

## REVIEW OF DRAFT CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM

### **Background**

Periodically FHWA, TxDOT and MPOs conduct a review of the region's highways and intermodal connectors designated on the National Highway System (NHS). The NHS is a network of critical principal arterials and highways that links major airports, ports, public transportation facilities, rail/truck intermodal terminals, and major population centers, and serves interstate and interregional travel.

Highways must meet the federal criteria to be designated on the NHS.

- Serves major activity centers
- Serves long-distance travel and connects multiple regions
- Provides mobility across a region
- Avoids residential areas and provides limited access to surrounding land uses
- Directly links interstate highways, freeways and expressways
- Must be a principal arterial or higher roadway classification

Intermodal connectors provide the last-mile access from the main NHS to major intermodal facilities, such as commercial airports, port terminals, truck/rail/pipeline facilities, public transit stations, park & ride locations and ferry terminals. Intermodal connectors must meet the federal criteria to be designated on the NHS.

- A specified volume of traffic must be generated according to the type of intermodal facility
- The connector must be the principal connecting route between the facility and the main NHS route

Why is the NHS review important?

- The review brings focus on the transportation system with the largest impact on the movement of people and goods.
- Highways on the NHS are eligible for the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funding which makes up over half of the Texas-apportioned federal funds.
- Corridor projects on the NHS are modeled for air quality conformity.
- National Performance Measures must be calculated for the entire NHS related to safety, pavement, bridges and travel time reliability.

### **NHS Review Procedures**

TxDOT is utilizing a web-based mapping tool that allows H-GAC and stakeholders to review potential revisions to the NHS. The NHS mapping tool can be viewed at:

<http://txdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4d57bda2b1c3467987da70f646e8f2d5>

H-GAC received comments from the Technical Advisory Committee members through an initial deadline of May 14<sup>th</sup>. After reviewing the map on-line, email your comments to [publiccomments@h-gac.com](mailto:publiccomments@h-gac.com). Please do not submit comments directly through the on-line mapping tool. All comments will be compiled and submitted by H-GAC on behalf of the region. Additional background material about the process and methodology is available at: <https://h-gac.sharefile.com/d-s20be29b056640509>

### **Action Requested**

For information only.