

# **Public Hearing Summary Report**

**LOOP 494  
From Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road  
Montgomery & Harris Counties  
CSJs: 0177-14-010 & 0177-15-033**

## **Public Hearing**

November 9, 2010  
6:00 p.m.  
Second Baptist Church – North Campus  
22770 US 59 North  
Kingwood, Texas 77339

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

PUBLICATIONS

PRESENTATION

EXHIBITS PRESENTED DURING PUBLIC HEARING

SIGN-IN SHEETS

PHOTOGRAPHS

CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

WRITTEN COMMENTS

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

# Proposed Loop 494 Project

## Public Hearing Summary

- Meeting Date:** November 9, 2010
- Meeting Location:** Second Baptist Church – North Campus  
22770 US 59 North  
Kingwood, Texas 77339
- Hearing Purpose:** To formally inform the public and stakeholders of the proposed project and to obtain their comments and concerns
- Meeting Format:** 6:00PM to 7:00PM – Project Exhibits Displays  
7:00 PM - Formal presentation
- Mailed Notices:** Landowners– 69  
Elected/Public Officials – 22
- Attendance:** Citizens – 20  
Public Officials – 3  
TxDOT Personnel – 13  
R.G. Miller Personnel - 2  
KBR Personnel – 2
- Publications:** *Houston Chronicle* – October 1, 2010 and October 29, 2010  
*Kingwood Observer* – September 29, 2010 and October 27, 2010  
*La Voz* – October 3, 2010 and October 24, 2010
- Hearing Summary:** The public hearing allowed people to review the exhibits on display and ask questions regarding the proposed project. A formal presentation of the project design and environmental impacts was presented, followed by a verbal comment period which allowed elected officials and the public to make verbal comments on the project. The presentation and verbal comments were transcribed by a certified court reporter.

## **Tabulation of Public Comments**

The following is a tabulation of the comments received as a result of the public hearing and from concerned parties during the comment period. The lists of issues and associated numbers of comments represent the majority of the written comments received during the public comment period provided in association with the public hearing. Multiple comments regarding identical or closely-related issues have been paraphrased to outline the emphasized and more relevant issues from the written comments. Written and verbal comments have been outlined in more detail in the written and verbal comment summary within this document. Written comments received during the public comment period for this project are included in the written comments section.

### **4 written and 3 verbal comments from the hearing**

#### **Comment Issues**

- Proposed sidewalk on west side of project is unnecessary, no additional lighting would put walkers at risk, pedestrian traffic should not be encouraged;
- Project will cause more accidents due to increased traffic;
- Raised medians make little sense and will cause more accidents, turn storage areas are not large enough;
- Increased traffic from the proposed project will cause accidents at the Hamblen Road intersection, which is already a dangerous intersection;
- Proposed project would increase traffic in the area;
- Widening the road is not needed under the current economic situation. There is only room for commercial expansion on one side of Loop 494 due to the railroad. People can move over one block to US 59 feeder road or to US 59; and
- I say No to widening of Loop 494. Why would you widen Loop 494 if no funding is available?

## **Public Meeting Attendants**

### **Texas Department of Transportation**

Mark Patterson, PE  
James Koch, PE  
Henry Quiroga, PE  
Tesfaye Mesfin, PE  
Pat Henry, PE  
Susan Theiss  
Fawzi Abou-Hossa, PE  
Stanley Cooper, PE  
Terri Leeson  
Lance Olenius  
Jim Roscher  
Sarah Wyckoff  
Richard Brown, PE

### **R.G. Miller Engineering**

Ricardo Villagrand  
Jesse Garcia

### **Kellogg Brown & Root**

Steven Gee  
Jeffrey Wellman

## **PUBLICATIONS**



# HOUSTON COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Order:	00E4L7	Pubs:	5,6,7,8,35	Rate:	LE
Phone:	(713)753-3190	Class:	920	Charges:	\$ 0.00
Account:	8073190	Start Date:	09/29/2010	List Price:	\$ 822.20
Name:	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE,	Stop Date:	10/27/2010	Payments:	\$ 0.00
Sales	2020				
Firm:	KBR GOVERNMENT &	Insertions:	10	Balance:	\$ 822.20

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Houston District, will conduct a public hearing regarding improvements to Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road in Harris and Montgomery Counties, Texas.

Tuesday, November 9, 2010,  
6:00 PM

Second Baptist Church - North Campus  
22770 US 59 North, Kingwood, Texas 77339  
(Exhibit viewing from 6:00 to 7:00 PM/  
Presentation begins at 7:00 PM)

The purpose of this hearing is to present the proposed design and results of the environmental studies for improvements to Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road. The project involves widening and improving the existing 1.3-mile facility from a two-lane roadway to an urban, four-lane divided highway. Project engineers and environmental personnel will be available to address comments and answer questions.

The project would not require additional right-of-way (ROW). There would be no displacements and/or relocations. The project has been designed to minimize the removal of habitable structures; however, the removal of portions of some parking areas and a change in some driveway access locations that encroach the existing ROW would be necessary to meet the need for and purpose of the project. The schematic layout showing the location and design, environmental assessment, and other information related to the project will be available for viewing. In addition, this information, along with the tentative schedule for construction, is on file and available for public review at TxDOT's Houston District Office located at 7600 Washington Avenue in Houston, Texas 77007.

All interested individuals are invited to attend this Public Hearing. Individuals interested in attending the Public Hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact TxDOT's Public Information Office at 713-802-5072 at least two business days prior to the Public Hearing. TxDOT offices are open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excluding state holidays. Since the public hearing will be conducted in English, any requests for language interpreters or other special communication needs should also be made at least two working days prior to the Public Hearing. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs.

Verbal and written comments relative to the proposed project may be presented at the hearing. Send written comments to Director of Project Development, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251. Comments may be emailed to [hou-piwebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piwebmail@txdot.gov). All comments must be postmarked on or before November 24, 2010 to be included in the public hearing record.

The Loop 494 Public Hearing Summary Report will be made available for public viewing at the TxDOT website: [http://www.dot.state.tx.us/local\\_information/houston\\_district/](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/local_information/houston_district/). Notice of availability of the Public Hearing Summary Report will be published in local newspapers when it is available for viewing.

OG 09/29 10/27

THIS IS NOT A BILL



# HOUSTON COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

### STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HARRIS

Personally appeared before the undersigned, a Notary Public within and for said County and State. Karin Coleman, Representative for James Hopson, Publisher of the Humble/Kingwood/Atascocita Observers, all newspapers of general circulation in the County of Harris, State of Texas. Who being duly sworn, states under oath that the report of Legal Notices, a true copy of which is hereto annexed was published in said newspapers in its issue(s) of the

29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2010  
27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2010  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010

Karin Coleman  
Publisher's Representative

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires on (stamp) \_\_\_\_\_





## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF TEXAS:

COUNTY OF HARRIS:

Before me, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, on this day personally appeared, the ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE LEAD at the HOUSTON CHRONICLE, a daily newspaper published in Harris County, Texas, and that the publication, of which the annexed herein, or attached to, is a is a true and correct copy, was published to-wit:

---

KBR GOVERNMENT & INFRASTRUCT	24538335	26246220
RAN A LEGAL NOTICE		
SIZE BEING: 2 X 6.0 I (12.0I)		
product	date	class
hc	Oct 1 2010	1245.0
		page
		B_frilg_3

---

*Kaie Chastan*

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE LEAD

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this the 1st Day of October A.D. 2010



*Veronica M Tyrone*  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Houston District, will conduct a public hearing regarding improvements to Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road in Harris and Montgomery Counties, Texas.

**Tuesday, November 9, 2010**

**6:00 PM**

**Second Baptist Church - North Campus**

**22770 US 59 North, Kingwood, Texas 77339**

**(Exhibit viewing from 6:00 to 7:00 PM/Presentation begins at 7:00 PM)**

The purpose of this hearing is to present the proposed design and results of the environmental studies for improvements to Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road. The project involves widening and improving the existing 1.3-mile facility from a two-lane roadway to an urban, four-lane divided highway. Project engineers and environmental personnel will be available to address comments and answer questions.

The project would not require additional right-of-way (ROW). There would be no displacements and/or relocations. The project has been designed to minimize the removal of habitable structures; however, the removal of portions of some parking areas and a change in some driveway access locations that encroach the existing ROW would be necessary to meet the need for and purpose of the project. The schematic layout showing the location and design, environmental assessment, and other information related to the project will be available for viewing. In addition, this information, along with the tentative schedule for construction, is on file and available for public review at TxDOT's Houston District Office located at 7600 Washington Avenue in Houston, Texas 77007.

All interested individuals are invited to attend this Public Hearing. Individuals interested in attending the Public Hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact TxDOT's Public Information Office at 713-802-5072 at least two business days prior to the Public Hearing. TxDOT offices are open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excluding state holidays. Since the public hearing will be conducted in English, any requests for language interpreters or other special communication needs should also be made at least two working days prior to the Public Hearing. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs.

Verbal and written comments relative to the proposed project may be presented at the hearing. Send written comments to Director of Project Development, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251. Comments may be emailed to [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:houston-piowebmail@txdot.gov). All comments must be postmarked on or before November 24, 2010 to be included in the public hearing record.

The Loop 494 Public Hearing Summary Report will be made available for public viewing at the TxDOT Web site: [http://www.dot.state.tx.us/local/information/houston\\_district/](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/local/information/houston_district/). Notice of availability of the Public Hearing Summary Report will be published in local newspapers when it is available for viewing.

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF TEXAS:

COUNTY OF HARRIS:

Before me, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, on this day personally appeared, the ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE LEAD at the HOUSTON CHRONICLE, a daily newspaper published in Harris County, Texas, and that the publication, of which the annexed herein, or attached to, is a is a true and correct copy, was published to-wit:

---

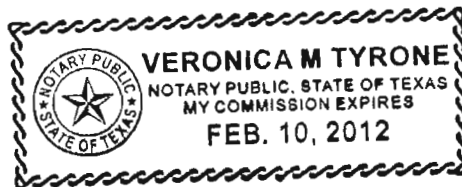
KBR GOVERNMENT & INFRASTRUCT	24538385	26246220	
RAN A LEGAL NOTICE			
SIZE BEING: 2 X 6.50 I (13.0I)			
product	date	class	page
lv	Oct 3 2010	1245.0	H_lavoz_1

---

*Kate Chastin*

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE LEAD

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this the 3rd Day of October A.D. 2010



*Veronica M Tyrone*

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

**AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PUBLICA**

Loop 494 de Kingwood Drive a  
Sorters-McClellan Road

El Departamento de Transporte de Texas (TxDOT),  
Distrito de Houston, llevara a cabo una audiencia  
publica respecto a las mejoras al Loop 494 de  
Kingwood Drive a Sorters-McClellan Road en los  
Condados de Harris y Montgomery, Texas.

