



# Appendix

## Working Group Meeting Memorandums

**February 25, 2014**

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

## MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

**SUBJECT:** I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #1

**DATE:** February 25, 2014, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hospital Board Room, 811 S. Washington St., Marshall, TX 75670

**ATTENDING:** Attendees are noted on the sign-in sheets (Attachment 1)

### Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was for working group members to (1) understand the I-69 system history, federal legislation, designation status, and past studies, as well as Interstate design standards, and designation process; (2) be briefed on the I-69 system (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Route Study purpose and activities; (3) brainstorm issues and goals to consider for establishing I-369 in the area; (4) determine the working group charge and purpose; (5) understand the working group activities and schedule; and (6) establish administrative procedures.

### Welcome/Introductions

Judge Taylor welcomed the working group members and expressed his support for the development of Interstate route options to advance I-369 in the area. He stated that he had been on several transportation committees, including the I-69 Segment One Committee, that recommended US 59 serve as part of the I-69 system in Texas.

Tracy Hill introduced himself as a consultant for Atkins and stated that he will be serving as facilitator for this group. He asked working group members to refer to their notebooks containing the meeting packet which includes all materials that will be referred to throughout the meeting. Tracy then reviewed the meeting objectives, gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda and referred the committee members to the PowerPoint presentation in their packets. Tracy stated that Deanne Simmons, Advance Project Development Engineer, TxDOT Atlanta District, would serve as the main point of contact for working group members. He noted that her contact information is included in the meeting packet.

### I-69 System Overview

An I-69 video prepared during the I-69 Segment Committee process was shown. Tracy said that the I-69 Segment One Committee and I-69 Advisory Committee final reports and recommendations are included in the notebooks and can also be downloaded at [www.txdot.gov/DrivenByTexans](http://www.txdot.gov/DrivenByTexans).

# **I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting**

Tracy then walked the working group through descriptions of the I-69 federal legislation, the I-69 National and Texas Systems, and the status of Interstate designations in Texas. Bob Ratcliff, TxDOT Atlanta District Engineer then discussed past I-69 system studies, and Tracy provided a detailed description of the I-69 Segment One Committee and I-69 Advisory Committee processes. Tracy concluded the discussion on past studies by noting that in the summer of 2012, the I-69 Segment One Committee recommended a relief route at Marshall as one of their priorities.

Tracy discussed the Interstate designation process and referred the group to the I-69 Interstate Designation Process board and handout. He explained each of the steps to the group and noted that each step requires funding. He also noted the first step, the step we are currently undertaking, is to prepare an I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Route Study and that:

- The purpose of the route study is to develop and evaluate options for the advancement of I-369 in the Marshall area, with the eventual goal of constructing, designating, and signing US 59 as I-369.
- Ultimately, this route study and the working group's efforts will result in the identification of an Interstate route option that will then be studied in detail as part of the environmental process.
- It is anticipated that the route study will be complete in late fall 2014.

Tracy then discussed Interstate design standards. He noted that first an Interstate must have control of access. This means that to enter or exit the mainlanes you must use ramps, similar to those on Interstate 20. He also reviewed the additional numerous specific design criteria requirements that an Interstate facility must meet.

## **I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Route Study**

Tracy said that US 59, the proposed I-369 route through Marshall, does not currently meet Interstate standards. He stated that the purpose of the study is to develop and evaluate options for the advancement of I-369 in the Marshall area. He then explained that two broad options are under consideration:

- Upgrade of existing US 59 through Marshall to an Interstate highway (I-369), or
- Construction of I-369/US 59 on a new location and conversion of existing US 59 through Marshall to Business 59.

He stressed that the Interstate route options will be developed based on working group input (location, access roads, interchanges, environmental features, development, etc.) using a collaborative and iterative process, and will take into consideration the goals and issues identified by the working group. Tracy then reviewed the study steps, each of which will involve working group input. He also noted that as part of the study, TxDOT and consultant staff will support the working group in making their recommendations.

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## Working Group Responsibilities and Tasks

### *Issues and Goals*

Tracy began the brainstorming activity by referring members to a blank issues and goals questionnaire in their meeting packets. He explained that this is the same questionnaire that was sent via mail on February 5, 2014 and noted that 10 of the 15 working group members had provided a response in advance of this meeting. Those responses are shown on the PowerPoint slides used for the brainstorming activity. A compilation of all questionnaire responses is included as Attachment 2.

Discussion of questionnaire responses included the following:

- James Greer and Judge Taylor both said that the project needed to optimize connectivity to major transportation facilities in the region. It was also noted that connectivity could also include the completion of a Loop around Marshall.
- There was discussion from the working group that Loop 390 needed to be connected to I-20 and that this could possibly create more jobs in the area.
- It was stated that two industrial parks at I-20 and Loop 390 are being expanded.
- Mayor Ed Smith of Marshall discussed the importance of connecting to the east side of Marshall and the potential for development of the airport. He noted that the east side would encounter the least resistance in terms of disruption to existing development.
- Mayor Smith also noted that the City is interested in providing jobs to help lower income areas and stressed their support of connecting the existing and planned industrial parks. The City of Marshall has a Master Plan for economic development growth in those areas.
- Ivan White, proxy for Haywood Strickland, asked how the transportation project could be advanced while ensuring it doesn't affect existing development. Connie Ware also noted that a facility further from town could affect the viability of the existing businesses. It was decided that TxDOT will bring forth studies that discuss the economic effects on communities of new transportation projects for the working group to review and discuss at the second meeting.
- Judge Taylor stated there is a need for this study to track closely with the I-20 study because of overlap in the study areas. TxDOT will coordinate efforts with the I-20 study by sending staff to attend I-20 meetings and public outreach activities.

The working group members then revised the issues and goals as shown below. These issues and goals are in addition to the issues and goals identified by TxDOT and the I-69 Advisory Committee:

### *Issues Revised*

- Connectivity - Optimize connectivity to major transportation facilities in the area.
- Economic Development - Consider access and connectivity as it pertains to economic growth (retail, industrial and commercial).
- Traffic - Improve thru-traffic movement and safety (hazardous materials).
- Right-of-way - Utilize existing transportation facility footprints as much as possible.

### *Goals Revised*

- Connectivity – Make connections with major roadways in the area and closely coordinate with the I-20 study.

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- Economic Development - Consider access and connectivity as it pertains to economic growth (retail, industrial and commercial).

It was decided that staff will further refine these issues and goals and present them to the working group for finalization via email and then as exhibits at the next meeting.

## *Items to be Considered in Determining Route Location and Connecting Roadways*

Discussion of questionnaire responses included the following:

- Charley Ettinger, from Sabine Mining, stated that he respectfully disagrees with the statement that the westerly routes would face major issues with lignite mining operations. He doesn't believe it is a concern and that a westerly route should be considered.
- Mayor Ed Smith stated that adequate distance for a future airport runway extension should be maintained.
- Members also identified wetlands and the waterways in the area.

The group approved the questionnaire responses related to the items to be considered with the exception of the mining statement. The group also approved the connecting roadways as identified in the questionnaire responses.

## *Community Outreach*

Community outreach was discussed and Tracy noted that the public open houses and attending local meetings proved to be an effective way to communicate and gather public input during the I-69 Angelina and Nacogdoches Counties Scoping Study. Tracy also stated that a fact sheet has been prepared for this process and is an excellent tool to use as a handout during discussions with local citizens. Other communication tools were discussed, i.e. the media, social media and community forums. Tracy noted that Marcus Sandifer, Public Information Officer (PIO) for the TxDOT Atlanta District, will serve as the point of contact for all media inquiries and that Deanne would email Marcus' contact information to the working group. For public inquiries, working group members can respond as the community ambassadors and spokespeople for this study.

## *Project Funding*

Questions regarding funding for the project were asked. Roger stated the local communities need to recognize the importance of the project and that TxDOT's funding is limited. He stated that there would be future discussions on funding as the study progresses.

## *Charge and Purpose*

The Committee's charge and purpose is to:

- Identify specific transportation needs;
- Ensure citizen and community input is a part of this process; and
- Provide TxDOT with the community's and committee's preference on an I-369 route location and/or improvements to US 59 to meet Interstate standards.

Tracy reiterated the importance of the working group reaching consensus on the decisions that they make during the process of this study.

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

The working group concurred with the charge and purpose.

## *Activities and Schedule*

Tracy referred members to the working group schedule and activities. He noted that the working group will provide input to the I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Route Study, the Interstate route options to be considered, and the merits of those options.

Working group members will present the Interstate route options to local citizens through one-on-one meetings, civic group presentations, and other forms of public outreach to learn about any concerns and issues that may need to be addressed. Tracy noted that considering the gathered citizen input, the working group will then make recommendations that will guide TxDOT on I-369 project development in the Marshall area.

