

I-35 Corridor Segment Committee 4 – Meeting Notes
10303 Tool Yard, San Antonio, TX
October 26, 2010 – 9:00 AM to Noon

Welcome

The Segment 4 Facilitator Nancy Parker welcomed the I-35 Corridor Segment 4 Committee (CSC 4) 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 4 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. 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 4 Public Planning Workshops that occurred in September including that:

- 5 public workshops were held for Segment Four (2 workshops for Segment Four only, and 3 joint workshops for Segments Three and Four);
- 79 members of the public attended the Segment Four workshops;
- 54 Segment Four questionnaires were submitted (36 from the Segment Four workshops, 13 online, and 5 mailed);
- 26 respondents provided comments in the space provided at the end of the questionnaires; and,
- 3 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 4's final transportation improvement recommendations and priorities for the CAC based on this information.

Final Corridor Segment 4 Plan Recommendations

The Committee then reviewed the feedback from the planning workshops and began finalizing their recommendations to the CAC. The Committee reviewed and discussed each one of their proposed projects and categorized them into near-term, mid-term, and long-term categories.

The Segment 4 Committee recommended the Freight Origins and Destinations Study from Laredo to San Antonio as the highest priority. The Committee thinks this study could drive the results of other decisions and believe it should be conducted as soon as possible.

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

- Reduce the project limits of the US 83 Improvements by noting that approximately 17 miles of US 83 are currently not included in the planning efforts of other agencies. These remaining 17 miles will be the extent of the project area.
- Revise the Loop 1604 project limits to extend beyond I-35 to US 90.
- Modify the Passenger Rail from Laredo to San Antonio project to include an extension to Dallas/Ft. Worth in lieu of proposing the High Speed Rail project from San Antonio to Dallas/Ft. Worth

The Segment 4 Committee chose to omit the following projects from their recommendation:

- US 57 Improvements – did not have a significant impact on the I-35 Corridor
- US 59 Improvements – included in the I-69 Corridor Study
- SH 44 Improvements – included in the I-69 Corridor Study
- HSR from San Antonio to Dallas – combined with the Passenger Rail recommendation; noted that the Laredo to San Antonio Passenger Rail would extend to Dallas
- Freight Shuttle Rail Service – did not want to promote a private enterprise

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*.

When reviewing the Operational Improvements, the Segment 4 Committee was in agreement with offering new tolled lanes but not congestion pricing. They requested for their plan to reflect that they have no recommendation up or down because the proposed improvement should be two separate parts. The committee would like to share with the CAC that the question was poorly worded, and they question whether the public input is meaningful. The Segment 4 Committee did not include “Reduce tolls on alternative routes to I-35” and “Impose access limitations” in their Segment 4 Plan.

The following revisions were requested to General Policy Recommendations:

- Reword “Consider imposing speed controls and/or lane restrictions for trucks” to state “Consider imposing lane restrictions for trucks” since speed controls already exist in Segment 4.
- Reword the license plate registration fees and/or increased vehicle sales tax recommendation to state “After eliminating gas tax diversion, consider funding transportation projects through increased license plate registration fees and an increased vehicle sales tax, if necessary.”
- Reword “Consider acquiring sufficient right-of-way for future expansion, where feasible” to state “Consider acquiring right-of-way for future expansion as it relates to Segment 4 projects, where feasible.”

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 Christina De La Cruz was selected as the CSC 4 representative to the CAC; Committee member Kevin Conner is the back-up representative.

Wrap-up/Adjourn

It was noted that a revised CSC 4 Segment Plan that includes their final recommendations will be sent to the Committee for review in the next few weeks. The CAC facilitator, Tom Warne, was introduced to the committee, and it was stated that the ultimate goal is to present the final MY 35 Plan to the Texas Transportation Commission in late January. The CSC facilitator, Nancy Parker, and TxDOT then thanked all of the Committee members for their participation in this planning effort.