**Martes, 9 de Noviembre de 2010  
6:00 PM**

**Second Baptist Church - North Campus  
22770 US 59 North, Kingwood, Texas 77339  
(Vista de la Exhibicion de 6:00 a 7:00 PM/La  
presentacion comienza a las 7:00 PM)**

El proposito de esta audiencia es el de presentar  
el diseno propuesto y los resultados de los estudios  
ambientales para las mejoras al Loop 494 de Kingwood  
Drive a Sorters-McClellan Road. El proyecto implica  
el ensanchamiento y mejoramiento de la carretera  
de 1.3 millas, de una carretera de dos vias de ancho  
a una carretera urbana de cuatro vias divididas.  
Los ingenieros del proyecto y el personal ambiental  
estaran disponibles para responder a los comentarios  
Y a las preguntas.

El proyecto no requerira derecho de via  
adicional (ROW). No habra desplazamientos y/o  
relocalizaciones. El proyecto ha sido disenado para  
minimizar la eliminacion de estructuras habitables;  
sin embargo, la eliminacion de las porciones de  
algunas areas de estacionamiento y un cambio  
en algunas ubicaciones de acceso de entrada que  
invaden el ROW existente, seria necesario para  
satisfacer la necesidad para el proposito del proyecto.  
El plan esquematico que muestra la ubicacion y el  
diseno, la evaluacion ambiental, y otra informacion  
relacionada al proyecto, estara disponible para su  
revision. Ademias, esta informacion, junto con la  
programacion tentativo para la construccion, esta en  
el archivo y disponible para la revision publica en la  
Oficina del Distrito de Houston de TxDOT, ubicada en  
7600 Washington Avenue en Houston, Texas 77007.

Se invita a todas las personas interesadas a asistir a  
la Audiencia Publica. A las personas interesadas en  
asistir a la Audiencia Publica que tienen necesidades  
especiales de comunicacion o acomodacion, deben  
ponerse en contacto con la Oficina de Informacion  
Publica del Distrito de TxDOT al 713-802-5072 por  
lo menos dos dias habiles antes de la Audiencia  
Publica. Las oficinas de TxDOT estan abiertas de  
Lunes a Viernes, de 8:00 AM a 5:00 PM, excepto los  
dias festivos. La audiencia publica sera dirigida en  
ingles. Requisitos para interpretes de otro idioma u  
otra comunicacion especial tambien deben hacerse  
cuando menos dos dias habiles antes de la audiencia  
publica. TxDOT hara cualquier esfuerzo razonable  
para acomodar estas necesidades.

Los comentarios orales y escritos relacionados  
con el proyecto propuesto pueden ser presentados  
en la audiencia. Envie los comentarios escritos al:  
Director of Project Development, Texas Department  
of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas  
77251. Los comentarios se pueden mandar por correo  
electronico a: [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov). Todos los  
comentarios deben ser sellados por el correo en, o,  
antes del 24 de Noviembre de 2010 para ser incluidos  
en el registro de la audiencia publica.

El Informe del Sumario de la Audiencia  
Publica del Loop 494 sera disponible para la  
revision publica en el sitio Web de TxDOT:  
[http://www.dot.state.tx.us/local\\_information/houston\\_district/](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/local_information/houston_district/).  
El aviso de disponibilidad del Informe del Sumario de  
la Audiencia Publica sera publicado en los periodicos  
locales cuando esta listo para revisar.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF TEXAS:

COUNTY OF HARRIS:

Before me, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, on this day personally appeared, the Newspaper Representative at the HOUSTON CHRONICLE, a daily newspaper published in Harris County, Texas, and generally circulated in the Counties of: HARRIS, TRINTY, WALKER, GRIMES, POLK, SAN JACINTO, WASHINGTON, MONTGOMERY, LIBERTY, AUSTIN, WALLER, CHAMBERS, COLORADO, BRAZORIA, FORT BEND, GALVESTON, WHARTON, JACKSON, and MATAGORDA and that the publication, of which the annexed herein, or attached to, is a true and correct copy, was published to-wit:

---

KBR GOVERNMENT & INFRASTRUCT	24548221	26246220
RAN A LEGAL NOTICE		
SIZE BEING: 2 X 6.50 I (13.0I)		
product	date	class
lv	Oct 24 2010	1245.0
		page
		H_lavoz_1

---

*Kaie Chastin*  
NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVE

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this the 25th Day of October A.D. 2010



*Veronica M Tyrone*  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

**AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PUBLICA**

Loop 494 de Kingwood Drive a  
Sorters-McClellan Road

El Departamento de Transporte de Texas (TxDOT), Distrito de Houston, llevara a cabo una audiencia publica respecto a las mejoras al Loop 494 de Kingwood Drive a Sorters-McClellan Road en los Condados de Harris y Montgomery, Texas.

Martes, 9 de Noviembre de 2010

6:00 PM

**Second Baptist Church – North Campus**

22770 US 59 North, Kingwood, Texas 77339

(Vista de la Exhibicion de 6:00 a 7:00 PM/La presentacion comienza a las 7:00 PM)

El proposito de esta audiencia es el de presentar el diseno propuesto y los resultados de los estudios ambientales para las mejoras al Loop 494 de Kingwood Drive a Sorters-McClellan Road. El proyecto implica el ensanchamiento y mejoramiento de la carretera de 1.3 millas, de una carretera de dos vias de ancho a una carretera urbana de cuatro vias divididas. Los ingenieros del proyecto y el personal ambiental estaran disponibles para responder a los comentarios y a las preguntas.

El proyecto no requerira derecho de via adicional (ROW). No habra desplazamientos y/o relocalizaciones. El proyecto ha sido disenado para minimizar la eliminacion de estructuras habitables; sin embargo, la eliminacion de las porciones de algunas areas de estacionamiento y un cambio en algunas ubicaciones de acceso de entrada que invaden el ROW existente, seria necesario para satisfacer la necesidad para el proposito del proyecto. El plan esquematico que muestra la ubicacion y el diseno, la evaluacion ambiental, y otra informacion relacionada al proyecto, estara disponible para su revision. Ademas, esta informacion, junto con la programacion tentativo para la construccion, esta en el archivo y disponible para la revision publica en la Oficina del Distrito de Houston de TxDOT, ubicada en 7600 Washington Avenue en Houston, Texas 77007.

Se invita a todas las personas interesadas a asistir a la Audiencia Publica. A las personas interesadas en asistir a la Audiencia Publica que tienen necesidades especiales de comunicacion o acomodacion, deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina de Informacion Publica del Distrito de TxDOT al 713-802-5072 por lo menos dos dias habiles antes de la Audiencia Publica. Las oficinas de TxDOT estan abiertas de Lunes a Viernes, de 8:00 AM a 5:00 PM, excepto los dias festivos. La audiencia publica sera dirigida en ingles. Requisitos para interpretes de otro idioma u otra comunicacion especial tambien deben hacerse cuando menos dos dias habiles antes de la audiencia publica TxDOT hara cualquier esfuerzo razonable para acomodar estas necesidades.

Los comentarios orales y escritos relacionados con el proyecto propuesto pueden ser presentados en la audiencia. Envie los comentarios escritos al: Director of Project Development, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251. Los comentarios se pueden mandar por correo electronico a: [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov). Todos los comentarios deben ser sellados por el correo en, o, antes del 24 de Noviembre de 2010 para ser incluidos en el registro de la audiencia publica.

El Informe del Sumario de la Audiencia Publica del Loop 494 sera disponible para la revision publica en el sitio Web de TxDOT: [http://www.dot.state.tx.us/local\\_information/houston\\_district/](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/local_information/houston_district/). El aviso de disponibilidad del Informe del Sumario de la Audiencia Publica sera publicado en los periodicos locales cuando esta listo para revisar.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF TEXAS:

COUNTY OF HARRIS:

Before me, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, on this day personally appeared, the Newspaper Representative at the HOUSTON CHRONICLE, a daily newspaper published in Harris County, Texas, and generally circulated in the Counties of: HARRIS, TRINTY, WALKER, GRIMES, POLK, SAN JACINTO, WASHINGTON, MONTGOMERY, LIBERTY, AUSTIN, WALLER, CHAMBERS, COLORADO, BRAZORIA, FORT BEND, GALVESTON, WHARTON, JACKSON, and MATAGORDA and that the publication, of which the annexed herein, or attached to, is a true and correct copy, was published to-wit:

---

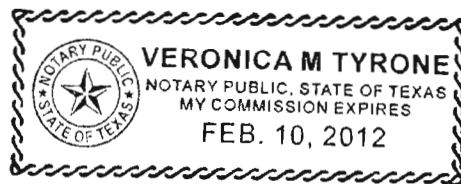
KBR GOVERNMENT & INFRASTRUCT	24546983	26246220
RAN A LEGAL NOTICE		
SIZE BEING: 2 X 6.0 I (12.0I)		
product	date	class
hc	Oct 29 2010	1245.0
		page
		D_frilg_5

---

*Pat Jackett*

NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVE

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this the 29th Day of October A.D. 2010



*Veronica M Tyrone*

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Houston District, will conduct a public hearing regarding improvements to Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road in Harris and Montgomery Counties, Texas.

**Tuesday, November 9, 2010  
6:00 PM**

**Second Baptist Church - North Campus  
22770 US 59 North, Kingwood, Texas 77339**

**(Exhibit viewing from 6:00 to 7:00 PM/Presentation begins at 7:00 PM)**

The purpose of this hearing is to present the proposed design and results of the environmental studies for improvements to Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road. The project involves widening and improving the existing 1.3-mile facility from a two-lane roadway to an urban, four-lane divided highway. Project engineers and environmental personnel will be available to address comments and answer questions.

