**SH 146 AND 1H-10 IMPROVEMENTS**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe the primary problems to be addressed by the project (Project Need – 3000 characters max)

Currently, SH 146 at this location is a seven lane divided highway with a southbound dedicated right turn lane. The IH-10 westbound frontage road currently is three lanes with a left and U-turn lane available. The need for this project is demonstrated by the following:

Data available for this project show that it is has the most ADT in the Chambers/Liberty area. Demand exceeds or approaches capacity for both a.m. & p.m. daily commute periods. Hurricane and Emergency evacuation options are a concern. Congestion due to competing uses (i.e. local traffic use and through traffic use). Roadway design deficiencies. Predicted increases in truck traffic due to growth of nearby industrial facilities.

Describe the primary outcomes to be achieved by the project (Project Purpose – 3000 characters max)

By making these improvements, mobility and congestion will be improved as well as safety. This intersection is one of the heaviest used in the area, specifically, for industrial facilities located along both SH 146 and IH-10. These improvements will provide the mentioned benefits while minimizing adverse environmental effects.

Describe the proposed improvement/activity (Facility/Limits/Description) – 3000 characters max)

The SH 146 right turn lane will be an extension and widening of an existing concrete right turn lane from the intersection north approximately 700 feet. The IH-10 westbound feeder will be an extension of an existing concrete lane approximately 600 feet to the east. There is also median improvements to the northbound left turn lane as well as the median for the westbound frontage road. No sidewalks are proposed as part of this project. This project does not require additional right-of-way.

Describe any alternatives to the proposed improvement/activity which have been considered or will be evaluated. – 6000 characters max)

Other conceptual alternatives were considered including a no build alternative. The improvements outlined in this application represent the preferred alternative.

Describe the opportunities for staged construction of the project. – 3000 characters max)

This project will not be staged as the improvements are needed cunccurent with each other as to reduce the issues presented.

PROJECT REDINESS

Please describe the process for utility adjustments/relocations (entity responsible, financial responsibility, etc. – 2000 characters max)

Utilities have been identified. At this time, there are no significant problems or anticipated impacts to the project schedule with respect to utility adjustment other than TxDot facilities. Those are described as follows: There will be a traffic signal, pedestrian pole, and luminair that will need to be relocated as part of this project. An existing storm sewer will need to be extended as part of this project.

Please describe previous and upcoming public involvement activities related to the proposed project (2000 characters max)

Please provide any additional project development/readiness information relevant to the proposed project (6000 characters max)

SAFETY

Please provide additional description of project benefits. (6000 characters max)

By extending these lanes within the project scope, it will improve traffic safety by reducing possible rear end crashes.

CONGESTION

Please provide additional description of project benefits. (6000 characters max)

This project is located in a largely industrial/residential area and traverses the municipal jurisdictions of Baytown and Mont Belvieu. Commercial land use adjacent to the corridor is largely near the intersection of SH 146 and IH-10, north and south of the project site and includes restaurants, hotels, small retail centers, fueling stations and a Super WalMart which site is not fully built out. Residential development consisting of both single and multi-family housing is keeping pace with increased employment in the project area and surrounding areas specifically south and east of the project area, such as Baytown, Mont Belvieu, Cove and Beach City.

Traffic Volumes:

Truck Percentages:

Growth Trends:

Travel Patterns:

ASSET MANAGEMENT/OPERATIONS

Please provide additional description of the project benefits (6000 characters max)

Long term aspects come from this project. The life cycle will be improved derived from the physical preservation, congestion relief, safety and economic productivity to name a few.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

Please provide additional description of project benefits (6000 characters max)

The Petroleum industry has made substantial investments to existing and new refinery and gas facilities for the Mont Belvieu and Baytown areas. Also, the expansion of public and private barge terminals located along Cedar Bayou and the Houston Ship Channel.

NATURAL/CULTURAL RESOURCES

Please provide additional description of the project benefits (6000 characters max)

The Department's Modus Operandi related to the natural and cultural resources is: avoid, minimize, mitigate. This project/preferred alternative is not anticipated to result in:

Significant soils affected, substantial interuption of utility services, reduced community cohesion, Isolation of distinct areas or ethnic groups and all individual minority and low-income populations will be equally affected, Displaced businesses, Loss of jobs and a minimal amount of land will be removed from the tax base, Imapcts to historical structures, Impacts to parks, recreation areas, refuges, etc.

The No Build scenario will have a negative impact on the community as traffic will increase, causing more congestion, and a general deterioration of mobility. Conversely, this project will improve travel time and improve existing congestion.