Tracy then emphasized that throughout the process, TxDOT and staff will be available to support and educate the working group so that they have a clear understanding of the Interstate route options under study, their costs, potential impacts, development schedules, effect on traffic movements, and travel in the region and effect on access. Tracy then reviewed the schedule and activity highlights of each meeting.

## **Working Group Administration**

Tracy reiterated that the members should ask questions, ask for clarification, and remember that all input is important. He noted that it is important for members to do homework and come prepared. If working group members are unable to attend meetings, they are encouraged to send a proxy.

The working group discussed that Tuesday afternoons are good for meetings, except for the second Tuesday of each month. Tentative dates for upcoming meetings were discussed. The next meeting will be scheduled for some time in early spring. The time and date will be sent to the working group once it is set.

Tracy noted that in order to prepare for the next meeting working group members should:

- Begin to engage individuals by sharing the fact sheet, explaining the working group role and describing the study.
- Document local citizens' concerns and issues that arise in conversations.

In addition, Tracy noted that members should be thinking about potential outreach activities and effective methods to gather citizen input.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attachments:

1. Sign-In Sheets
2. Issues and Goals Questionnaire - Compilation of Questionnaire Responses

# **Attachment 1**

## **Sign-In Sheets**



Driven by Texans

**I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #1**  
**Tuesday, February 25, 2014**  
**Marshall, TX**  
**Working Group Sign-In**

Last	First	Organization/Affiliation	Int.
Chambers	Leslie		
Collier	Russ	Good Shepherd Medical Center	<i>Russ</i>
Ettinger	Charley	Sabine Mine	<i>Charley</i>
Greer	James	Harrison County Commissioner	<i>James</i>
Hughes	J.C.	City of Marshall – Public Works	
Jones	John Paul	Harrison County	<i>J.P. Jones</i>
Medrano	Jerri	City of Hallsville	<i>Jerri Medrano</i>
Moore	Jesse	City of Waskom	<i>Jesse Moore</i>
Morris	Leo		<i>Leo Morris</i>
Smith	Ed	City of Marshall	<i>Ed Smith</i>
Smith	Marc	Marshall ISD	
Strickland	Haywood	Wiley College	
Taylor	Hugh	Harrison County Judge	<i>Hugh</i>
Ware	Connie	Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce	<i>Connie</i>
Wilson	Ray	Proxy for Chris Paddie, Texas House of Representatives	<i>Ray Wilson</i>

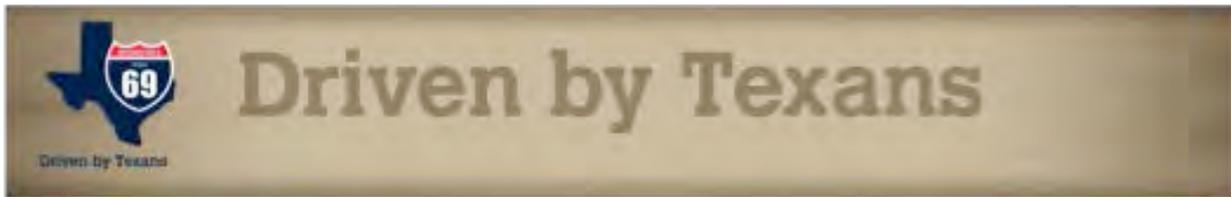




**I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #1**  
**Tuesday, February 25, 2014**  
**Marshall, Texas**  
**Staff Sign In**

Name (Please Print)	Agency/Company	Signature
Tara McDonald	I-69 GEC	Tara McDonald
Sheri Davis	I-69 GEC	Sheri Davis
Steve Linhart	TXDOT - TPP DIVISION	Steve Linhart
ROGER BEALL	TXDOT - TPP	Roger Beall
Robert H. Ratcliff	TXDOT - Atlanta	Robert H. Ratcliff
Dennis M. Beckham	TXDOT - Atlanta	Dennis M. Beckham
Susan Patterson	ATKINS I-69 GEC	Susan Patterson
DANIEL McDUFF	ATKINS	Daniel McDuff
Mitch Ellison	I-69 GEC	Mitch Ellison
KORI Cole	I-69 GEC	KORI Cole
Tracy Hill	I-69 GEC	Tracy Hill
Deanne Simmons	TXDOT - Atlanta	Deanne Simmons
Marcus Sandifer	TXDOT - Atlanta	Marcus Sandifer
Susan Howard	TXDOT - OPI - Austin	Susan Howard
MICHAEL C. ANDERSON	TXDOT - MARSHALL	Michael Anderson

**Attachment 2**  
**Issues and Goals Questionnaire -**  
**Compilation of Responses**



## I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Issues and Goals Questionnaire Summary

### Issues Identification

The following issues have been identified by TxDOT, for establishing I-369 along US 59 in the Marshall area:

1. US 59 through Marshall is not access controlled (for example, local driveways and cross roads intersect the mainlanes) and the mix of local traffic and through traffic cause congestion and delay.
2. US 59 does not meet Interstate Standards. To establish I-369 along US 59 in the Marshall area, US 59 must meet Interstate standards and connect to an existing Interstate (i.e., I-20) by either:
  - o Upgrade of existing US 59 through Marshall to an Interstate highway (I-369), or
  - o Construction of I-369/US 59 on a new location and conversion of existing US 59 through Marshall to Business 59.

**Question 1: Are the issues listed above satisfactory, or do they need to be revised or expanded upon?**

- Satisfactory (8)

**Question 2: Are there other issues (i.e., potential development opportunities) that could be resolved or benefit from the development of I-369 in the Marshall area? If so, what are they?**

#### **Development**

- Development Opportunities (2)
- Potential for new businesses (motels, quickmarts, restaurants, etc.)
- Industrial and commercial development
- Economic development to depressed areas

#### **Traffic**

- Assist in the creation of a complete loop around Marshall through Loop 390 to redirect heavy truck traffic and pass through traffic
- Will allow heavy traffic to move much faster and safer

#### **Right-of-way**

- Can be built on established US 59 right-of-way thus reducing costs and disruptions to local businesses



## I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Issues and Goals Questionnaire Summary

### Connectivity

- The corridor near Marshall can tie into a major intermodal axis (access?)
- Connectivity is the key
- Have not seen development along Loop 390 because of lack of connectivity to I-20
- Completing the loop around Marshall

### Hazardous Materials

- Move hazardous materials transport out of highly populated areas

### Goals Identification

The following general goals/recommendations for the I-69 System were previously identified by the I-69 Segment One Committee as part of the overall I-69 *Driven by Texans* planning process that was completed in 2012:

1. Serve high traffic and truck volumes
2. Serve expected traffic growth
3. Address safety concerns
4. Improve travel times
5. Provide for multi-modal connections
6. Maximize the use of the existing US 59 footprint to the greatest extent possible while seeking to reduce program costs and impacts to private property
7. Incorporate public input

In addition to the above goals:

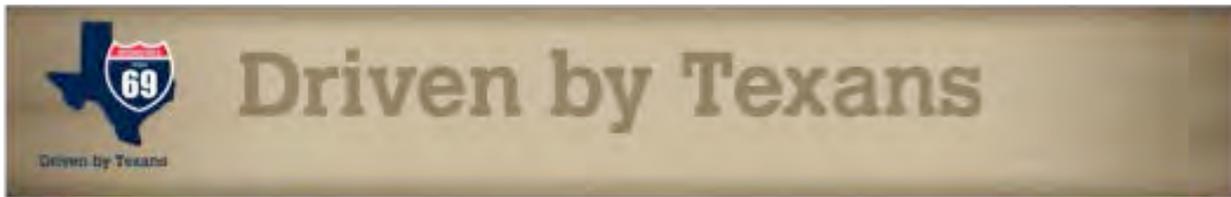
**Question 3: What additional goals for establishing I-369 in the Marshall area should be considered (i.e., what do you want I-369/US 59 to accomplish)?**

#### General

- Accomplish all intended goals
- All of the above
- Seven goals listed are appropriate

#### Economic

- Provide economic growth for the city of Marshall
- Economic benefits
- Provide industrial development opportunities for the area close by the I-369/I-20 intersection



## **I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Issues and Goals Questionnaire Summary**

- Economic development
- Attempts to try to help businesses survive during and after the work

### **Traffic**

- Keep heavy traffic away from town

### **Connectivity**

- Connectivity with Loop 390, I-20, and potentially Toll 49

**Question 4: What should be considered in determining the location of I-369/US 59 route in the Marshall area (e.g., existing and planned development, sensitive environmental features, areas of historical/cultural significance, interchange locations, local access/access roads, costs, and funding, etc.)?**

### **Personal Property Concerns**

- The negative effects to the people that are living in the area where the road will be located.