The project would not require additional right-of-way (ROW). There would be no displacements and/or relocations. The project has been designed to minimize the removal of habitable structures; however, the removal of portions of some parking areas and a change in some driveway access locations that encroach the existing ROW would be necessary to meet the need for and purpose of the project. The schematic layout showing the location and design, environmental assessment, and other information related to the project will be available for viewing. In addition, this information, along with the tentative schedule for construction, is on file and available for public review at TxDOT's Houston District Office located at 7600 Washington Avenue in Houston, Texas 77007.

All interested individuals are invited to attend this Public Hearing. Individuals interested in attending the Public Hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact TxDOT's Public Information Office at 713-802-5072 at least two business days prior to the Public Hearing. TxDOT offices are open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excluding state holidays. Since the public hearing will be conducted in English, any requests for language interpreters or other special communication needs should also be made at least two working days prior to the Public Hearing. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs.

Verbal and written comments relative to the proposed project may be presented at the hearing. Send written comments to Director of Project Development, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251. Comments may be emailed to [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:houstonwebmail@txdot.gov). All comments must be postmarked on or before November 24, 2010 to be included in the public hearing record.

The Loop 494 Public Hearing Summary Report will be made available for public viewing at the TxDOT Web site: [http://www.dot.state.tx.us/local\\_information/houston\\_district/](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/local_information/houston_district/). Notice of availability of the Public Hearing Summary Report will be published in local newspapers when it is available for viewing.





Photo by JENNIFER SUMMER/The Observer

Martha and Jim Wilson are residents of the Forest Cove subdivision who attended the public hearing Nov. 9 covering the widening of Loop 494. Martha spoke to TxDOT representatives to explain the need to remedy the problems at the intersection of Loop 494 and Hamblen Road before they approve and accept the widening plans of Loop 494.



Photo by JENNIFER SUMMER/The Observer

Two representatives from Second Baptist Church point out different parts of the proposed widening of Loop 494 during the Texas Department of Transportation's public hearing Nov. 9.

## Public hearing held for widening of Loop 494, no funding available

By JENNIFER SUMMER  
jsummer@hcnonline.com

### VOICE YOUR OPINION

To make a public comment about the proposed widening of Loop 494, e-mail [hou-pi-owebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-pi-owebmail@txdot.gov) by Nov. 24.

Raised medians, a continuous turn lane running down the middle of the road along with sidewalks are several construction items included in the Texas Department of Transportation's plans to widen Loop 494.

The proposed widening of Loop 494 has the potential to affect several businesses along the corridor.

Many of them attended Tx-

DOT's public hearing Nov. 9 to express their opinions and concerns about the proposed project.

TxDOT first met with business owners in March 2007 to discuss the beginning of the project and held a public hearing to gather input on the widening in order to submit the proposed plans for approval

to the Federal Highway Administration.

If the project is approved, it will be on hold until there are available funds.

"The public hearing is something we have to do in the process to gather input even though we do not have the funding. Right now, there are other TxDOT projects that

take precedence that we must address first," Henry Quiroga of TxDOT explained.

The proposed project is to widen and improve the existing 1.7-mile segment of Loop 494 which stretches from around Sorters Road to just north of Kingwood Drive.

The project would widen Loop 494 to two lanes in each direction with a raised median in one portion and a continuous left-turn lane in the center on the portion from past Second Baptist Church to Kingwood Drive.

There would also be improvements to the Kingwood Drive area, including two right-hand turn lanes onto Kingwood Drive and a right-hand turn lane for drivers from Kingwood Drive to turn onto Loop 494.

"The section of Loop 494 from Sorters Road to Kingwood Drive will be widened and improved. The right-of-way varies from 100 feet to 160 feet, which means we have more room in some parts for the raised medians and others where we do not, which is why some areas will have the left-turn lane," Fawzi Abou-Hossa, project manager for TxDOT, said at the beginning of the public hearing.

TxDOT wants to leave a

buffer zone between the road and the railroad tracks.

There are some parking areas at a few businesses that will be lost because they encroach in the driveway areas which would possibly be paved and improved in the project.

The public hearing gave the chance for TxDOT to receive public comments, but comments from the community are welcome until Nov. 24.

Forest Cove resident Martha Wilson was one of the residents to speak about the widening, saying that she was not in opposition of the project but would not approve it until there were improvements at the intersection of Loop 494 and Hamblen Road.

"We cannot handle anymore traffic, and this needs to be resolved first," Wilson said. "With the widening, this would increase traffic and there have already been so many accidents here, I would hate to see more."

According to Steven Gee, environmental project manager for KBR who conducted the environmental and impact studies on the area, the widening project is needed to provide for future traffic demand, enhanced safety and ease traffic congestion.

"Between 2013 and 2035, the average traffic volume in the Loop 494 corridor is expected to increase by 33 percent," Gee said.

But it is safety that Jeff Wilkins, who owns Molly's Pub, is concerned about with TxDOT proposing the construction of sidewalks along Loop 494.

"The addition of sidewalks on Loop 494 is dangerous because there are no plans to add additional lighting and it is dark along the roadway at night. The businesses that are situated on Loop 494 are not businesses you would walk between; pedestrian traffic should not be encouraged," Wilkins said.

TxDOT representatives stated that the addition of the sidewalks were due to a mandate from the Federal Highway Administration.

If TxDOT continues with this project in the future, the anticipated construction duration is two years.

To make a public comment about the proposed widening of Loop 494, e-mail [hou-pi-owebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-pi-owebmail@txdot.gov) by Nov. 24.

For more information or questions about the widening, log on to [www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us).

Let A Professional Install Your Christmas Lights

CALL SOON TO RESERVE YOUR DATE!  
OPENINGS FILL UP FAST!

Residential & Commercial  
Worry Free Installation • Free Bids  
[www.yardbirdslandscaping.com](http://www.yardbirdslandscaping.com) / 281-577-9094

YARD BIRDS INC.  
LANDSCAPE

We're all about

# ★ KINGWOOD ★ THE OBSERVER

## ADOPTION MONTH

New daddy David Scott bonds with his daughter Emma at the hospital in Kansas. 7A



## SEASON OF GIVING

The holidays are a key time for donations at Houston Food Bank and other charities. GHW



## SPE CAU

Santa guest; Faith &

WWW.THEKINGWOODOBSERVER.COM

NOVEMBER 17, 2010

# Public hearing held for widening of Loop 494, no funding available

By JENNIFER SUMMER  
jsummer@hcnonline.com

Raised medians, a continuous turn lane running down the middle of the road along with sidewalks are several construction items included in the Texas Department of Transportation's plans to widen Loop 494.

## VOICE YOUR OPINION

To make a public comment about the proposed widening of Loop 494, e-mail [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov) by Nov. 24.

The proposed widening of Loop 494 has the potential to affect several businesses along the corridor.

Many of them attended TxDOT's public hearing Nov. 9 to express their opinions and concerns about the proposed project.

TxDOT first met with business owners in March 2007 to discuss the beginning of the project and held a public hearing to gather input on the

widening in order to submit the proposed plans for approval to the Federal Highway Administration.

If the project is approved, it will be on hold until there are available funds.

"The public hearing is some-

See LOOP 494, Page 5A

Ap  
te  
of  
ho

By STEPHEN THOMAS@

Three l  
pects rep  
ing for dr  
apartme  
block of  
early Tues  
fled with  
electroni

## AGAINST THE ODDS

KINGWOOD PARK MAKES A STATEMENT IN WIN OVER STATE-RANKED BRENHAM.





Photo by JENNIFER SUMMER/The Observer

Martha and Jim Wilson are residents of the Forest Cove subdivision who attended the public hearing Nov. 9 covering the widening of Loop 494. Martha spoke to TxDOT representatives to explain they need to remedy the problems at the intersection of Loop 494 and Hamblen Road before they approve and accept the widening plans of Loop 494.



### LOOP 494

Continued from Page 1A

thing we have to do in the process to gather input even though we do not have the funding. Right now, there are other TxDOT projects that take precedence that we must address first," Henry Quiroga of TxDOT explained.

The proposed project is to widen and improve the existing 1.7-mile segment of Loop 494 which stretches from around Sorters Road to just north of

Kingwood Drive.

The project would widen Loop 494 to two lanes in each direction with a raised median in one portion and a continuous left-turn lane in the center on the portion from past Second Baptist Church to Kingwood Drive.

There would also be improvements to the Kingwood Drive area, including two right-hand turn lanes onto Kingwood Drive and a right-hand turn lane for drivers from Kingwood Drive to turn onto Loop 494.

"The section of Loop 494 from Sorters Road to Kingwood Drive will be widened and improved. The right-of-way varies from 100 feet to 160 feet, which means we have more room in some parts for the raised medians and others where we do not, which is why some areas will have the left-turn lane," Fawzi Abou-Hossa, project manager for TxDOT, said at the beginning of the public hearing.

TxDOT wants to leave a buffer zone between the road and the railroad tracks.



There are some parking areas at a few businesses that will be lost because they encroach in the driveway areas which would possibly be paved and improved in the project.

The public hearing gave the chance for TxDOT to receive public comments, but comments from the community are welcome until Nov. 24.

Forest Cove resident Martha Wilson was one of the residents to speak about the widening, saying that she was not in opposition of the project but would not approve it until there were improvements at the intersection of Loop 494 and Hamblen Road.

"We cannot handle anymore traffic, and this needs to be resolved first," Wilson said. "With the widening, this would increase traffic and there

have already been so many accidents here, I would hate to see more."

According to Steven Gee, environmental project manager for KBR who conducted the environmental and impact studies on the area, the widening project is needed to provide for future traffic demand, enhanced safety and ease traffic congestion.

"Between 2013 and 2035, the average traffic volume in the Loop 494 corridor is expected to increase by 33 percent," Gee said.

But it is safety that Jeff Wilkins, who owns Molly's Pub, is concerned about with TxDOT proposing the construction of sidewalks along Loop 494.

