



PUBLIC HEARING ANALYSIS

FOR: County Road (CR) 403 Public Hearing -April 23, 2009

FROM: CR 94

TO: Farm to Market (FM) 865
Brazoria County
CSJ 0912-31-127

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) conducted a public hearing to present the proposed roadway design for the widening improvements to CR 403 from CR 94 to FM 865. The public hearing was held in the Challenger Elementary School located at 9434 Hughes Ranch Road (CR 403), Pearland, Texas, on April 23, 2009. An open house viewing of exhibits was available beginning at 6 p.m. and the formal presentation was conducted at 7 p.m. until 8:06p.m.

A total of 153 public hearing notices were mailed to property owners listed adjacent to the roadway project and interested parties. In addition, 11 notices were sent to elected officials. Newspaper ads for the public hearing were published in: *The Houston Chronicle* -legal notices in classified section on March 23 and April 13, 2009; *Pearland Journal* - legal notices in classified section on March 26 and April 16 2009; and the *La Voz* (a Spanish newspaper) – legal notices in classified section on March 25 and April 15, 2009.

A Sign-In table was set up near the entrance of the school with sign-in sheets for attendees and elected officials, written comment forms and speaker registration cards. The registration attendance totaled 53 citizens of the general public and one elected official. An open forum format was set up at 6:00 pm to allow for the public to review information pertaining to the proposed project and to ask questions prior to the formal hearing presentation. Information stations available at the open forum included a roadway design station, a written comment station, and the sign-in station, which also had a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment. Exhibits displayed at the public hearing included two identical sets of preliminary design plans for the CR 403 road widening project, and exhibit boards illustrating:

- Welcome to the public hearing
- Need and purpose
- Typical sections of the existing and proposed roadway
- Project description, project length and construction letting

Viewing of all project exhibits and informal discussions were held from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm to give all attendees an opportunity to view all exhibits and documents on display and to discuss and ask questions regarding the proposed project with project team members present before the formal hearing presentation.

Written comment forms were made available to attendees, which included the TxDOT mailing address and website address (HOU-PIOWebMail@DOT.STATE.TX.US) for the submittal of

written comments, if not turned in the night of the hearing. TxDOT Right of Way copies of the *Relocation Assistance* booklet in both English and Spanish were also available upon request.

The formal hearing began at 7 p.m. and was recorded by a court reporter. A PowerPoint presentation was shown in conjunction with an Informational speech. The presiding official for the hearing was Ms. Lisa De La Cruz, Environmental Consultant for the proposed project. Ms. De La Cruz convened the hearing and gave a brief description of the purpose and agenda of the hearing and made introductions of the elected officials in attendance. Ms. De La Cruz then informed the public where they could review the schematic and Environmental Assessment after the public hearing; Brazoria County Engineers Office, TxDOT Brazoria County Area Office, and TxDOT Houston District Office.

Ms. De La Cruz then presented the engineering and environmental aspects of the project, including existing and proposed conditions, the purpose for the proposed project, a description of the proposed typical section, estimated construction costs, schedule for the completion of the project, and a review of the Environmental Assessment. The presentation concluded with the option for a 5 to 10-minute recess to allow citizens another opportunity to review the exhibits and the document; however, the public wanted to continue with the public comment phase without a recess. A reminder was given to take time to sign in at the Sign-In table and/or fill in a Speaker Registration Card to present a verbal statement during the comment session of the hearing, if not already done so.

The hearing then proceeded with the public comment session. Public officials in attendance had stated they did not want to present any comments at this time. Eighteen (18) registered to give a public statement. Twenty four (24) comments from the general public were recorded by the court reporter, six (6) of the recorded comments were from people that spoke more than once during the public comment period. Ten (10) people submitted written comments at the hearing, all using the written comment forms provided upon sign-in. Eighty-one (81) additional people submitted written comments by May 7, 2009 (10 working days after the hearing) for a total of Ninety (91) written comments.

The Public Hearing was officially adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

These notes are only summaries of key points of the hearing and are not meant to be used as a transcript of the hearing.