

SH 146 Subregional Plan

Background

State Highway 146 (SH 146) is an important regional corridor which serves as a major north-south thoroughfare, freight corridor and hurricane evacuation route. In order to coordinate transportation planning, elected officials asked the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) to establish a partnership with Baytown, Mont Belvieu and Texas Department of Public Transportation (TXDOT) to collectively examine current and future mobility needs.

The purpose of the SH 146 Subregional Plan was to perform a sub-regional mobility study that would result in actionable recommendations to improve mobility and access to jobs, homes, and services in the study area (Figure 1). The study analyzed current and future conditions along SH 146 and 19 intersections within the study area. Existing traffic bottlenecks and roadway facilities with high congestion levels and/or potentially unsafe conditions were identified.

Improvements to the transportation network were identified based on both existing and anticipated future traffic demand in the study area. Proposed recommendations include operational strategies, construction projects, intersection improvements and policy changes. The recommendations have been broken down into short-term (0-5 Years) and long-range (5+ years) projects and consisted of the following general types of transportation improvement projects:

SHORT-RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

- Raised medians
- Channelized left-turn bays
- Driveway consolidated
- Road closures
- Traffic signal improvements
- Signal synchronization
- Left and right turn lanes

LONG-RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

- Major driveway modifications
- Grade separations
- New roadways
- Street improvements requiring right-of-way
- Sidewalks
- Railroad overpasses

Implementation of the recommended improvements is projected to enhancing traffic operations, reduce the number of crashes, improving the air quality, improve transit services for the elderly and disabled, and improve bike and pedestrian facilities throughout the study area.

The estimated cost for the plan is \$685-810 Million (\$15-20M for short term projects, \$670-790M for long term projects)

Current Situation

The study was completed in March 2018. The cities of Baytown and Mont Belvieu both accepted the plan in June.