"The addition of sidewalks on Loop 494 is dangerous be-

Photo by JENNIFER SUMMER/The Observer

Two representatives from Second Baptist Church point out different parts of the proposed widening of loop 494 during the Texas Department of Transportation's public hearing Nov. 9.

cause there are no plans to add additional lighting and it is dark along the roadway at night. The businesses that are situated on Loop 494 are not businesses you would walk between; pedestrian traffic should not be encouraged," Wilkins said.

TxDOT representatives stated that the addition of the sidewalks were due to a mandate from the Federal Highway Administration.

If TxDOT continues with this project in the future, the anticipated construction duration is two years.

To make a public comment about the proposed widening of Loop 494, e-mail hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov by Nov. 24.

For more information or questions about the widening, log on to www.dot.state.tx.us.

### EARTH QUEST

Continued from Page 1A

is the cost of funds for addi-

Contour Entertainment


# THE NEXT CHAPTER IN A STORIED TRADITION HOUSTON MEN'S BASKETBALL

# **PRESENTATION**

**Public Hearing**

**Loop 494**  
from Kingwood Drive to  
Sorters-McClellan Road

**November 9, 2010**



*Texas Department of Transportation*

KBR0870

**Elected Officials**

---



*Texas Department of Transportation*

KBR0870 2

## Published Hearing Notices

---

- **Houston Chronicle**
  - Friday, October 1, 2010
  - Friday, October 29, 2010
- **La Voz (in Spanish)**
  - Sunday, October 3, 2010
  - Sunday, October 24, 2010
- **Kingwood Observer**
  - Wednesday, September 29, 2010
  - Wednesday, October 27, 2010

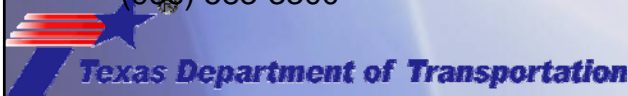


KBR0870 3

## Loop 494 Project Information

---

- TxDOT Houston District Office  
7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, TX 77007  
(713) 802-5000
- TxDOT North Harris Area Office  
16803 Eastex Freeway, Humble, TX 77347  
(281) 319-6400
- TxDOT Montgomery Area Office  
901 N. FM 3083 E., Conroe, TX 77303  
(936) 583-3300



KBR0870 4

## Speaker Information

---

### **Project Description & Geometric Design**

Fawzi Abou-Hossa, P.E

Project Manager, TxDOT Houston District

### **Environmental Studies**

Steven Gee

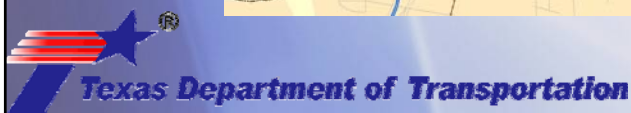
Environmental Project Manger, KBR



KBR0870 5

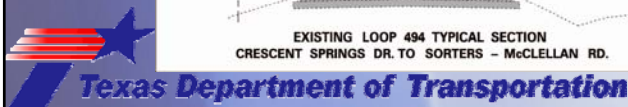
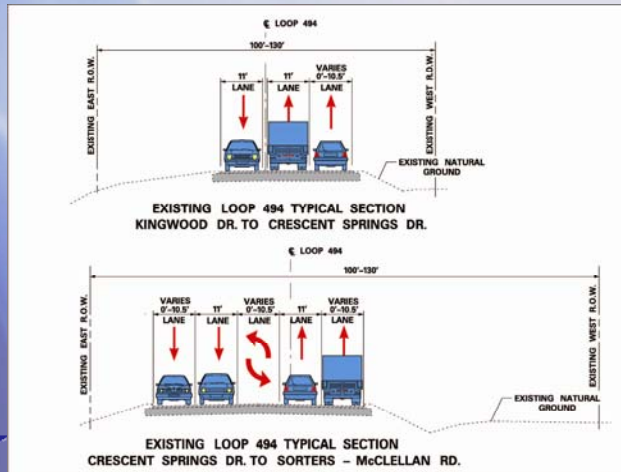
## Project Information and Design Schematics

---



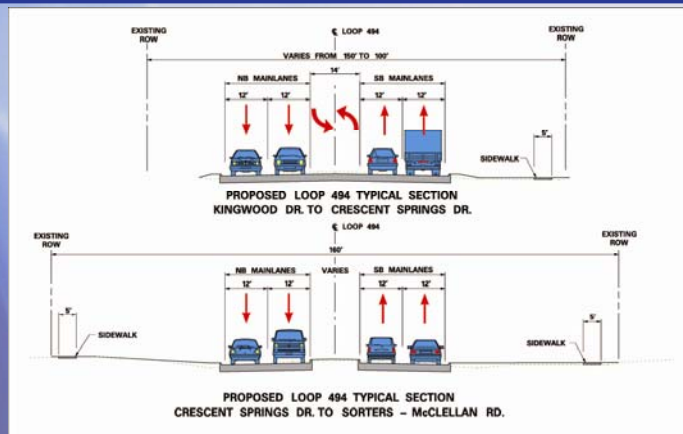
KBR0870 6

# Existing Typical Section



KBR0870 7

# Proposed Typical Section



KBR0870 8



## Right-of-Way

---

- No additional right-of-way required
- No commercial buildings or residences would be displaced
- Proposed project would remove portions of encroaching parking areas. Driveway access locations would be rebuilt.



KBR0670 9

## Construction Cost and Schedule

---

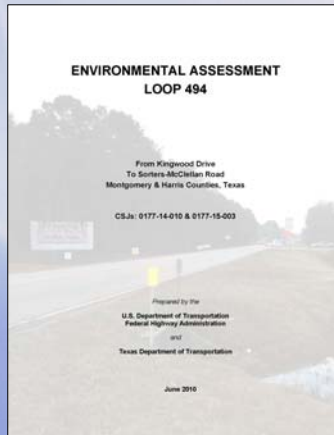
- Estimated construction cost: \$12.4 Million
- Construction start date: When funding becomes available
- Construction duration: Approximately 2 years



KBR0670 10

# Environmental Studies

---



# Environmental Assessment for Loop 494

---

The Environmental Assessment consists of:

1. Need and Purpose
2. Project Alternatives
3. Anticipated Impacts

## Need and Purpose

Need	Purpose
Future Traffic Demand	Increase Capacity to Accommodate Demand
Upgrade to Current Design Standards	Enhance Public Safety
Congestion from Left and Right Turning Movements	Improve Traffic Movements (Operational Efficiency)



KBR0670 13

## Alternatives

### Environmental Assessment

- No Build
- Build Alternative (recommended alternative)



KBR0670 14

## Public Involvement

---

March 29, 2007 - Public Meeting held at the Second Baptist Church – North Campus in Kingwood.



KBR0670 15

## Environmental Studies

---

**Project results in minimal to no effect on:**

- Air Quality
- Traffic Noise Analysis
- Wetland Delineation
- Hazardous Materials
- Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Socioeconomics
- Mobile Source Air Toxics
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Water Quality



KBR0670 16

## Agency Coordination

---

- Federal Highway Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Texas Historical Commission



KBR0670 17

## What's Next

---

- Public Comment Period ends  
**November 24, 2010**
- Preparation of Public Hearing  
Summary Report (PHSR)
- Submittal of PHSR and request for  
project decision to FHWA  
(early 2011)



KBR0670 18

---

# PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION



*Texas Department of Transportation*

KBR0670 19

---

# ELECTED OFFICIALS



*Texas Department of Transportation*

KBR0670 20

## Verbal Comment Period

---

- Oral Comments
  - Complete speaker card
  - Step up to the microphone when called
  - Face court reporter
  - Please comment on issues relevant to Loop 494 Project
  - 3 minute time limit
  - Unused time may not be given to another speaker



KBR0670 21

---

## Verbal Comments



KBR0670 22

---

Thank You  
and  
Good Night



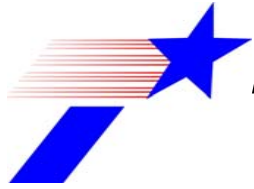
KBR0670 61



**EXHIBITS PRESENTED DURING PUBLIC HEARING**



## Loop 494 Project Schematic



*Texas Department of Transportation*

# **PUBLIC HEARING**

## **Loop 494 Widening Project**

**From Kingwood Drive to  
Sorters-McClellan Road  
Montgomery & Harris Counties**

**Tuesday, November 9, 2010  
Exhibit Viewing 6:00 to 7:00 PM  
Presentation 7:00 pm  
Second Baptist Church – North Campus**

# Project Need & Purpose

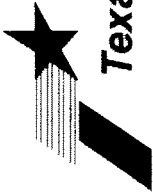
Need	Purpose
Future Traffic Demand	Increase Capacity to Accommodate Demand
Upgrade to Current Design Standards	Enhance Public Safety
Congestion from Left and Right Turning Movements	Improve Traffic Movements (Operational Efficiency)

# Loop 494

## Project Description

- Widen 1.7-mile facility to a 4-lane divided highway
- Continuous left-turn lane from Kingwood Drive to Crescent Springs Drive
- Raised median from Crescent Springs Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road
- Sidewalks adjacent to developed areas

## **SIGN-IN SHEETS**



Texas Department of Transportation

PUBLIC HEARING  
Second Baptist Church  
Loop 494 from Kingwood Dr. to Sorters-McClellan Rd.  
Tuesday, November 9, 2010  
Kingwood, Montgomery County, Texas

PUBLIC  
SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME (Please Print Legibly)	ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE	PHONE
Diane Frankee	1611 Sheltering Oaks, KW 77345	281-360-8455
Jim Wilson	911 LISA Ln, KW 77335	281-358-8011
Sonny Thornton	22205 loop 494 Kingwood 77339	281743-2259
George Wilkerson	19001 Crescent Springs Dr Kingwood 77356	281 348 2870
JOE TURNER	2006 Shady Branch KW TRIST	
Randy Koshnick	22532 Loop 494 KW 77339	281-358-9809
JEFF WILKINS	29803 LOOP 494 KW 77339	2813581990
PAW AUBELTY	18814 Rusty Anchor	281-817-0358
MARIAN BURROWS	1700 Magnolia Lane	281-358-3033
Sharon Hewelley	3211 Breezy Pines Ct. KW 77339	281-358-6253



**Texas Department of Transportation**

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
Second Baptist Church  
Loop 494 from Kingwood Dr. to Sorters-McClellan Rd.  
Tuesday, November 9, 2010  
Kingwood, Montgomery County, Texas

**PUBLIC  
SIGN-IN SHEET**

NAME (Please Print Legibly)	ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE	PHONE
Steve Blue	22044 Knights Cove Dr Kingwood TX 77339	281-330-5130
Jennifer Summer	907 E. Main St., <del>Kingwood</del> Humble TX 77338	281-446-1071
Lee Maxey	6400 Woodway Hwy. TX 77057	713-465-3408





Texas Department of Transportation

PUBLIC HEARING
Second Baptist Church
Loop 494 from Kingwood Dr. to Sorters-McClellan Rd.
Tuesday, November 9, 2010
Kingwood, Montgomery County, Texas

PUBLIC SIGN-IN SHEET

Table with 3 columns: NAME (Please Print Legibly), ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE, and PHONE. Contains handwritten entries for Jack Keith, Martha Elliman, STAN SARMAN, Bill Smith, Jon Lewellyn, PATTY KUPFERTZ, and JERRY TOWNE.



