What is a PEL Study?
The Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) process represents an approach to transportation decision making that considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the planning stage and carries them through project development, design and construction. A PEL study can lead to a seamless decision-making process that accomplishes the following:

- Minimizes duplication of effort
- Promotes efficient and cost-effective solutions and environmental stewardship
- Reduces delays in project implementation

In all PEL studies, the goal is to gather information and input during planning to inform the future environmental review process, and ultimately meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

Why is TxDOT preparing a PEL?
Conducting a PEL study provides multiple benefits to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), local agencies, resource agencies and other project stakeholders. PEL studies can help inform planning decisions, streamline the project delivery process for NEPA, and be a platform for stakeholders to discuss and prioritize transportation issues and project implementation. Benefits of a PEL study may include the following:

- Developing a purpose and need statement
- Engaging stakeholders
- Building collaborative relationships with resource agencies
- Identifying key environmental resource constraints

Who can I contact?
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PEL Process

**PHASE 1**
Spring 2017 - Summer 2018

- Conduct Data Collection
- Analyze Existing Conditions
- Determine Corridor Issues and Concerns
- Identify Vision for the Corridor with Community Input

**PHASE 2**
Fall 2018 - Summer 2020

- Develop & Screen Conceptual Ideas & Alternatives that Support the Corridor Vision
- Consider Viable Alternatives
- Present PEL Findings

**On-going Agency and Stakeholder Involvement**
I-45N Study Area

Legend
- Study Area
- Study Corridor
- Airport
- County Boundary
- City
- Houston & Conroe
- Park/Public Land
- Water
- Highway
- Primary Road
- Railroad

I-45N PEL Study Area

* STUDY LIMITS:
  Beltway 8 to Loop 336 South
* PROJECT LENGTH:
  24 Miles
* COUNTIES:
  Harris, Montgomery
* CITIES:
  Houston, Woodlands, Oak Ridge North, Shenandoah, Conroe

Notice
This map was produced for internal use within the Texas Department of Transportation. Accuracy is limited to the validity of available data as of December 31, 2015.

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