

I-35 Corridor Segment Committee 3 – Meeting Notes
4102 I-35 South, New Braunfels, TX
October 27, 2010 – 9:00 AM to Noon

Welcome

The Segment 3 Facilitator Nancy Parker welcomed the I-35 Corridor Segment 3 Committee (CSC 3) members to their October meeting. The facilitator explained that the meeting would consist of a review of the recent public involvement effort and a determination of the final recommendations of the CSC 3 to the I-35 Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC). It was explained that the Committee would be prioritizing their proposed transportation solutions into near-, mid-, and long-term categories. In addition, the committee will determine if general and policy recommendations are to be included or not included.

Summary of Public Planning Workshops

The facilitator briefly reviewed some summary statistics with the Committee from their CSC 3 Public Planning Workshops that occurred in September including that:

- 8 public workshops were held for Segment Three (5 workshops for Segment Three only, and 3 joint workshops for Segments Three and Four);
- 185 members of the public attended the Segment Three workshops;
- 371 Segment Three questionnaires were submitted (108 from the Segment Three workshops, 257 online, and 6 mailed);
- 217 respondents provided comments in the space provided at the end of the questionnaires; and,
- 11 emails related to Segment Three were submitted via the comment form on the MY 35 website.

The facilitator explained that the rest of the meeting would consist of reviewing the public questionnaire results, the Committee's prior questionnaire results, and determining CSC 3's final transportation improvement recommendations and priorities for the CAC based on this information.

Final Corridor Segment 3 Plan Recommendations

The Committee then reviewed the feedback from the planning workshops and began finalizing their recommendations to the CAC. The CAC Facilitator, Tom Warne, was introduced, and he suggested that the more clarity that the Segment 3 Committee could provide about their project intentions, the better. The Committee reviewed and discussed each one of their proposed projects and categorized them into near-term, mid-term, and long-term categories.

During the discussion, the Committee identified several edits to project summary sheets including:

- Add a note recommending for the following projects to be studied within five years:
 - I-35 Improvements from Williamson/Bell County to SH 195;

- I-35 Improvements from SH 195 to I-10;
- I-35 HOV/Toll Lane from SH 45 SE to I-10;
- SH 21 Connector from I-35 to SH 130;
- SH 80 Connector from I-35 to SH 130;
- New Braunfels Connector from I-35 to SH 130;
- Passenger Rail from Georgetown to San Antonio;
- High Speed Commuter Rail;
- New Freight Rail Construction; and,
- Passenger Rail from Austin to Elgin.
- Add a note to the I-35 HOV/Toll Lane from SH 45 SE to I-10 project to reflect that there was strong public sentiment against tolling during the comment period.
- Reduce the project limits of SH 71 Connector from I-35 to SH 130 project due to current construction west of Riverside Drive. New project limits are from “just west of Riverside Drive to SH 130”.
- Add a note to the SH 21 Connector from I-35 to SH 130 project recommending a short-term safety study prior to the project’s full study.
- Combine the following projects sets into one project:
 - I-35 Improvements from Williamson/Bell County to SH 195 and I-35 Improvements from SH 195 to I-10 projects become “I-35 Improvements from Williamson/Bell County to I-10”;
 - SH 21 Connector from I-35 to SH 130, SH 80 Connector from I-35 to SH 130 and New Braunfels Connector from I-35 to SH 130 projects become “SH 21/SH 80/New Braunfels Connectors from I-35 to SH 130”; and,
 - Passenger Rail from Georgetown to San Antonio and High Speed Commuter Rail become “Passenger Rail from San Antonio to Dallas”.
- Add a note to the combined Passenger Rail from San Antonio to Dallas to reflect the need for a “high-priority” study and add language to the project about grade separations at rail crossings to improve mobility and safety within the I-35 corridor.
- Revise the I-35/SH 45 SE/SH 130 Alternative project description to note “a minimum one dynamically priced managed lane and two non tolled lanes in each direction” instead of “a high occupancy vehicle/toll lane”.

After categorizing all of their projects into near-, mid-, and long-term categories, the Committee ranked the near-term projects. A summary of the near-term project rankings is reflected in *Attachment A*.

The committee chose to represent the I-35/SH 45 SE/SH 130 Alternative project as a high-priority study and as a general recommendation noting that the language should be changed to “implement” instead of “consider”.

Selection of a Member to Serve on the I-35 Corridor Advisory Committee

It was explained that each CSC will nominate a member to serve as a member of the I-35 Corridor Advisory Committee and to represent their respective Committee on the CAC. It was explained that this member will need to be able to attend the CAC meeting on December 1st in

Austin, from 9AM to 4PM, and must also be an official member of the segment committee and not a representative or proxy. Committee member Bob Daigh was selected as the CSC 3 representative to the CAC; Committee member Bill Weeper is the back-up representative.

Wrap-up/Adjourn

It was noted that a revised CSC 3 Segment Plan that includes their final recommendations will be sent to the Committee for review in the next few weeks. The ultimate goal is to present the final MY 35 Plan to the Texas Transportation Commission in late January. The facilitator and TxDOT then thanked all of the Committee members for their participation in this planning effort.