**Texas Department of Transportation**

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
 Second Baptist Church  
 Loop 494 from Kingwood Dr. to Sorters-McClellan Rd.  
 Tuesday, November 9, 2010  
 Kingwood, Montgomery County, Texas

**SIGN-IN SHEET  
 ELECTED OFFICIALS**

NAME (Please Print Legibly)	ELECTED POSITION	ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE	PHONE	WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEAK (Yes/No)
DAW HUBERTY	State Rep-Elect		281-812-0358	NO
Mike Sullivan	HOUSTON COUNCIL MEMBER		832-393- 3008	NO
JACK VALIKSA	CMA JOLANDA JONES		8-323 3006	NO

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**













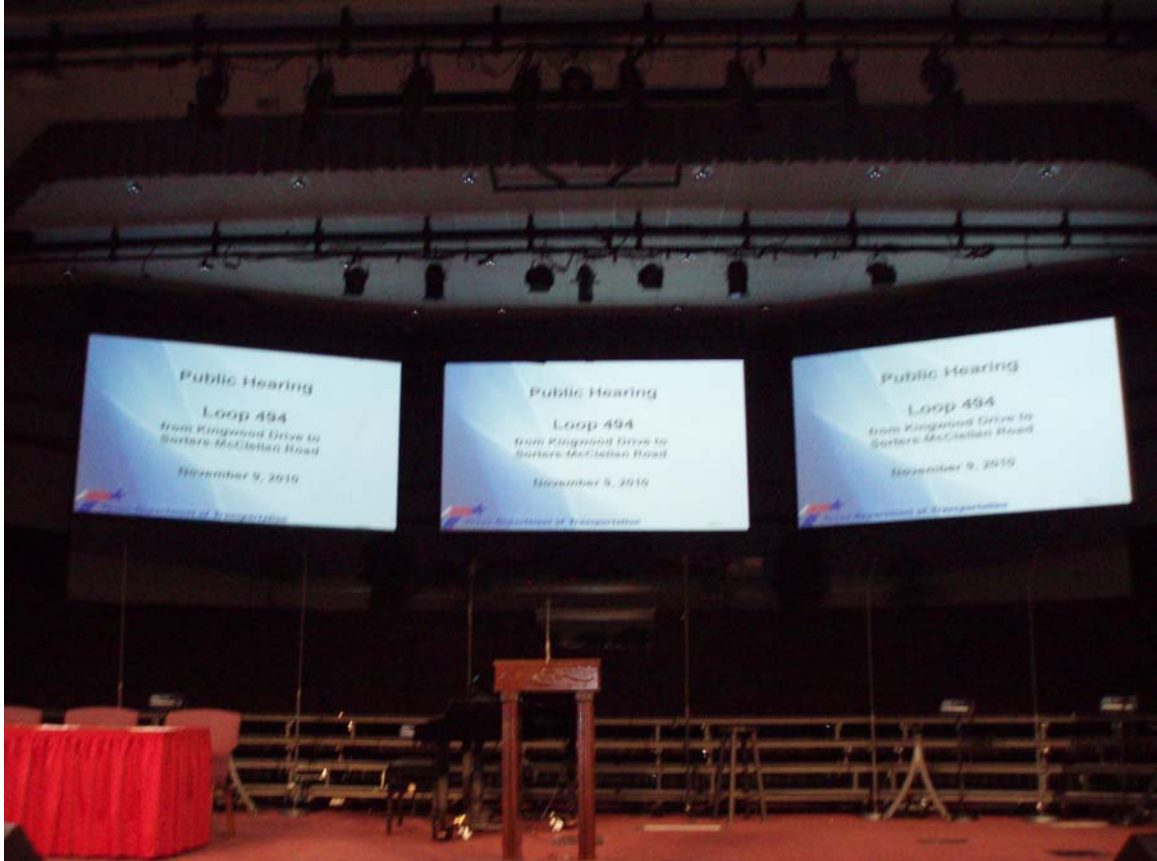


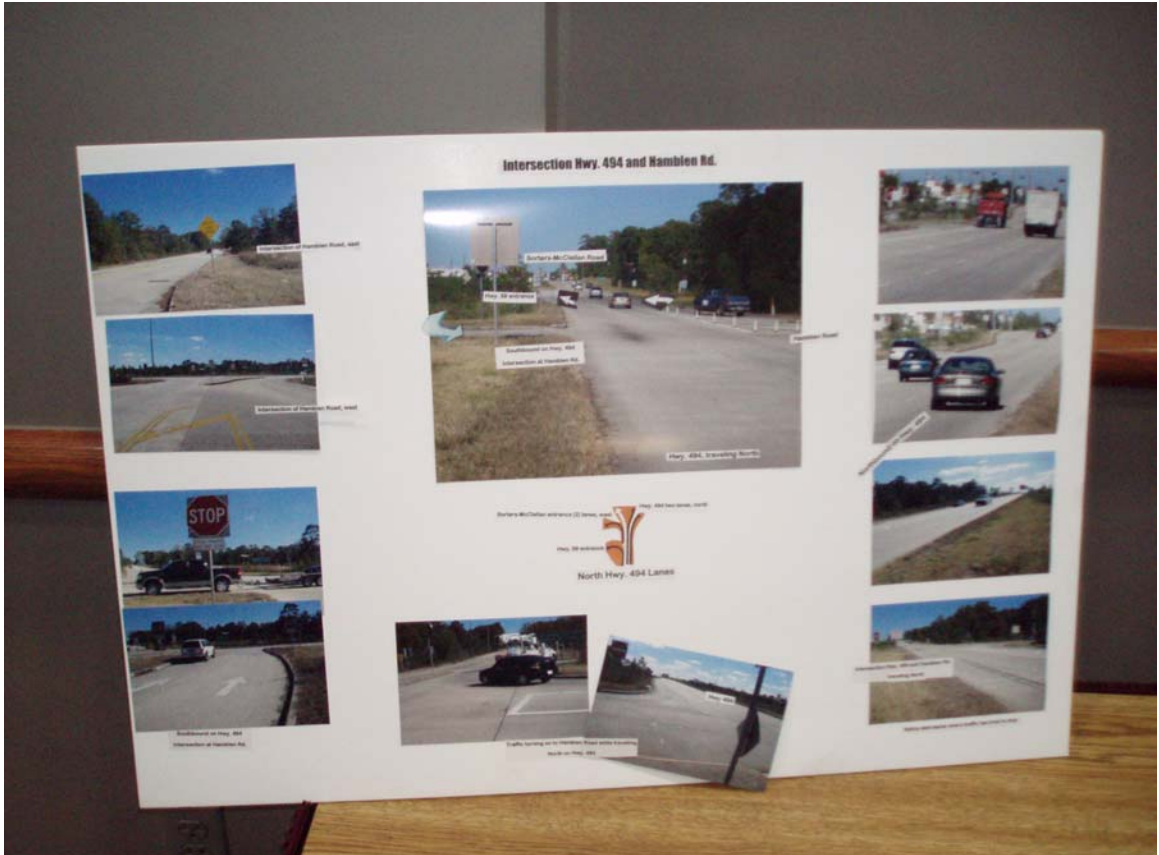




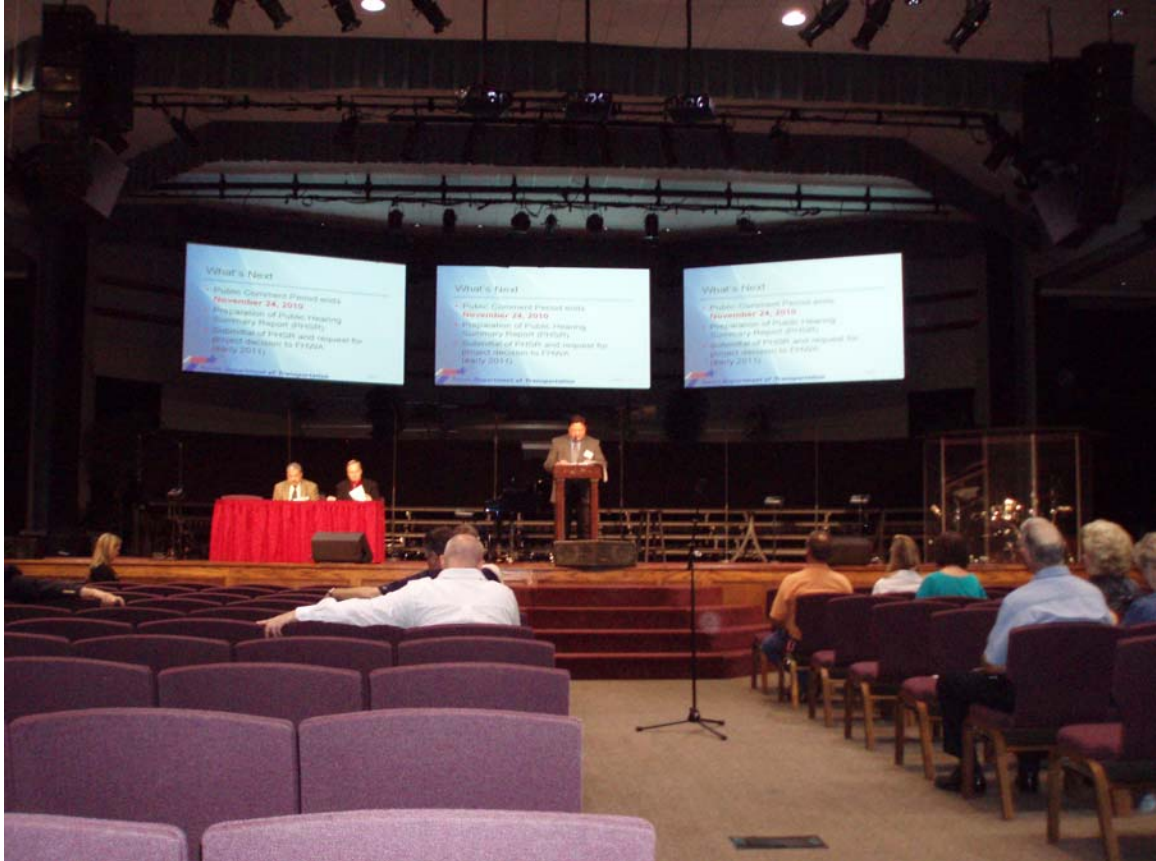












**CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

PUBLIC HEARING - 11/9/2010

PUBLIC HEARING

RE: LOOP 494 IMPROVEMENTS FROM KINGWOOD DRIVE TO  
SORTERS-MCCLELLAN ROAD  
(held at Second Baptist Church, Kingwood)