### **Economic**

- The businesses impacted will be large industry and warehousing. They will have large truck traffic.
- Planned development

### **Cultural/Historic Resources**

- Areas that have historical/cultural significance

### **Natural Resources/Environmental**

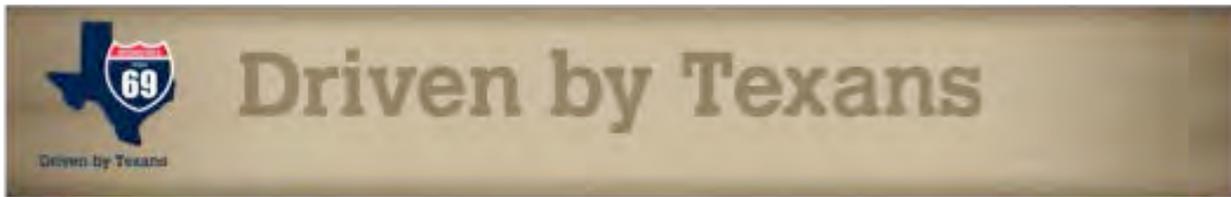
- Westerly routes would face major issues with lignite mining operations

### **Connectivity**

- Can be located and incorporated into an easterly loop around Marshall
- An easterly route will provide additional access points for intermodal travel in the area

### **Right-of-Way**

- Using existing right-of-way north and south of Marshall on US 59 would reduce construction costs
- Future runway extension of the Harrison County Airport need to be factored in to location determination



## **I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Issues and Goals Questionnaire Summary**

### **Coordination with other projects**

- Concepts must be consistent with the I-20 Advisory Committee to maximize the potential for development, safety and connectivity

### **General**

- Items to achieve the identified goals
- All of the above

### **Question 5: What roadways should connect to the I-369/US 59 route in the Marshall area?**

- Loop 390
- Loop (2 responses)
- HWY 80 (5 responses)
- HWY 80 (east and west)
- FM 2625 (3 responses)
- HWY 43 (north and south) (2 responses)
- HWY 43 (north)
- HWY 43 (Pinecrest and Karnack Highway)
- I-20 (east and west)
- I-20 (2 responses)
- FM 31 (south)
- Toll 49 extension from Tyler/Longview/Marshall through NETRMA

### **Question 6: How can this group assist TxDOT in establishing I-369 in the Marshall area? Please be as specific as possible.**

- Bring local knowledge of the area
- Selecting the most appropriate corridor due to local knowledge
- Involving locals creates buy-in
- Input from those most affected by routing
- Assist with public outreach
- Local knowledge and expectations moving forward
- Hold public meetings
- Speak at civic organizations
- Explain safety factors and that traffic on Business 59 would be lessened
- Data related to construction costs and options
- It is going to take a tremendous amount of public relations



**I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group  
Issues and Goals Questionnaire Summary**

**Question 7: Based on your local knowledge, what is the best way to engage the public in the Marshall area? (e.g., what are the best methods for reaching out to and informing stakeholders? What are the best methods for gathering input from stakeholders?)**

- Public Meetings/Hearings (6 responses)
  - specific request for evenings
  - times and locations to best accommodate local residents
- Media (television and print) (5 responses)
- Social media (website, Twitter, Facebook, etc.) (3 responses)
- Community forums
- Town hall format discussions
- Marshall Economic Development Corporation
- Local service clubs (Lions, Rotary, etc.)
- Outreach should be done after we have the following information:
  - When will this happen?
  - Where will it be located?
  - How much will it cost?
  - How will it be funded?
- Too early to say

**April 15, 2014**

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

## MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

**SUBJECT:** I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #2

**DATE:** April 15, 2014, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Texas State Technical College (TSTC), 2650 NE End Blvd., Room 515, Marshall, TX 75670

**ATTENDING:** Attendees are noted on the sign-in sheets (Attachment 1)

### Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was for working group members to (1) review aerial maps of the Marshall area and document environmental and planning features that could influence the development of route options; (2) discuss traffic patterns, access needs, future growth, and development areas that could influence the development of route options; and (3) identify preferences for route locations (i.e., east, west, through town) and rationale for location preferences.

### Welcome/Introductions

Judge Taylor welcomed the working group members and thanked them for their continued participation. He introduced TSTC President, Randall Wooten, who welcomed the group to their facility and Roger Beall, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Corridor Planning Branch Manager, who gave a safety briefing. Judge Taylor then introduced Marc Williams, TxDOT Director of Planning.

Marc noted that I-69 is gaining momentum nationally as well as within Texas. He explained that approximately 1,000 miles of the I-69 system are located in Texas and within the past 3 years, 200 miles of Texas highways have been signed and designated as interstate. Marc also said that the Texarkana/Marshall corridor is an important piece of the I-69 System in serving northeast Texas. Marc stated that federal legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), has provided TxDOT the opportunity to construct and designate I-69 incrementally. However, in order to advance I-69, there is a need for consensus and partnership between TxDOT and communities to work through the “what ifs” and “tradeoffs” in order to develop a solution that would both serve as I-69 and provide needed improvements for the area. He then thanked the working group for their work and support of this effort in the Harrison County/Marshall area.

### Administrative

Tracy Hill, facilitator, reviewed the following handouts included in the meeting packet: (1) an updated Working Group Schedule and Activities; (2) updated Working Group Issues to Consider; (3) updated Working Group Goals; and (4) Working Group Additional Items to Consider. The working group agreed to the issues, goals, and items to consider.

Tracy then introduced James Lowe with the I-69 General Engineering Consultant (GEC) who discussed the findings from relief route studies and their potential effects. James explained that the results differ from each state, but that one commonality is that local development after

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

construction of a relief route takes longer than originally anticipated. However, generally, transportation improvements provide an overall benefit to the area. Marc Williams noted that relief route effects can be correlated to the size of the communities, and that for communities with a population over 5,000, the negative effect of relief routes can be mitigated through collaboration and planning. Marc said if the working group wanted more information, he would provide contact information for other communities along the I-69 system route that have had relief routes constructed. A list of relief route case studies and their corresponding web links was included in the meeting packet. James noted that the Texas study is the most informative.

## **I-20 East Texas Corridor Study Overview and Update**

Judge Taylor and Marc Williams then provided an update on the I-20 East Texas Corridor Study. Marc noted that this effort is to address safety, congestion, and system preservation along I-20 by identifying short-, intermediate-, and long-term needs. The I-20 Advisory Committee has begun the public outreach process to gather locally focused input and recommendations. Improvements may range from Interstate widening and addition of access roads to passenger rail opportunities. Judge Taylor noted that there is a link on the Harrison County webpage that allows people to comment on the study.

## **Harrison County/Marshall Characteristics and Interstate Route Options**

Tracy referred the working group to the Level of Service diagrams and typical sections in their meeting packet. He reviewed traffic and travel patterns, discussed existing and projected levels of service in the Marshall area, and presented typical sections for rural and urban sections of Interstate projects.

The group then gathered around the west Marshall area aerial map. James Lowe noted that the maps have been populated with secondary source Geographic Information System data, and one-on-one meetings were also conducted with representatives in the area to supplement that secondary source data. James reviewed some of the environmental features on the map, including floodplains, wetlands, and development and their effect on route options locations.

Potential Interstate route options were discussed and points included the following:

- Charley Ettinger, working group member, noted several existing and reclaimed mining areas in the southwest quadrant of US 59 and I-20. He also noted the location of a proposed mine between the existing mine south of I-20 and US 59, which will be in operation over the next 3 to 4 years. He then described a potential route which was noted on the map. It was stated that the potential route might be too far from town to be viable because of the distance to the west from existing US 59.
- John Paul Jones, working group member, noted the floodways west of Marshall.
- Mayor Ed Smith noted an Indian burial ground located southwest of Marshall in an active mining area and is already recognized by the Texas Historical Commission.
- Tracy Hill noted the design requirement that for urban Interstates, the minimum interchange spacing is 1 mile. He explained that I-20 between SH 43 and FM 31 falls within the city of Marshall extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Based on past direction provided by the Federal Highway Administration, I-20 in this area would be classified as urban, and 1-mile spacing would be acceptable. He then noted windows of opportunity for potential route options to cross I-20 west of Marshall.
- Charley Ettinger suggested the Old Carthage Highway be considered for a possible alignment south of FM 2625.

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

- Charley Ettinger pointed out a location which is an apex of two reclaimed mine areas just east of SH 43, that could serve as a crossing point for a roadway.
- Other items of note during the discussion included:
  - It is best to avoid reclaimed mine areas because of settlement.
  - Floodways on the west side of Marshall should be avoided as much as possible. The west side of the county has established floodways.
  - It would be beneficial to stay north of FM 2625 because of the mines in the area.

The group then gathered around east Marshall area aerial map. James Lowe reviewed some of the environmental features on the map, including floodplains, wetlands, and development and their effect on route options locations.

