growth in that section. Preliminary analysis of the S.H. 121 to U.S. 75 alignments, along with comments received at the first Public Meeting, has determined that the northern most alignment (which ties into CR 366) is the technically preferred alignment, pending further study. 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

Three written comments were submitted at the public meeting. The comments were in favor of moving forward with the project. One person indicated that as a resident of the County for 61 years, improvements should be completed now, because there would be fewer homes impacted north and east of Blue Ridge. He suggested that Highway 78 could be enlarged (widened). Another comment supported the east of Nevada corridor from U.S. 380 to Rockwall County, and requested Collin County to continue working with Rockwall County. A third comment was comprised of responses to the questionnaire indicating the individual knew some things about the project. The gentleman's questionnaire was affixed to his comment sheet with his name and address and placed in the comment box.

Seven completed questionnaires were turned in the night of the public meeting.

**Important Note:** One (1) additional comment form was provided to HNTB Corporation in December 2005. As a result, this "Revised" Public Meeting Summary has been prepared.

The following comment was provided "We would be willing to discuss donation of ROW, depending on the route." A completed questionnaire was also included with the comment .

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

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

- Consider looking north above proposed alignments
- Subdivision identified immediately west of U.S. 75

Yellow Alternative (Ties into C.R. 366)

- 1 no comment (between U.S. 75 and S.H. 5)

Purple Alternative (Between C.R. 364 and C.R. 366)

- 1 no comment (between U.S. 75 and S.H. 5)

Pink Alternative (Ties into C.R. 364)

- 1 no comment (between U.S. 75 and S.H. 5)



**From S.H. 121 to U.S. 380**

Note: Several comments were recorded on both sets of exhibits.

North Corridor (North of Blue Ridge)

- 2 yes comments (between S.H. 121 and F.M. 2862)
- 1 yes comment (between F.M. 981 and Bear Creek)

Middle Corridor (South of Blue Ridge)

- 5 no comments (between C.R. 504 and C.R. 620)

South Corridor (North of Lake Lavon)

- 2 no comments (at Stony Point Cemetery Assoc.)
- Substation identified north of Stony Point Cemetery Assoc.
- 2 no comments (where F.M. 1827 crosses corridor)
- 10 no comments (along County Rd. 500)
- Potential historical 100 year homes identified and agricultural land along creek wetlands (Sister Grove Creek)
- 2 no comments (between F.M. 1377 and C.R. 570)
- Consider moving north (due to houses immediately north of F.M. 2756)
- Protected Wildlife Zone identified at the confluence of Indian Creek, Pot Rack Creek, Pilot Grove Creek
- Glass Cemetery identified (west of Farmersville near C.R. 610 and C.R. 814 intersection)
- 1 no comment (immediately north of Whispering Hill Subdivision, along C.R. 617)

**From U.S. 380 to Rockwall County Line**

Note: Several comments were recorded on both sets of exhibits.

West Corridor (West of Nevada)

- 2 no comments at subdivisions (along S.H. 78, immediately south of U.S.380)
- 5 no comments (between S.H. 78 and F.M. 6)

East Corridor/Alignment (East of Nevada)

- Potential historical barn, identified (immediately north of U.S. 380 and west of C.R. 633)
- 1 yes comment (between C.R. 643 and F.M. 1778)
- 2 yes comments (between C.R. 637 and Rockwall County Line)



### 3.5 Summary of Verbal Comments

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

*Citizen: When will an alignment be chosen between S.H. 121 and U.S. 380? Also, is this project related to the Trans Texas Corridor project?*

The alignment between S.H. 121 and U.S. 380 requires further evaluation and will be chosen at a later date. The Outer Loop project is a separate project from the Trans Texas Corridor.

*Citizen: How do I get a copy of the maps? How do you intend to buy property for the project? What will happen to the property values once the project is built?*

The maps will be available on the Collin County Web site. The County would like to work with the property owners to acquire the identified property through donations. Once the project is built, property values will likely increase.

*Citizen: Why is the County looking to propose an Outer Loop versus widening existing roads?*

We have evaluated widening existing roads; however, Collin County will need an alternative reliever route to accommodate the projected traffic growth.

*Citizen: Since the landfill has been built, why are there no improvements to S.H. 121? You need to work on HOV lanes for U.S. 75.*

We are currently working with TxDOT to improve and widen S.H. 121. The Outer Loop will help alleviate traffic from S.H. 121. The U.S. 75 HOV lanes will be in place by June of 2007.

*Citizen: Will the Outer Loop tie into IH 30 in Rockwall County?*

Yes, that is the proposed plan. In looking at the Mobility Plan and population growth, the Outer Loop will provide for future mobility in Collin County.

*Citizen: What are the specific details of the ROW acquisition process?*

Every homeowner is protected by federal laws regarding the ROW acquisition process. The County or City would have to substantiate a Just Cause to obtain property and the homeowner would be offered fair market value for their land.

*Citizen: Can the City of Melissa make a developer set aside ROW for the project?*

The proposed project will need to be included on the City's thoroughfare plan before ROW can be set aside.

*Citizen: What about what happened with the TXU easement project?*

This is not a TXU project. However, TXU has the same power to acquire property that the County and City have.



*Citizen: The Dallas Morning News showed the Trans Texas Corridor going through the northeast corner of Lake Lavon and I would hate to see the surrounding natural environment around the Lake ruined.*

Impact to environmental features is a major consideration when developing the alignments for the Outer Loop.

*Citizen: There are many sensitive areas around Blue Ridge, so please be careful.*

No comment.

*Citizen: How much will the project cost? When will the project be built?*

The cost of the project is unknown at this point. The project will be built when funding through bonds becomes available. Construction may begin with a 2 lane road, then develop to a 4 lane road, and then eventually be constructed into a major highway facility.

*Citizen: Do you see the entire County being inside city limits in the future?*

It is unknown as to whether the entire County will be encompassed by city limits in the future. Currently, there are many unincorporated areas of Dallas County.

*Citizen: What is the timeframe for this project, can you give rough estimates?*

For the section from the DNT (Dallas North Tollway) to U.S. 75, a 2 lane road may be built by 2011. For the section from U.S. 75 to S.H. 121, a 2 lane road may be built by 2007.

*Citizen: Is the Trans Texas Corridor project on a faster track than the Outer Loop?*

No, the Outer Loop project is being designed independently and has made much more progress, in terms of alignment development, than the Trans Texas Corridor.



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

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