NOVEMBER 9, 2010

1 MR. KOCH: Good evening. My name is James  
2 Koch and I am the Director of Transportation Planning  
3 and Development for the Texas Department of  
4 Transportation, Houston District. Today's date is  
5 November 9, 2010 and the time is 7:00 p.m.

6 At this time, please turn off or otherwise  
7 silence any personal electronic devices for the  
8 remainder of this hearing.

9 The purpose of this public hearing is to  
10 present the proposed project improvements to Loop 494  
11 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road, in Harris  
12 and Montgomery Counties, and gather any input, comments  
13 and/or suggestions you may have regarding these plans.

14 This public hearing is being recorded by a  
15 certified court reporter for the formal public record.

16 You may have noticed sign-in tables as you  
17 walked into the building this evening. If you have not  
18 already done so, please sign in before you leave  
19 tonight. The sign-in sheets allow us to record  
20 tonight's participation. Also available at the sign-in  
21 tables are handouts that include project information and  
22 comment forms for your use at tonight's hearing.  
23 Speaking registration cards are also available at the  
24 sign-in table for those who wish to make an oral comment  
25 during the public comment session.



1           The public comment session will follow this  
2 presentation. We will not answer questions during the  
3 presentation or public comment session, but TXDOT  
4 representatives and members of the consultant team will  
5 be available to answer your questions following the  
6 comment period. Please feel free to view the exhibits  
7 that are on display tonight in the foyer adjacent to  
8 this room.

9           At this point, we would like to recognize the  
10 elected officials that are in attendance tonight. We  
11 have Mr. Dan Huberty, state rep elect; Mr. Mike  
12 Sullivan, Houston City Council member; and Mr. Jack  
13 Valinski from council member Jolanda Jones' office.

14           If there are other officials present tonight,  
15 please raise your hand to be recognized. Thank you.

16           Notices of this public hearing were advertised  
17 in the Houston Chronicle, La Voz, and The Kingwood  
18 Observer.

19           The project plans and environmental document  
20 are available for review at the TXDOT district office in  
21 Houston and the North Harris and Montgomery area  
22 offices.

23           I would like to introduce the people who will  
24 be presenting the project information to you this  
25 evening. Mr. Fawzi Abou-Hossa of the TXDOT Houston

1 District Office will be presenting the project  
2 description and geometric design, followed by Mr. Steven  
3 Gee of KBR who will be presenting information from the  
4 environmental studies that have been conducted.

5 And now I would like to have Mr. Fawzi  
6 Abou-Hossa present the proposed construction project  
7 information and design.

8 MR. ABOU-HOSSA: Thank you, Mr. Koch.

9 The proposed project is to widen and  
10 reconstruct Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to  
11 Sorters-McClellan Road in Kingwood. Intersection  
12 improvements at Kingwood Drive are included in the  
13 project. The project is approximately 1.7 miles in  
14 length.

15 The existing Loop 494 facility between  
16 Kingwood Drive and Sorters-McClellan Road is proposed to  
17 be widened and improved. Within this section, the  
18 right-of-way varies in width from 100 feet to 160 feet.

19 The proposed design consists of a curb and  
20 gutter section with four 12-foot travel lanes, two in  
21 each direction. A continuous center left-turn lane  
22 would be constructed from Kingwood Drive to Crescent  
23 Springs Drive and a raised median would be constructed  
24 from Crescent Springs Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road.

25 A continuous sidewalk is proposed along the

1 west side of the project and a sidewalk is proposed  
2 adjacent to the developed areas on the east side of the  
3 project. The proposed project would be constructed  
4 within the existing 100 to 160-foot right-of-way. The  
5 proposed facility would have dedicated turn lanes.

6 The proposed project would not require any  
7 additional right-of-way and no residences or commercial  
8 buildings would be displaced. There are, however,  
9 parking areas along the existing roadway that currently  
10 encroach into the right-of-way. The proposed project  
11 would remove portions of encroaching parking areas.  
12 Driveway access locations would be rebuilt.

13 The estimated construction cost for the  
14 proposed project is \$12.4 million. Construction of the  
15 proposed project would begin when funding becomes  
16 available. Once begun, construction would take  
17 approximately two years.

18 This concludes the project information and  
19 design portion of the presentation. Now Mr. Steven Gee  
20 will discuss the project environmental studies.

21 MR. GEE: Thank you, Mr. Abou-Hossa. Good  
22 evening. My name is Steven Gee.

23 A draft environmental assessment has been  
24 prepared and has received preliminary approval for  
25 further processing from the Federal Highway

1 Administration, enabling us to hold this public hearing.  
2 We have copies of the document here this evening for  
3 your review at the comment tables. You may also order  
4 and purchase copies of the document at the cost of  
5 reproduction.

6 An environmental assessment is a  
7 federally-driven public document that describes a  
8 proposed project's need and purpose, project  
9 alternatives, and the anticipated social, economic, and  
10 environmental impacts from the proposed project  
11 alternatives.

12 The proposed project is needed to provide for  
13 future traffic demand, enhance safety, and reduce  
14 traffic congestion along Loop 494. Between 2013 and  
15 2035, the average traffic volume in the project corridor  
16 is expected to increase nearly 33 percent.

17 Two alternatives were considered for the Loop  
18 494 project: The build alternative and the no-build  
19 alternative. The build alternative would utilize the  
20 existing Loop 494 right-of-way. Other alternatives that  
21 would require additional right-of-way or that would not  
22 utilize the existing roadway corridor were not  
23 considered feasible due to an increased potential for  
24 environmental and social impacts.

25 The build alternative was carried forward for

1 evaluation in the environmental assessment. The draft  
2 environmental assessment addresses the anticipated  
3 environmental effects from the construction and  
4 operation of the build alternative as well as the  
5 no-build alternative.

6 A public meeting was held on March 29, 2007,  
7 that offered the public an opportunity to provide input  
8 about the proposed project design and environmental  
9 issues. TXDOT representatives were present to answer  
10 questions concerning the preliminary roadway design,  
11 potential impacts to air quality, traffic noise,  
12 historical and archaeological resources, threatened and  
13 endangered species, and wetlands. The attendees were  
14 largely in favor of the improvements.

15 Environmental studies were concluded for the  
16 propose project, including an air quality analysis, a  
17 traffic noise analysis, a wetland delineation, a  
18 hazardous materials assessment, cultural resource  
19 surveys, and biological investigations. It was  
20 determined through the environmental studies that the  
21 project would have minimal to no effect on the resources  
22 listed.

23 As part of the environmental process, TXDOT  
24 has coordinated with regulatory agencies and government  
25 organizations. This coordination has been ongoing

1 throughout the project development process.

2           Following the comment period that ends on  
3 November 24th, 2010, the study team will review and  
4 evaluate all submitted oral and written comments,  
5 prepare a public hearing summary report, and revise the  
6 environmental document as needed. These documents, as  
7 well as a request for project decision, will be  
8 forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration for  
9 further consideration.

10           In early 2011, a notice indicating the  
11 availability to review the public hearing summary report  
12 will be published in the Houston Chronicle, La Voz, and  
13 The Kingwood Observer. The report will be available for  
14 viewing at the TXDOT district offices in Houston, the  
15 North Harris area office, and the Montgomery area  
16 office. The public hearing summary report will also be  
17 available for review on the TXDOT Houston District  
18 website. The website address is provided in your  
19 handout.

20           Thank you for your attention. Now I'll turn  
21 it back over to Mr. Koch.

22           MR. KOCH: Thank you. Now we will begin the  
23 public comment session. Only registered speakers will  
24 be called upon. Please raise your hand if you would  
25 like to speak for the record tonight and have not

1 completed a speaker registration card. Our staff has  
2 cards for you to fill out.

3 We will collect any additional speaker  
4 registration cards after we hear from our elected  
5 officials who are present tonight and wish to make a  
6 public comment. As a reminder, if you would like to  
7 comment, but do not wish to comment verbally tonight, or  
8 wish to comment in more detail, you may submit a written  
9 comment.

10 Written, e-mail and verbal comments will be  
11 considered equally. If you submit your comments in  
12 writing, it is not necessary to repeat your comments  
13 verbally. Comment forms are in the foyer area and are  
14 attached to your handout packet. Written comment forms  
15 may be turned in tonight or sent by mail, provided they  
16 are postmarked by November 24, 2010. Written comments  
17 will also be accepted by e-mail until November 24.

18 The appropriate addresses for mailing or  
19 e-mailing your comments are provided on the comment  
20 form. All written and recorded verbal comments received  
21 tonight will be addressed in the public hearing summary  
22 report that will be submitted to the Federal Highway  
23 Administration for review and approval.