Potential Interstate route options were discussed and points included the following:

- Mayor Ed Smith noted that there is greater well density to the east of Marshall.
- It was noted that the Eight Mile Creek is in the 100 year floodplain. The FM 31 and I-20 interchange and along FM 31 to the north experiences flooding.
- Tracy Hill identified the windows of opportunity for potential route options to cross I-20 east of Marshall.
- Donna Maisel noted that there is heavy truck traffic being generated by the Marshall Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) complex in the southeast quadrant of Loop 390 and SH 43 and many of these trucks travel to the south. She will research and provide information regarding weekly truck trips.
- There are insufficient vertical clearances on FM 31 as it passes under I-20.
- J.C. Hughes noted that routes closer to town would be better for economic development and utility purposes. He recommended staying close to the MEDCO parks and specifically identified Southern Park. Additionally, he suggested it would be best to tie back in to existing US 59 as close to Marshall as possible on the north side.
- Russ Collier suggested that I-369 could cross I-20 where CR 1009 currently crosses. He also asked where the traffic in Marshall is coming from and where travelers are going.
- It was noted that the group would like to consider the use of I-20 as part of the I-369 route (dual designation I-20/I-369).

## **Working Group Homework**

The next meeting was set for 2 to 4 p.m. on June 10, 2014. The Mayor of Marshall will determine if the Marshall Civic Center is available for use that day. Tracy noted that at the next meeting, TxDOT will provide engineered route options based on the feedback from today for further review by the group as well as potential public outreach activities and tools for the group to consider. Working group members were asked to:

- Continue the community conversation about the study.
  - Pick up additional fact sheets to share.
  - Pick up comment forms to pass out regarding the study.
- Document concerns and issues noted in those conversations.
- Consider outreach techniques and opportunities for discussion on June 10.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attachments:

1. Sign-In Sheets

# **Attachment 1**

## **Sign-In Sheets**



Driven by Texans

**I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #2**  
**Tuesday, April 15, 2014**  
**Marshall, TX**  
**Working Group Sign-In**

Last	First	Organization/Affiliation	Int.
Chambers	Leslie	Marshall Economic Development Corporation	<i>LM</i>
Collier	Russ	Good Shepherd Medical Center	<i>RC</i>
Ettinger	Charley	Sabine Mine	<i>CEE</i>
Greer	James	Harrison County Commissioner	<i>JG</i>
Hughes	J.C.	City of Marshall – Public Works	<i>JCH</i>
Jones	John Paul	Harrison County	<i>JPS</i>
Medrano	Jerri	City of Hallsville	
Moore	Jesse	City of Waskom	<i>JM</i>
Morris	Leo		<i>L</i>
Paddie	Chris	Texas House of Representatives	<i>CP</i>
Smith	Ed	City of Marshall	<i>ES</i>
Smith	Marc	Marshall ISD	
Strickland	Haywood	Wiley College	<i>HS</i>
Taylor	Hugh	Harrison County Judge	<i>HT</i>
Ware	Connie	Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce	<i>WC</i>



**I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #2**  
**Tuesday, April 15, 2014**  
**Marshall, TX**  
**Public Sign-In**

Name	Agency/Company	Signature
R WOOTEN	TSTC	<i>R Wooten</i>
Cynthia Lutz	Workforce Board	<i>Cynthia Lutz</i>
Vernia Calhoun		
Robyn Richardson	Marshall News Messenger	<i>Robyn Richardson</i>



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**I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #2**  
**Tuesday, April 15, 2014**  
**Marshall, TX**  
**Staff Sign-In**

Name	Agency/Company	Signature
Susan Howard	TXDOT - OPI	<i>Susan Howard</i>
Lindsey Kimmitt	TXDOT - ENV	<i>Lindsey Kimmitt</i>
Steve Hart	TXDOT - TPP	<i>Steve Hart</i>
DANIEL McDUFF	ATKINS	<i>Daniel McDuff</i>
KENNETH WILLIAMS	TXDOT - ATL	<i>Kenneth Williams</i>
ROGER BALL	TXDOT - TPP	<i>Roger Ball</i>
Dennis Beckham	TXDOT - ATL	<i>Dennis Beckham</i>
<del>J.P. Jones</del>	<del>Harrison County</del>	<del>J.P. Jones</del>
<del>Jesse Moore</del>	<del>Waskom</del>	<del>Jesse Moore</del>
<del>Kristy Taylor</del>	<del>II</del>	<del>Kristy Taylor</del>
Tara McDonald	Atkins	<i>Tara McDonald</i>
Tina Brown	I-69 GEC	<i>Tina Brown</i>
Deanne Simmons	TXDOT	<i>Deanne Simmons</i>
Sheri Davis	NLA - Atkins	<i>Sheri Davis</i>



**June 10, 2014**



# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

## MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

**SUBJECT:** I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #3

**DATE:** June 10, 2014, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Marshall Civic Center, 2501 E End Blvd. S, Caddo Hall, Marshall, TX 75672

**ATTENDING:** Attendees are noted on the sign-in sheets (Attachment 1)

### Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was for working group members to (1) review potential Interstate route options; (2) determine the working group route option preliminary recommendation; (3) identify any suggested refinements to the working group route option preliminary recommendation; and (4) discuss potential public outreach tools and activities.

### Welcome/Introductions

Judge Taylor welcomed the working group members and thanked them for their continued participation. He welcomed the general public in attendance as well. Roger Beall, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Corridor Planning Branch Manager, gave a safety briefing.

### Administrative

Tracy Hill, facilitator, welcomed the group and said that the meeting 2 notes would be finalized and put on the project website today barring any changes. Tracy then reviewed the following handouts included in the meeting packet: (1) the meeting agenda; (2) updated working group schedule and activities; and (3) summary of the "Center for Transportation Research – The Impacts of Highway Relief Routes on Small Towns in Texas" that was referred to at meeting 2.

### Review of Potential Interstate Route Options

Tracy focused the discussion on the review of the potential Interstate route options identified by the working group. He said that engineers developed the options along with the upgrade of US 59 through Marshall, in accordance with Interstate design standards. The initial 13 options were compared to each other in a prescreening process to determine how effective they were in addressing the goals (traffic, connectivity, and community impacts) established by the working group. Differentiating factors included traffic volumes, costs, potential residential and commercial displacements, and potential impacts to community features. Three of the options performed better than the rest with respect to the goals.

He then explained that the three best performing options were then compared to each other using high level data, including environmental and engineering factors that were quantified by staff based on right-of-way and design elements. This comparison included potential impacts to schools, churches, cemeteries, development features, potential residential and commercial relocations, farmlands, historic and archeological resources, flood zones, streams, wetlands, water bodies, oil and gas wells, hazardous material sites, mine areas, pipelines, electric transmission lines and substations, communication towers, and public water wells. Engineering factors such as length, travel time, right-of-way, and cost were also compared. All three options performed similarly.

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

Tracy then turned the meeting over to Judge Taylor to determine if the working group agreed with the evaluation results and if they were ready to make a preliminary recommendation. The working group agreed that the three options identified from the thirteen appear to be the best performing and decided to make a recommendation from those three (Attachment 2). The discussion among working group members included the following:

- It was asked how the FM 31 interchange is configured with respect to the far east option. Tina Brown, Atkins, reviewed the minimum 3-mile and 1-mile interchange requirements for rural and urban Interstates. She said that between the two roadways there are continuous access roads and the ramps are located west of FM 31 and east of the option. She also noted that following this meeting, there will be a meeting with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to present the options and get FHWA feedback on the interchange configurations.
- City of Marshall Mayor Ed Smith asked about the design at the N. Buck Sherrod Road intersection. It was noted that an interchange had not been provided at this location.
- J.C. Hughes noted that city sewer and water trunk lines extend along I-20 and that it may be costly to extend utilities to the far east option to promote development along the new route.
- A discussion was had regarding the airport and whether the options shown would allow for a 6000 foot runway. Mayor Ed Smith noted that they are looking at more flexibility for airport clearance for a future runway extension.
- Mayor Ed Smith and J.C. Hughes both noted that the I-20 option should not be considered because of the potential traffic conflicts between I-20 through traffic and north/southbound traffic that may arise through shared use of I-20. Judge Harrison replied that I-20 could be used in the interim.
- Connie Ware noted that she liked Option 9 (E-4S, E4N, E2, E1) best.
- James Greer noted that the route should accommodate economic development.
- One refinement to the routes was suggested – an interchange at North Buck Sherrod Road.