24 At this time, would any of our elected  
25 officials like to say anything regarding this project?

1 MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you. Good evening. I'm  
2 Houston City Council member Mike Sullivan. This is my  
3 council district and I would just encourage TXDOT as we  
4 move forward to make sure that we include adjacent  
5 elected officials, if you will.

6 For instance, in Montgomery County we have  
7 precinct commissioner Ed Rinehart, who we communicate  
8 with on projects, and we have a newly elected state  
9 representative Dan Huberty -- state representative elect  
10 Dan Huberty. I want to make sure that we get his  
11 involvement and input as well.

12 We are at the City supportive of this project  
13 as proceeding, but would like to reserve final  
14 endorsement, if you will, until I'm able to sit down and  
15 review the project in its entirety. Our parks director  
16 stopped by this evening and wanted to make sure that we  
17 were aware -- excuse me -- that TXDOT was aware of our  
18 plans to construct some sidewalks along Kingwood Drive  
19 from Chestnut Ridge over to Kingwood Colonies.

20 So if we could increase and pre-coordinate  
21 communication with our elected officials so that we all  
22 know what we're trying to achieve, who is working on  
23 what, and I think it makes a project. Thank you.

24 MR. KOCH: At this time, we will collect any  
25 remaining speaker registration cards. When your name is



1 called, please step up to the microphone. Use the  
2 microphone in the front of the auditorium and please  
3 face our court reporter so she can accurately record  
4 your comments.

5 The purpose of this hearing is to receive your  
6 input and comments on issues relevant to the project.  
7 Before presenting your comments, please state your name  
8 for the record and whom you may represent. Each speaker  
9 will be given three minutes to present their comments.

10 A timed display on the screen will indicate  
11 the start of each speaker's three minutes. The timer  
12 will count down your remaining time. When the clock is  
13 at zero, your speaking time is over. Once the  
14 three-minute period is over, we ask that you allow the  
15 next speaker to present their comments. You will not be  
16 allowed to give your unused time to another speaker.

17 Again, we will not respond to questions during  
18 this time. TXDOT representatives and members of the  
19 consultant team will be available to answer your  
20 questions following the formal comment session.

21 The names of speakers will be called in order  
22 they were received. The hearing will adjourn after all  
23 who have registered to make verbal comments have been  
24 heard.

25 The first speaker is Ms. Martha Wilson.

1 MS. MARTHA WILSON: My name is Martha Wilson  
2 and I represent the neighborhood of Forest Cove, because  
3 that's where I live. And I am opposed to the widening,  
4 because until they can address the dangerous  
5 intersection of Hammond Road and 494 and resolve that.

6 We have such heavy traffic now. It's quite a  
7 bit of traffic, so until they can resolve that either  
8 with a red light or some redesign, I think the widening  
9 would increase the traffic and I don't think that we can  
10 handle all that. So that's all I have to say.

11 MR. KOCH: Okay. The next speaker is Mr. Jack  
12 Keith.

13 MR. JACK KEITH: Thanks. I'm Jack Keith. I  
14 have a business here on 494. And I met with the TXDOT  
15 folks in 2007 when they were out here. Very  
16 accommodating, answered all my questions, really polite.  
17 I would say they did give me everything I wanted.

18 So in any event, I'm not necessarily against  
19 the widening of the road, but the turn medians, the  
20 raised medians I think make very little sense. I know  
21 the engineers would disagree. There was lady here that  
22 commented the existing raised medians there were the  
23 site of many accidents of people making U-turns, et  
24 cetera.

25 And I met her before tonight and my question

1 to her was, how many accidents have you seen in this  
2 area up here, let's say along Lowe's where the turn  
3 median is that's not raised, and her comment was very  
4 few, if any. I'm sure there's been some accidents out  
5 there, but my contention is, allow people to get into  
6 that median and get up to speed with a flow of traffic  
7 is going to allow people to integrate into the traffic  
8 going either direction and not be a hazard, as opposed  
9 to coming from a standstill stop, making a U-turn, and  
10 trying to get up to speed.

11 I've also told the TXDOT folks that I feel  
12 like the turn medians at the minimum, the queuing area  
13 is not long enough, because I do see it being a problem  
14 when you queue up to make that U-turn and traffic at  
15 certain points in the day, especially rush hour, it's  
16 going to take some time for those people to safely make  
17 that U-turn and go in the flow of traffic, and I see  
18 that backing up even into the main lanes.

19 Just for my information, if I could take a  
20 poll, how many folks are here not as executives, not as  
21 TXDOT, et cetera, as either a resident or business  
22 owners in the area? Okay, so ten folks. I've got 55  
23 seconds left.

24 Just so there's no misunderstanding, because  
25 last time I was here I heard a lot of negative comments,

1 but I was just one person and that certainly wasn't  
2 scientific. So just how many folks are against the  
3 sidewalks? Out of that same crowd that we talked about,  
4 one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Okay, that's  
5 seven out of roughly ten, if I'm adding correct.

6 How many folks are against the turn medians?  
7 Okay. That's seven out of ten that are here. How many  
8 people are against the whole project? One, two, three,  
9 four, okay. So I would say that the whole project is  
10 certainly not at jeopardy, but I hope my concerns have  
11 been heard and can be answered.

12 MR. KOCH: Thank you. Was there anybody else  
13 that didn't get a speaker registration card that would  
14 like to speak? Okay. Can we get her a card, please?  
15 Okay. Come up to the microphone, please. State your  
16 name.

17 MS. MARIAN BURROWS: Thank you. My name is  
18 Marion Burrows and I'm vice president of Forest Cove  
19 Homeowners Association. I've lived in Forest Cove for  
20 43 years and I've seen a lot of building going on in  
21 that 43 years. I watched Kingwood come up out of the  
22 woods, I've watched the schools being built, so I've  
23 been here long enough that I've seen what works and what  
24 doesn't work, if I might say.

25 I'm not against them widening 494, but what I

1 am concerned about and what the residents are concerned  
2 about at last month's meeting that we had is the fact  
3 that all the traffic that will be dumped, more or less,  
4 on 494 that will be having to be channeled another  
5 direction. I see that it's going to have greater impact  
6 than what it has even now, and goodness me, we have  
7 enough wrecks up there on Forest Cove Drive and Loop 494  
8 when people are coming down trying to get into Forest  
9 Cove.

10 One night I was coming home from having been  
11 to a meeting and I saw the little couple take a turn to  
12 the right to proceed to go across the bridge on 494.  
13 Now, yes, we have things that are supposed to alert  
14 people that they're not going the right way, but  
15 sometimes that doesn't always work.

16 And my main concern is that putting all this  
17 traffic right up to Forest Cove's entrance at McClellan  
18 Sorters Road is going to be a nightmare, because we  
19 cannot handle the traffic that we have now in this area.

20 We have a lot of Kingwood residents, a lot of  
21 Forest Cove residents, and a lot of Trail residents, and  
22 we don't mind them cutting through Forest Cove. We cut  
23 through Kingwood. The streets are there for us all to  
24 use. I just feel like before this is carried on a  
25 little bit further -- I know you've put a lot of work

1 into it and I'm not making light of that, I'm really  
2 not, but I think you need to look a little bit further  
3 into the implications that it's going to have.

4           There are so many accidents at that  
5 cross-section there of people trying to get across and  
6 beat the traffic that's coming over the Old San Jacinto  
7 River bridge, because those people are traveling 75, 80,  
8 sometimes 90 miles an hour, and some people make it and  
9 some people don't. And I don't have statistics with me  
10 tonight, but I can assure you they run high. Thank you.

11           MR. KOCH: Okay. Anyone else?

12           Okay. On behalf of the Federal Highway  
13 Administration and TXDOT, I would like to thank you for  
14 your interest and participation in this public hearing.  
15 We would also like to thank Second Baptist Church for  
16 the use of this facility.

17           If there are no further comments, we will  
18 close the hearing. Thank you for your attendance and  
19 input. Please drive safely. It is 7:22 p.m. and the  
20 hearing is adjourned. Thank you.

21                           (Proceedings concluded at 7:22 p.m.)

22

23

24

25

1 STATE OF TEXAS  
2 COUNTY OF HARRIS

3  
4  
5  
6  
7

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION  
TO THE PUBLIC HEARING  
TAKEN ON NOVEMBER 9, 2010

8 I, Julie M. Silhan, Certified Shorthand Reporter  
9 in and for the State of Texas, certify that the facts  
10 stated in the foregoing pages are true and correct.

11 I further certify that I am neither attorney or  
12 counsel for, related to, nor employed by any parties to  
13 the action in which this testimony is taken and,  
14 further, that I am not a relative or employee of any  
15 counsel employed by the parties hereto or financially  
16 interested in the action.

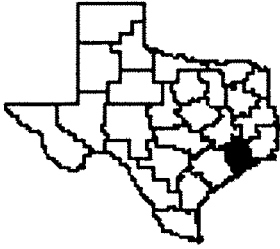
17 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO under my hand and seal of  
18 office on this the 15th day of November, 2010.

19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

Julie M. Silhan, Texas CSR 6507  
Expiration: 12/31/11  
Firm Registration No. 47  
7838 Hillmont  
Houston, Texas 77040  
713/647-5100

## **WRITTEN COMMENTS**





PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM / FORMA PARA COMENTARIOS  
November 9, 2010 / El 9 de Noviembre de 2010

Loop 494  
Kingwood

Harris and Montgomery Counties, Texas / Condado de Harris y Montgomery, Texas  
CSJ Nos. 0177-14-010 & 0177-15-003

Welcome to TxDOT's Public Hearing for the proposed Loop 494 improvement project. The purpose of this hearing is to present the proposed design and results of the environmental studies for improvements to Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road. The project involves widening and improving the existing 1.7-mile facility from a two-lane roadway to an urban, four-lane divided highway. The hearing is being held in a formal presentation format. Please provide any comments and/or suggestions you may have regarding the proposed project and return to the Director of Project Development, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas, 77251-1386, at any time on or before November 24, 2010. Comments may also be e-mailed to the following address: [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov).