The group then reviewed aerial maps of the three best performing options to further discuss the option configuration and refinements. The following topics were discussed and are identified by the links shown in the Working Group Potential Interstate Route Options Map (Attachment 2):

- Roger Beall, TxDOT, explained that all of these options are configured as the ultimate facility (i.e. full direct connections with I-20). He noted that it is important to remember that any project would be phased and would be completed as funding becomes available.
- Tracy Hill explained that if a new location option was built, it would be numbered as US 59 prior to being designated as I-369. Additionally, existing US 59 through Marshall would be renumbered as Business 59.
- Dan McDuff, Atkins, gave an overview on the aerial maps for the group, pointing out the geometric characteristics of the three best performing options.
- Charley Ettinger asked that if Option 9 (E-4S, E4N, E2, E1) was recommended, would it be feasible to include a direct connection between I-20 and the new facility (along the E-5N alignment) to serve westbound I-20 traffic to northbound I-369 and southbound I-369 to eastbound I-20 traffic. Tracy Hill noted that the interchanges are the highest performing direct connect interchanges in these scenarios, they are not necessarily what will be recommended and approved.
- There was a question on whether or not oil and gas wells were considered. Dan noted that the data came from the Texas Railroad Commission, which oversees oil and gas

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

well development and activity, and if they were identified as active in the GIS data, they were included in the evaluation.

- A question was posed on how much pavement could be saved on Loop 390. It was noted that none of the existing pavement could be used because the grades do not meet Interstate standards, however, existing Loop 390 right-of-way was used to the greatest extent possible.
- Mayor Ed Smith noted concerns with the airport clearance if the runway is extended beyond the 6000 feet planned. Dan noted that the airport extension and vertical clearances were analyzed during the evaluation process and that clearances would be met. He also said that staff would review the options for a future 500 foot extension.
- Judge Taylor noted the Commissioners Court is considering a Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ) as an alternate funding source.
- Donna Maisel noted that in January 2015, 125 trucks will be entering Loop 390 from the northeast MEDCO development. She will research to see if she can get information on where the trucks are going.
- Donna Maisel and J.C. Hughes both had questions of access roads and if they would be cost effective. Tina Brown explained that access road locations would be studied during the environmental process. The cost effectiveness of constructing the access roads versus purchasing property access rights would be the determining factor. Traditionally, in developed areas, access roads are more cost effective and that is why they are shown to be continuous north of I-20.
- The working group decided to eliminate Option 12 (E-1, E5n, 20:6, E-4s), which shares the use of I-20, from further consideration.

## **Preliminary Recommendation**

Ultimately the group decided to move forward with Option 9 (E-4S, E4N, E2, E1) as their preliminary recommendation because it would be closer to town and easier to provide city utility services in order to support economic development. Working group members then requested the preliminary recommendation be refined to include an interchange at N. Buck Sherrod Road to provide better traffic circulation. Connie Ware made the motion to proceed with the revised recommendation; there were no objections from the group.

## **Discuss Public Outreach Methods and Materials**

Susan Howard, TxDOT Office of Public Involvement, presented potential tools and activities that the working group could select from to tailor their public outreach to their communities. She noted the working group members will be the carriers of the message and will solicit the community for any concerns and issues that may need to be addressed. Susan presented some potential public outreach tools that could be used, noting that comment forms, a fact sheet, figures/boards/maps, and a study website are already created for the project.

Susan asked the group to brainstorm on the best ways to get information out to their communities to solicit information. The group came up with the following list:

- Radio/Newspaper Public Service Announcements
- Social media
- Websites
- Water bills (inserting an information sheet file with bill or using the mailing list to do a separate mailing – reaches about 10,000 customers)
- Community meetings
- Manufacturing council

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

- PowerPoint presentations
- Local Cable Television Advertising (Marshall has a local station)
- Postings at churches

Susan then asked the group how they get information/feedback from the public. They suggested the following methods of gathering feedback:

- Text
- Email
- Social media
- Survey
- Phone calls

The group decided that they would like to utilize the following tools:

- Radio and Newspaper Public Service Announcement write ups.
- Social media text generated by TxDOT to share on their organization social media sites.
- A robust TxDOT website.
- An updated fact sheet to mail out – most likely using the water bill system from Marshall.
- A survey similar to the I-20 East Texas Corridor Study Survey (members could provide links to their communities to gather input).
- A PowerPoint presentation that summarizes the study and the preliminary recommendation (for members to use at community/civic organization meetings).

Susan noted that at the next meeting these items will be drafted for the group's review and comment and plans to move forward with public outreach will be finalized. The group asked about a public meeting and it was noted that if a public meeting/open house or other forum is scheduled, it would most likely be in the October timeframe. Representative Chris Paddie asked how potentially affected landowners would be notified. Roger Beall noted that because we are in such an early phase of the planning process, directed communications to landowners would likely not occur. General information will go out to the community as a whole because at this time there are no decisions being made on the actual location of the facility, only preliminary planning recommendations to take forward into the environmental process.

## **Working Group Homework**

The next meeting was set for 2 to 4 p.m. on August 12, 2014 at the Marshall Civic Center.

Tracy noted that at the next meeting, TxDOT will provide public outreach materials for the group to finalize and a path forward for the working group to begin public outreach activities to collect input from the communities within Harrison County. Working group members were asked to:

- Continue the community conversation about the study.
  - Pick up additional fact sheets to share.
  - Pick up comment forms to pass out regarding the study.
  - Pick up Public Outreach Activity forms to document any presentations on the study.
  - Document concerns and issues noted in those conversations.
- Start thinking about good locations for the public meeting/open house/forum.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attachments:

1. Sign-In Sheets
2. Working Group Potential Interstate Route Options Map

# **Attachment 1**

## **Sign-In Sheets**



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**I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #3**  
**Tuesday, June 10, 2014**  
**Marshall, TX**  
**Working Group Sign-In**

Last	First	Organization/Affiliation	Int.
Collier	Russ	Good Shepherd Medical Center	<i>Russ</i>
Ettinger	Charley	Sabine Mine	<i>CEE</i>
Greer	James	Harrison County Commissioner	<i>JG</i>
Hughes	J.C.	City of Marshall – Public Works	<i>JGH</i>
Jones	John Paul	Harrison County	<i>JPA</i>
Maisel	Donna	Marshall Economic Development Corporation	<i>DM</i>
Medrano	Jerri	City of Hallsville	<i>JM</i>
Moore	Jesse	City of Waskom	<i>JM</i>
Morris	Leo		<i>LM</i>
Paddie	Chris	Texas House of Representatives	<i>CP</i>
Smith	Ed	City of Marshall	<i>ES</i>
Smith	Marc	Marshall ISD	<i>M</i>
Strickland	Haywood	Wiley College	
Taylor	Hugh	Harrison County Judge	<i>HT</i>
Ware	Connie	Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce	<i>WC</i>
<i>P</i>			



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I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #3  
Tuesday, June 10, 2014  
Marshall, TX  
Public Sign-In

Name	Agency/Company	Signature
Ronald Benjamin	MORRELEY BAPTIST CHURCH	Ronald Benjamin
Jack Holby	Elysian Fields	Jack Holby
Wes Morrison	City of Marshall	Wes Morrison
Cynthia Lelek	WSE T Board	Cynthia Lelek
Robin Richardson	Marshall News Messenger	Robin Richardson
Daniel Prioleau	Marshall News Messenger	Dan Prioleau
Elizabeth High	RS&H	Elizabeth High
SHERRI YOUNG	—	Sherri Young
Richard Anderson	Ark-La-Tex Convention Council	Richard Anderson
Jack Redmon	City of Marshall	Jack Redmon



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I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #3  
Tuesday, June 10, 2014  
Marshall, TX  
Staff Sign-In

Name	Agency/Company	Signature
Steve Lihart	TxDOT - Austin	Steve Lihart
ROGER BEALL	TxDOT - Austin	Roger Beall
Tara McDonald	Atkins	Tara McDonald
DANIEL McDUFF	ATKINS	Daniel McDuff
JAMES LOWE	Atkins	James Lowe
Marcus Sandifer	TxDOT - Atlanta	Marcus Sandifer
John Collins	TxDOT - ATL	John Collins
Dennis Beckham	TxDOT - ATL	Dennis Beckham
Mitzi Ellison	CPC	Mitzi Ellison
Heather Parsical	CPC	Heather Parsical
Tina Brown	CPC	Tina Brown
Tracy Hill	Atkins	Tracy Hill
Susan Howard	TxDOT - OPI	Susan Howard
Deanne Simmons	TxDOT - AH	Deanne Simmons



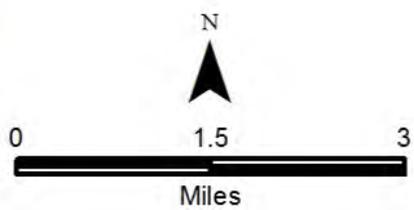
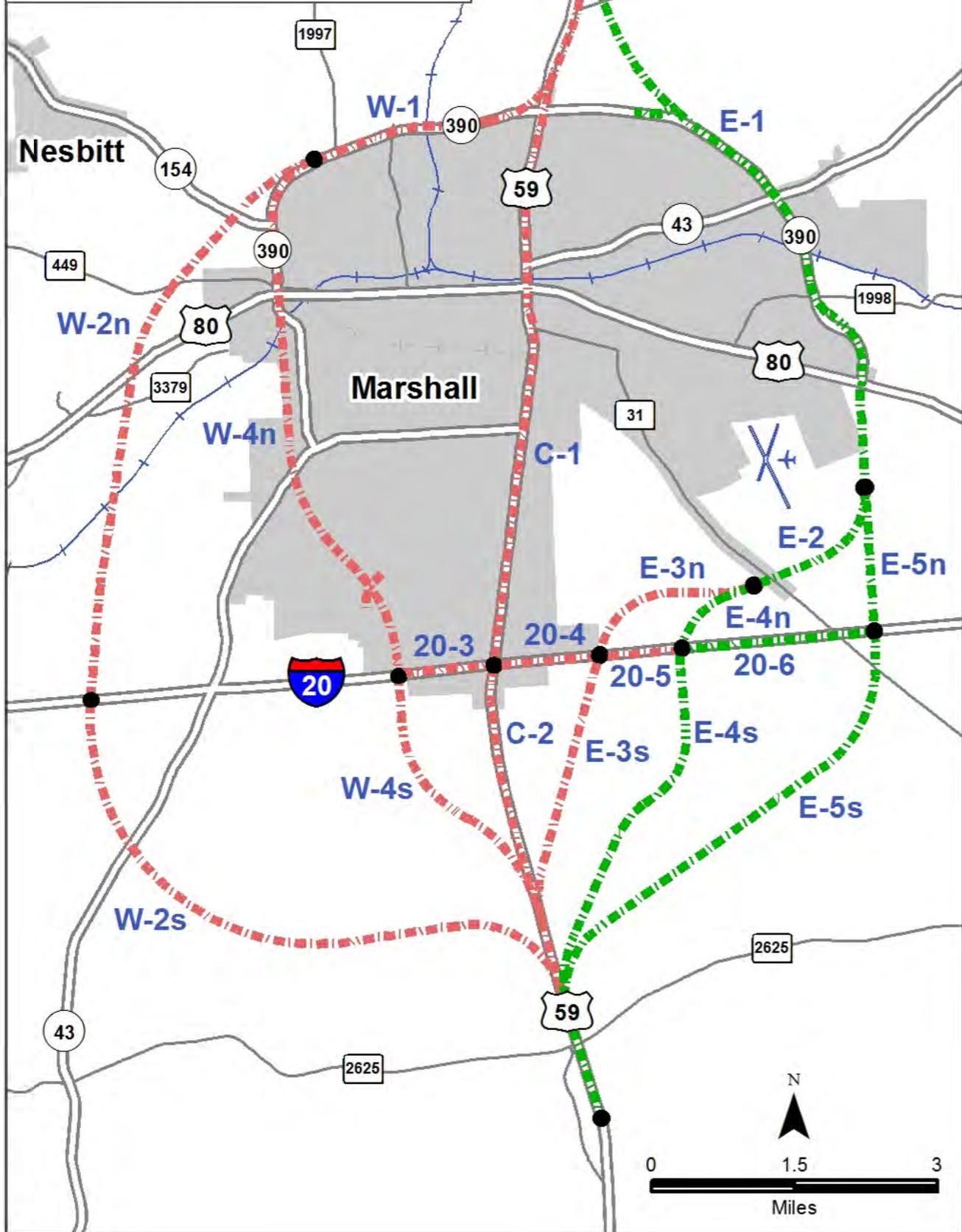
Driven by Texans

**I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #3**  
**Tuesday, June 10, 2014**  
**Marshall, TX**  
**Staff Sign-In**

Name	Agency/Company	Signature
MIKE ANDERSON	TXDOT - ATL DIST	<i>Michael Anderson</i>

**Attachment 2**  
**Working Group Potential**  
**Interstate Route Options Map**

- W-1 Link
- Link Limit
- Better Performing Option
- Poorer Performing Option
- City Limit



**August 12, 2014**



# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall

## Working Group Meeting

### MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

**SUBJECT:** I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #4

**DATE:** August 12, 2014, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Marshall Convention Center, 2501 E End Blvd. S, Caddo Hall, Marshall, TX 75672

**ATTENDING:** Attendees are noted on the sign-in sheets (Attachment 1)

#### Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was for working group members to: (1) review and confirm the refined Interstate route option preliminary recommendation; (2) review and provide input on the draft public outreach materials; and (3) determine the activities and prepare for public outreach.

#### Welcome/Introductions

Judge Taylor welcomed the working group members and thanked them for their continued participation. He welcomed the general public in attendance as well. He noted that the preliminary recommendation provides for good industrial access and J.C. Hughes also noted that it is at a good location to provide City of Marshall utility services. Roger Beall, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Corridor Planning Branch Manager, then gave a safety briefing.

#### Administrative

Tina Brown welcomed the group and said that she was filling in for Tracy Hill as facilitator. She explained that the meeting 3 notes would be finalized and put on the project website after the meeting barring any comments or changes. Tina then reviewed the meeting agenda and an updated working group schedule and activities included in the packet. Tina noted that the study is still on schedule for a December 2014 finish.

#### Review of Potential Interstate Route Options

Tina directed the working group to the map tables and explained that there are two maps which the working group will use for their public outreach. These maps show the options as shaded shapes because this is a high level planning study and the exact configuration and location of elements such as mainlanes, ramps, access roads, interchanges, and right-of-way will be identified during the environmental process, the timeframe of which has yet to be determined. The first map depicts only the working group Interstate route option preliminary recommendation and the second map depicts the two best performing options (the working group Interstate route option preliminary recommendation and the other best performing option to the east). She reminded the working group that at the last meeting they had determined that the option that shared use of I-20 should not be carried forward because of the potential traffic conflicts in the overlap area between I-20 east/west traffic and I-369 north/south traffic.

Tina then explained that in response to additional information learned regarding Federal Aviation Administration runway design requirements and assuming a future precision approach, the Interstate route option preliminary recommendation was adjusted slightly to the south to be

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

outside of the runway protection zone associated with a planned 1,000' runway extension. The alignment adjustment resulted in minor changes to the impacts and conceptual costs but it does not change the outcome of the route option analysis. It was also noted that, assuming precision approach, the runway could not be extended beyond the 1,000' future planned extension, as the route option is currently configured. Tina then reiterated that this is a high level planning study and there is a good chance that there will be numerous refinements in the alignment during the environmental process.

Tina then turned the map review over to Judge Taylor to determine if the working group agreed with the refined Interstate route option and preliminary recommendation. The discussion among the working group included the following:

- It was explained that the shaded circles indicate preliminary Interchange locations
- It was noted that the preliminary recommendation included the interchange that the working group requested be added at North Buck Sherrod Road.
- Judge Taylor said that the shift in the route increased cost because of the floodplain. Charlie Ettinger asked about the floodplain impacts. Tina responded that during the environmental process an investigation would be performed to determine waterway channel bottoms and actual bridge locations to minimize impacts. The waterway centerlines shown on the map are only based on secondary source GIS data.
- Charlie Ettinger asked what were the elements of a typical interchange. Tina explained that they included ramps off the mainlanes connecting to a cross route directly or connecting to access roads that connect to the cross route. She also said the locations of the access roads will be studied in more detail during the environmental process. Judge Taylor asked if a typical interchange could be shown on the map. Roger responded that sketch diagrams of interchanges would be added.
- It was asked if the maps were showing ROW widths. Roger said they are showing approximately 450' for ROW.

It was agreed by the working group that the Interstate route option preliminary recommendation adequately reflects the intent of the working group and should be carried forward to the public.

## **Public Outreach Tools**

Tina began the discussion by emphasizing that it is the working group who will convey the message and gather public input; however, TxDOT will provide any resources needed.

Heather Parscal then presented the public outreach tools identified by the working group during meeting 3. She referred the group to the double sided handout in their packet and noted it is the same packet Deanne previously emailed for their pre-meeting review. Heather discussed the following tools and gathered input from the working group:

- PowerPoint presentation - The narrated version was played for the group. Heather emphasized this is to be used by the working group as a tool during the community and civic group meeting presentations. After being discussed, it was decided that the following formats were to be provided to the working group: (1) ppt narrated – wmv; (2) ppt narrated – mp4; (3) ppt narrated – dvd player compatible; and (4) ppt (no narration and no animation) but would include notes.
- Fact Sheet #1. Already in distribution to the public to provide information on the route study and the working group.