Bienvenidos a la audiencia pública de el Departamento de Transportación de Texas (TxDOT) para la proposición de las mejoras al Loop 494. La razón de esta audiencia es para discutir las mejoras al Loop 494 de Kingwood Drive a Sorters-McClellan Road. El proyecto implica el ensanchamiento y mejoramiento de la carretera de 1.7 millas, de una carretera de dos vías de ancho a una carretera urbana de cuatro vías divididas. La audiencia va a ser en formato de presentación formal. Por favor sometan comentarios y/o sugerencias que tengan sobre el proyecto propuesto a: Director of Project Development, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386, en o antes de el 24 de Noviembre de 2010. Comentarios también pueden ser sometidos por correo electrónico (e-mail) a: [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov).

1. How did you hear about this meeting? / ¿Como se informo de esta junta?

Newspaper / Periódico       Told by Friend or Neighbor / Amigo o Vecino       Received Notice in Mail / Aviso por Correo  
 Other (please explain) / Otro modo (explique): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Please provide any comments about the recommended alternative presented tonight. / Por favor proporcione comentarios que usted pueda tener con respecto a la alternativa recomendada presentado esta noche.

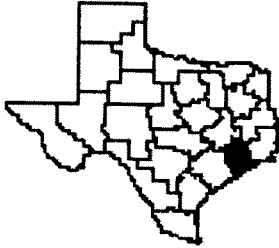
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Continue comments on the back of this form.) / (Siga con comentarios atras de esta forma.)

3. Do you want to be included on the mailing list for future meetings regarding this proposed project? / ¿Quiere usted ser incluido en la lista de envío para recibir avisos de juntas futuras para este proyecto propuesto?

Name / Nombre: GEORGE WILKERSON

Address / Dirección: 19001 CRESCENT SPRINGS DR      City / Ciudad: KINGWOOD, TX      Zip Code / Código Postal: 77356



Welcome to TxDOT's Public Hearing for the proposed Loop 494 improvement project. The purpose of this hearing is to present the proposed design and results of the environmental studies for improvements to Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road. The project involves widening and improving the existing 1.7-mile facility from a two-lane roadway to an urban, four-lane divided highway. The hearing is being held in a formal presentation format. Please provide any comments and/or suggestions you may have regarding the proposed project and return to the Director of Project Development, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas, 77251-1386, at any time on or before November 24, 2010. Comments may also be e-mailed to the following address: [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov).

Bienvenidos a la audiencia pública de el Departamento de Transportación de Texas (TxDOT) para la proposición de las mejoras al Loop 494. La razón de esta audiencia es para discutir las mejoras al Loop 494 de Kingwood Drive a Sorters-McClellan Road. El proyecto implica el ensanchamiento y mejoramiento de la carretera de 1.7 millas, de una carretera de dos vías de ancho a una carretera urbana de cuatro vías divididas. La audiencia va a ser en formato de presentación formal. Por favor sometan comentarios y/o sugerencias que tengan sobre el proyecto propuesto a: Director of Project Development, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386, en o antes de el 24 de Noviembre de 2010. Comentarios también pueden ser sometidos por correo electrónico (e-mail) a: [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov).

1. How did you hear about this meeting? / ¿Como se informo de esta junta?

Newspaper / Periódico       Told by Friend or Neighbor / Amigo o Vecino       Received Notice in Mail / Aviso por Correo  
 Other (please explain) / Otro modo (explique): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Please provide any comments about the recommended alternative presented tonight. / Por favor proporcione comentarios que usted pueda tener con respecto a la alternativa recomendada presentado esta noche.

THE PROPOSED SIDEWALK ON THE WEST SIDE OF 494 IS UNNECESSARY AND DANGEROUS. THE BUSINESSES ALONG THE ROAD ARE NOT THE TYPE OF BUSINESS ONE WOULD WALK TO AND FROM. NO ADDITIONAL LIGHTING WOULD PUT RIDERS AND WALKERS AT RISK DUE TO THE FACT THAT SOME BUSINESSES ARE OPEN AFTER DARK, PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC SHOULD NOT BE ENCOURAGED

(Continue comments on the back of this form.) / (Siga con comentarios atras de esta forma.)

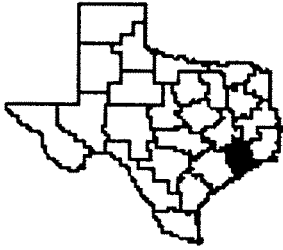
3. Do you want to be included on the mailing list for future meetings regarding this proposed project? / ¿Quiere usted ser incluido en la lista de envío para recibir avisos de juntas futuras para este proyecto propuesto?

Name / Nombre: JEFF WILKINS

Address / Dirección: 29803 LOOP 494

City / Ciudad: KINGWOOD

Zip Code / Código Postal: 77339



Welcome to TxDOT's Public Hearing for the proposed Loop 494 improvement project. The purpose of this hearing is to present the proposed design and results of the environmental studies for improvements to Loop 494 from Kingwood Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road. The project involves widening and improving the existing 1.7-mile facility from a two-lane roadway to an urban, four-lane divided highway. The hearing is being held in a formal presentation format. Please provide any comments and/or suggestions you may have regarding the proposed project and return to the Director of Project Development, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas, 77251-1386, at any time on or before November 24, 2010. Comments may also be e-mailed to the following address: [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov).

Bienvenidos a la audiencia pública de el Departamento de Transportación de Texas (TxDOT) para la proposición de las mejoras al Loop 494. La razón de esta audiencia es para discutir las mejoras al Loop 494 de Kingwood Drive a Sorters-McClellan Road. El proyecto implica el ensanchamiento y mejoramiento de la carretera de 1.7 millas, de una carretera de dos vías de ancho a una carretera urbana de cuatro vías divididas. La audiencia va a ser en formato de presentación formal. Por favor sometan comentarios y/o sugerencias que tengan sobre el proyecto propuesto a: Director of Project Development, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386, en o antes de el 24 de Noviembre de 2010. Comentarios también pueden ser sometidos por correo electrónico (e-mail) a: [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov).

1. How did you hear about this meeting? / ¿Como se informo de esta junta?

Newspaper / Periódico       Told by Friend or Neighbor / Amigo o Vecino       Received Notice in Mail / Aviso por Correo  
 Other (please explain) / Otro modo (explique): attended meeting @ My church 2xcl

2. Please provide any comments about the recommended alternative presented tonight. / Por favor proporcione comentarios que usted pueda tener con respecto a la alternativa recomendada presentado esta noche.

I am against this expansion because it will cause more accidents, drivers will drive faster and will invite even more traffic to come to the area in hopes of a quicker route

(Continue comments on the back of this form.) / (Siga con comentarios atras de esta forma.)

3. Do you want to be included on the mailing list for future meetings regarding this proposed project? / ¿Quiere usted ser incluido en la lista de envío para recibir avisos de juntas futuras para este proyecto propuesto?

Name / Nombre: Marie Durcan

Address / Dirección: 6027 Timber Oaks Rd      City / Ciudad: Humble      Zip Code / Código Postal: 77346

---

**From:** DAVID & NATALIE CARNES [ncdc@embarqmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 17, 2010 8:01 AM  
**To:** hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov  
**Subject:** Loop 494

I say NO in widening why would you widening loop 494 if you have no money that is what is wrong with America buy now and pay later, Look at what the money problems are in America. Buy on credit, Give me a break, Why buy a new T.V. if the old one is not broken, Why buy a new care if the old one is still running, I guess we need to vote some more people into office and out a stop to the goverment over spending taking more tax money for stupid stuff like this. I vote NO,

Thanks  
Natalie Carnes  
A tax payer

## **COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

## **Proposed Loop 494 Project Public Hearing**

**4 written and 3 verbal comments were received from attendees or concerned parties at the hearing**

### **Written and Verbal Comment Summary**

The list of issues and associated numbers of comments below represents the majority of the written comments received. Most comments have been paraphrased for this summary. Multiple comments regarding identical or closely-related issues have been combined and the number of comments received regarding each issue follows in parenthesis. Comment forms received during the public comment period for this project are included in this section behind the summary.

#### **Comment Issues and Responses**

- Proposed sidewalk on west side of project is unnecessary, no additional lighting would put walkers at risk; pedestrian traffic should not be encouraged.  
*Section 217 of Title 23 of the U.S. Code calls for the integration of bicycling and walking into the transportation mainstream. Sidewalks would complement the roadway improvements by providing an alternative to motorized roadway.*
- Project will cause more accidents due to increased traffic.  
*Traffic would continue to increase due to growth of the area with or without the proposed project. A comparison of the National Highway Transit Safety Administration (NHTSA) data of the number of statewide accident fatalities for two-lane undivided roadways versus four-lane divide facilities from 1994 to 2001 shows that four-lane divided facilities had 94.5% less fatal accidents than two-lane undivided facilities.*
- Raised medians make little sense and will cause more accidents, turn storage areas are not large enough.  
*A comparison of the National Highway Transit Safety Administration (NHTSA) data of the number of statewide accident fatalities for two-lane undivided roadways versus four-lane divide facilities from 1994 to 2001 shows that four-lane divided facilities had 94.5% less fatal accidents than two-lane undivided facilities.  
Turn Storage was designed according to TxDOT Roadway manual. U-turns can be accomplished by regular size cars and SUVs, however big trucks and 18-wheeleers will not be able to make a U-turn. This is the case for all 4-lane boulevard sections. There are alternative routes in the area that will allow this type of vehicle to access its destination.*
- Increased traffic from the proposed project will cause accidents at the Hamblen Road intersection; which is already a dangerous intersection.  
*The Hamblen Road intersection is not within the project limits. This intersection is continuing to be evaluated.*

- Proposed project would increase traffic in the area.  
*Traffic volumes would increase due to growth of the area with or without the project. A 33% increase in traffic is expected from 2013 to 2035. The proposed project would improve traffic movements (operational efficiency) and safety for the additional traffic.*
- Widening the road is not needed under the current economic situation. There is only room for commercial expansion on one side of Loop 494 due to the railroad. People can move over one block to US 59 feeder road or to US 59.  
*The construction of this project would not be initiated until construction funding become available.*  
*Commercial expansion is not a purpose of the proposed project.*  
*Due to the anticipated increase in traffic, level of service and operational efficiency would decrease without construction of the proposed project.*
- I say No to the widening of Loop 494. Why would you widen Loop 494 if no funding is available?  
*The construction of this project would not be initiated until funding becomes available.*