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

- Fact Sheet #2. Available for public distribution to explain the Interstate route options development, evaluation and preliminary recommendation.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). A tool to use to answer many questions the public may have. It also will help to ensure consistent responses from the working group for questions from the public.
  - Representative Chris Paddie asked how to respond to “when will this project start?”
  - Irvin White asked how to respond to “what’s in it for me?”
  - Mayor Smith asked how to respond to “economic impact” questions.
  - Tina stated that these questions/responses would be added to the FAQs.
- Webpage updates. Includes hyperlinks to all the public outreach tools, i.e. the narrated power point, fact sheets, FAQs, and maps and exhibits. It will also include online commenting capabilities, a downloadable comment form, and link to the survey as well as Deanne’s contact information. The webpage will go live at the onset of the formal public outreach process.
- Online survey. The survey goes live at the onset of the formal public outreach process and runs through the end of the comment period. Once the survey becomes active, staff will provide updates on the results to working group members every week in the form of pie charts and highlighting new comments. The working group had the following comments:
  - Representative Paddie asked if the survey was anonymous. A discussion ensued regarding information that could be added to the online survey that would be of value for future communications. Based on the discussion, the working group decided that the online survey would be revised for participants to have the option to add their contact information and/or zipcode.
  - The working group also asked how many characters the “Why” box is limited to. Tina responded staff determine the maximum number of characters. *Note: The “WHY” box under the survey question on the preliminary recommendation is 20 lines long, 100 characters wide.*
- Comment Form. The public should be directed to the website where they can immediately comment. Hard copies of the comment form can also be handed out at meetings and mailed back to Deanne or scanned by the working group members and emailed to Deanne. Additionally, a PDF editable form will be included with the public outreach packet sent to working group members.
- Public Service Announcements (PSA), social media announcements, and an email template. PSAs will be developed by TxDOT. TxDOT will be responsible for all communications with local media. Social media tools will also be developed by TxDOT for working group member reposting on Facebook or Twitter. An email template will be provided so that working group members can cut and paste and email to their contact lists.
- The study website [www.txdot.gov/drivenbytexans/us59-harrison.htm](http://www.txdot.gov/drivenbytexans/us59-harrison.htm) is a reference link to add to working group member’s organization or business website.

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

- Boards and exhibits. These can be printed as either reduced size 11"x17" handout or 22"x34" exhibit. The aerial maps are the same dimensions as previously seen at the meetings - "36"x88".
  - Charlie Ettinger asked if the urban typical section board was still applicable. Tina said they would verify if the urban typical section was used on either of the two best performing options and if not, the board will be deleted. *Note: The rural typical section was used on the two best performing options. The urban typical section board was deleted.*
- Charlie Ettinger asked for further clarification on configuration of interchanges. Tina said that corresponding graphics for interchanges would be added to both large aerial maps per the earlier request and a new board would be created depicting typical interchanges as an exhibit.

All of the above public outreach tools were approved with revisions as requested by the working group.

## **Public Outreach Activities**

Heather said that using the tools, the working group members can perform various activities to engage the public to gather input and learn about any concerns they may have. Heather noted presentations to community and civic groups is a great way for the working group to share information on the route study, distribute materials, and have face-to-face interactions with the public to gather feedback. The working group discussed the following:

- Judge Taylor said that the cities would be covered by the respective Mayors that are members of the working group.
- Mayor Ed Smith said that he would present to the Marshall Rotary Club on October 9.
- Donna Maisel said she would present to the Manufacturing Council on September 17.
- Mayor Jerri Medrano said she would pass information out at the Texas Municipal League luncheon in Longview on September 3 and present to the Hallsville City Council in October.
- Judge Taylor said he would present to Harrison County Commissioner's Court and Marshall Lions Club.
- Mayor Jesse Smith said he would present to the Waskom City Council and Lions Club.
- Representative Chris Paddie suggested that some of the civic group meetings i.e. Lions Clubs could be combined and that a couple of months advanced notice needs to be given.
- *Note: Post meeting Leo Morris said he would present at American Legion Post 878 and NAACP meetings.*

Heather then asked the group if they would be interested in having a booth at the Fire Ant Festival on October 11. Charlie Ettinger asked about having a regular TxDOT meeting, such as an open house for the public. Judge Taylor said that it has been the intention from the beginning, to have a traditional TxDOT outreach event and the working group discussed the following:

- The working group agreed on having an open house on October 28 from 4 pm -7 pm in Caddo Hall at the Marshall Convention Center.

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

- Mayor Smith said he would add the open house to the Convention Center's calendar for October 28.
- The working group suggested that the Alliance I-69 for I-69 Texas members be notified of the open house.

The working group members decided that the public comment period would begin on August 18, 2014 and end on November 7, 2014, which is 10 calendar days after the open house.

It was also decided by the group that staff will further research whether or not the Fire Ant Festival will be held this year and the viability of having a booth. *Note: It was determined by TxDOT that the open house and not the Fire Ant Festival will be used as the primary outreach event.*

Heather said over 9,000 City of Marshall water bills are mailed out every month. J.C. Hughes gave a background on the mail outs. This is an efficient way to inform the public about the study and events such as the open house. The working group also discussed notifying the public via postcards by using the Marshall Independent School District database and/or the voter registration database. Heather said that staff would explore the different mailing options to determine the most effective method.

Heather explained that at the conclusion of the public outreach process, staff will compile all the data in a report which will include the printed and electronic materials. She noted that it is vitally important that the working group help staff capture all of their outreach efforts. She said in order to do this, forms have been created to document the events in which working group members participate. These include the Public Outreach Activity Form which should be completed for every presentation at a community or civic group meeting. Heather also noted there is a Social Media Form to complete and screen shots of posts should be sent to Deanne for all of their social media posts. Additionally, Heather asked them to please copy Deanne on all of their email communications pertaining to the outreach efforts. She noted that both documentation forms will be provided in electronic format for convenience in documenting the information and emailing back to Deanne.

Heather said the hard copies of written comments can be scanned and emailed or hard copies mailed directly to Deanne. She said the web page comments and survey results will be captured electronically. TxDOT will document their efforts such as public service announcements and media releases as well as the posts they make on Twitter and Facebook.

Tina reviewed the tools and activities agreed upon by the working group. She said that the finalized public outreach tools would be sent by Federal Express to the working group on August 18. Tina said the survey and webpage would also go live on August 18. Staff will prepare an outreach activity calendar and send it to the group so that they can keep up with the outreach activities that are scheduled. This calendar will be updated regularly and will be redistributed as necessary to keep members on top of the activities scheduled in the area.

The working group agreed it would be beneficial to give a status update of public outreach activities in September. Deanne will send an email to the working group in mid-September requesting a listing of the activities they have performed and any questions and/or comments they have received.

The working group decided that meeting 5 would be a conference call/online meeting on November 18, 2014 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Judge Taylor offered to broadcast it a courthouse conference room for the working group if they would like to attend there.

# **I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting**

## **Working Group Homework**

At the November conference call/online meeting we will:

1. Review the results of public outreach.
2. Discuss any significant refinements to the Interstate route option preliminary recommendation to address public concerns and rationale for the refinements.
3. Discuss any concerns and issues that you heard in conversations with local citizens.
4. Discuss finalizing the route study and the disposition of the working group

The meeting was adjourned.

Attachments:

1. Sign-In Sheets

**Attachment 1**  
**Sign-In Sheets**



Driven by Texans

**I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #4**  
**Tuesday, August 12, 2014**  
**Marshall, TX**  
**Working Group Sign-In**

Last	First	Organization/Affiliation	Int.
Collier	Russ	Good Shepherd Medical Center	
Ettinger	Charley	Sabine Mine	CEE
Greer	James	Harrison County Commissioner	
Hughes	J.C.	City of Marshall – Public Works	
Jones	John Paul	Harrison County	
Maisel	Donna	Marshall Economic Development Corporation	
Medrano	Jerri	City of Hallsville	
Moore	Jesse	City of Waskom	
Morris	Leo		
Paddie	Chris	Texas House of Representatives	
Smith	Ed	City of Marshall	
Smith	Marc	Marshall ISD	
Strickland	Haywood	Wiley College	
Taylor	Hugh	Harrison County Judge	
Ware	Connie		

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**November 18, 2014**

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting

## MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

**SUBJECT:** I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Meeting #5

**DATE:** November 18, 2014, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Online Meeting/Conference Call

### **ATTENDING:**

#### **Working Group Members**

Judge Hugh Taylor, Harrison County

John Paul Jones, Harrison County

Mayor Jerri Medrano, City of Hallsville

Leo Morris, At-Large

Mayor Ed Smith, City of Marshall

Ivan White (proxy for Dr. Harold Strickland), Wiley College

#### **Staff**

Roger Beall, TxDOT

Steve Linhart, TxDOT

Deanne Simmons, TxDOT

Tina Brown, Atkins

Tara McDonald, Atkins

Dan McDuff, Atkins

James Lowe, Atkins

Joe Shalkowski, Atkins

Sheri Davis, NLA

Mitzi Ellison, NLA

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this meeting was for Working Group members to: (1) review the results of public outreach; (2) discuss any refinements to the Interstate route option preliminary recommendation to address public concerns and the rationale for the refinements; (3) discuss any concerns and issues heard in conversations with local citizens; and (4) discuss finalizing the route study and the disposition of the Working Group.

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Judge Taylor welcomed the group members and thanked them for their participation over the last year. He commended them on their outreach efforts and summarized that the outreach results appear to be approximately 70/30 in favor of the Working Group Interstate route option preliminary recommendation. Judge Taylor then said he had two thoughts he would like the Working Group to consider during today's discussions:

1. In an effort to deliver a route that provides for the quickest and most effective economic development, has the Working Group overlooked the other alternative that provides for an easier transition around Marshall but will require development to move outward as the city grows along with moving the sewer and water utilities farther out from Marshall?
2. Can the northern tie-in to US 59 be located closer to the current intersection of Loop 390 and US 59?

### **Administrative**

Tina Brown welcomed the group and explained that the Working Group meeting 4 notes would be finalized and put on the project website after the meeting, barring any comments or changes. No comments were made by the Working Group. Tina then began the meeting with a

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PowerPoint presentation, by reviewing the meeting agenda and an updated Working Group schedule and activities.

## **Review of the Results of Public Outreach**

Tina introduced Mitzi Ellison, who reviewed the Working Group activities and results of the public outreach. Mitzi said that the group reached over 1,400 individuals directly through the outreach activities and noted that the number does not include those individuals who viewed the social media posts or the webpage. Eleven presentations were made at community and civic group meetings, and numerous emails, Facebook postings, and tweets were sent out by Working Group members. She also confirmed that hyperlinks were posted on the Wiley College and Harrison County websites. In addition, TxDOT used social media sites, Facebook and Twitter to provide information regarding the study, and mailed over 12,000 invitation postcards to the October 28 open house that included the Route Study webpage address. Mitzi said that 269 members of the public signed in at the open house and 105 online surveys were taken between August 18 and November 7, 2014. The meeting attendees then reviewed the table of community and civic group presentations and had no additions.

Mitzi then provided an overview of the survey results noting just over 50% “strongly agreed” with the Working Group Interstate route option preliminary recommendation. Additionally, just over 18% “agreed”, this makes those in favor totaling almost 70%.

The comment summary, sent to Working Group members via email for review prior to meeting 5, was then discussed. Mitzi explained that a total of 57 written comments were received at the open house, through the mail, and by email. In addition, 65 comments from individuals were collected during online survey participation. All comments were reviewed and categorized into eight categories: 1) Cost/Schedule; 2) Economic Development/Business Related; 3) Personal Property Concerns; 4) Access/Travel Time/Traffic; 5) Potential Impacts/Environmental Impacts; 6) Route Location; 7) Map Comments; and 8) Other/General that included other comments not relevant to the previous categories. It was noted that the comments were typical of comments traditionally received during a project planning phase and no new information on existing conditions that would warrant a substantive change to the route study and options was expressed. The comments will be considered in the environmental process, should the project progress.

Tina then discussed the route location specific comment themes that included:

- North connection area – The residential neighborhood between US 59 and Fern Lake was the subject of several comments. Some comments suggested going east of Fern Lake and the water holding area, or going farther along Loop 390 before turning north, or tying in farther to the north to avoid Stage Coach House and Karma Farms. Tina noted the alignment at the tie-in was developed to comply with the minimum curve radius while avoiding the floodplain, as well as to provide connection to FM 1793.
- Middle area near I-20 - Regarding the middle of the route option near I-20, there were comments suggesting a preference for 1) the E-5 option, 2) to go farther east near Scottsville, 3) to extend Loop 390 as originally planned, or 4) to have a joint use section on I-20, and that the E-4 option is circuitous. A sketch that was submitted as a comment was also shared with Working Group members. (See Figure 1 for location of E-5 and E-4).

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- South connection area – Several comments regarding the southern connection point suggested moving the tie-in point to US 59 farther to the north to avoid a church (Union Church), the properties behind the church and the Southfield Estates neighborhood.
- Other – The upgrade of existing US 59 and the construction of a “skyway” or elevated freeway along the existing US 59 right-of-way were suggested, as well as going west of Marshall through the mining area.

## Review the Results of Interactions with Local Citizens

Judge Taylor said that he had received a lot of positive comments and many questions. He said that many questions were asked regarding how the route was developed and that it was better understood once engineering factors and federal Interstate requirements, such as Interstate interchange spacing, were explained. He also noted that several people suggested moving the route option farther east to get “more bang for the buck.” Mayor Ed Smith said that he has been getting questions regarding the schedule and hearing concerns related to property values from property owners that could potentially be affected. Ivan White noted that he had heard the same concerns regarding property valuation, but expressed that the good of all needs to be considered.

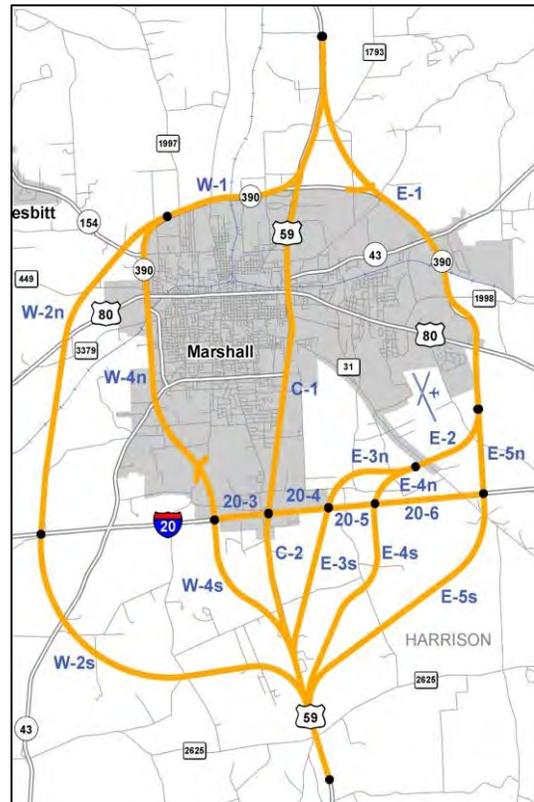


Figure 1 – Interstate Route Option Links

## Refinements to the Interstate Route Option

Judge Taylor said that during the environmental process, the tie-in points to US 59 need to be more closely studied. Roger Beall, TxDOT, said that the concerns about the northern and southern tie-in points, moving east, and the no-build alternative would be considered in any future environmental studies. He stated this is a high level planning study and that during the environmental process more data will be gathered, more public involvement will occur, and further refinements would likely be done to reduce effects to residential properties, commercial properties, and environmental features. Judge Taylor reiterated that going west through the mining areas would be difficult. Mayor Smith agreed with this because of geotechnical reasons. He said that ground settlement would always be occurring making it an unsuitable location to construct a roadway. Mayor Smith also noted that moving the route option farther east may pose a financial strain on the city to provide utility services for development.

## Finalization of Route Study, Disposition of Working Group, and Open Discussion

Roger asked the group if they were ready to make a decision on whether to move forward with their Interstate route option preliminary recommendation as final, or make refinements. The Working Group members agreed that they would like to move their Interstate route option preliminary recommendation forward as final and into the environmental process

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It was decided that in lieu of a December meeting, the Route Study would be completed with the development of a Working Group Recommendation Report. This report will highlight the steps and activities undertaken to identify a Working Group Interstate route option recommendation for advancing I-369 in the Marshall area. This report will be sent to Working Group members after the Thanksgiving holidays for review and comment. Once final, this report will be sent to Working Group members and posted on the webpage. The Working Group Recommendation Report and a Public Outreach Summary Report (including all comments) will be referred to during future environmental studies.

It was noted that East Texas Route Studies will be an agenda item for discussion at the December 18, 2014 Texas Transportation Commission. Judge Taylor will be there to support the I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Route Study discussion, informing the Commission of the group's recommendation and confirming the local desire to move forward with environmental studies. Roger noted that TxDOT would send out information on how to access the meeting online.

TxDOT will be responsible for the next steps in the project development process, including identification of funding to move forward into the environmental process. Roger noted it could be an environmental study for the entire relief route or small sections of the corridor, and it is not known at this time when the project will be developed. TxDOT's Atlanta District and the Transportation Planning and Programming Division will work together and keep the Working Group members posted of any substantive decisions on project development. Roger also noted that Working Group members should reach out to Deanne Simmons, TxDOT Atlanta District, for any questions or assistance.

Finally, Roger expressed TxDOT's appreciation to the Working Group members for their efforts and hard work over the past year.

The Online Meeting was then adjourned.

Subsequent to Working Group meeting 5, it was further recommended that the existing US 59/ Loop 390 intersection be included as the potential northern tie-in point interchange and be included in the future environmental studies.



**Figure 2 – Working Group Final Interstate Route Option Recommendation**