Toll 49 Segment 6 EIS

Agency Scoping Meeting

August 27, 2025

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Deanne Simmons, P.E., Director of Engineering
North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA)

Today's Presenter

Jason Buntz, Operations Manager
Hicks & Company

Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Introductions
- Agency Roles and Responsibilities
- Environmental Impact Statement and NEPA Process
- Purpose of the Agency Scoping Meeting
- Project Overview
- Project History
- Schedule and NEPA Milestones
- Purpose and Need
- Preliminary Alternatives and Evaluation Methodology
- Environmental Constraints
- Project Development Process
- Questions and Comments
- Closing

Introductions

- NET RMA
  - Deanne Simmons, P.E., Director of Engineering
- Lochner (engineering consultant for NET RMA)
  - John Goodwin, P.E., Engineering Project Manager
  - Dennis Cooley, P.E., Program Manager
- Hicks & Company (environmental consultant for NET RMA)
  - Jason Buntz, Operations Manager
- TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division
  - Nellie Bennett, Project Delivery Manager

Agency Roles and Responsibilities

- NET RMA – Project Sponsor
  - Responsible for project development, engineering, public involvement, and NEPA documentation
- TxDOT – Lead Federal Agency
  - Responsible for NEPA review and approval delegated by FHWA
- Cooperating Agencies (4 accepted, 4 declined, 17 pending)
- Participating Agencies (9 accepted, 1 declined, 12 pending)

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- Analysis and evaluation of potentially significant impacts to the human and natural environment
- Follows the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA)
  - Recent changes to CEQ regulations
  - Upcoming changes to FHWA regulations

Review and Approval of Environmental Documentation

"The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated July 17, 2025, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT."

NEPA Process for an EIS

- Public and Agency Scoping
- Data collection and evaluation
- Alternatives Analysis
- Resource agency coordination
- Public involvement effort
- Documentation of environmental impacts
- Mitigation
- Record of Decision

Elements of the EIS will include...

Air Quality

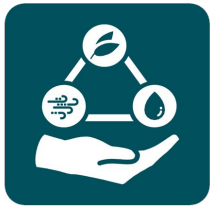
Traffic Noise

Hazardous Materials

Cultural Resources

Biological Resources

Land Use and Parkland



Ecological Resources

Water Quality & Water Resources

Social and Community Impacts

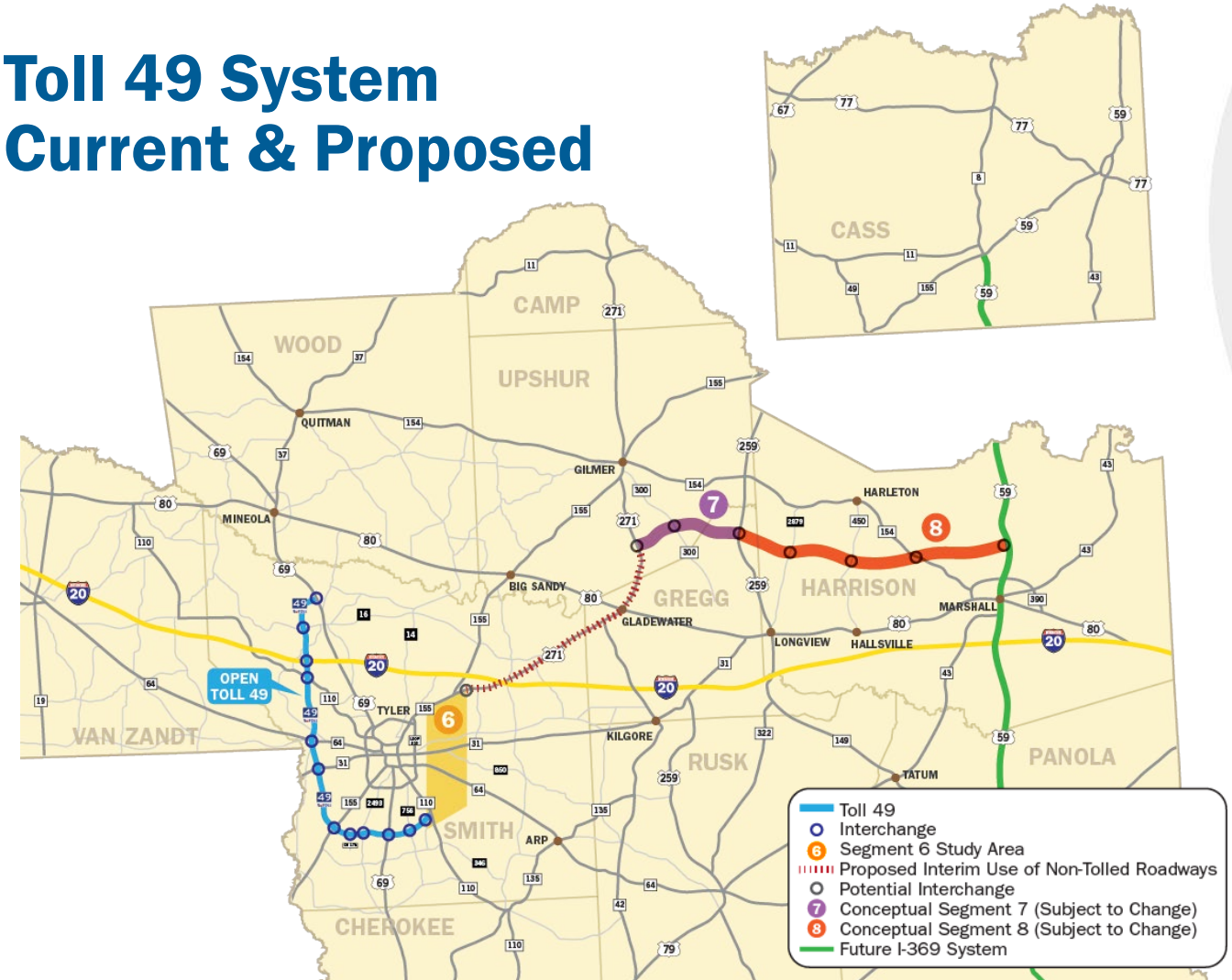
Purpose of This Meeting

To provide an opportunity to review, comment, and provide input on:

- Draft Purpose and Need Statement
- Draft Coordination Plan and schedule
- Preliminary alternatives and methodology for evaluation
- Review of environmental constraints
- Provide input on anticipated permits or other authorizations
- Provide input on significant issues that should be analyzed in depth in the EIS

Project webpage: https://www.netrma.org/projects/segment-6/

Toll 49 System
Current & Proposed



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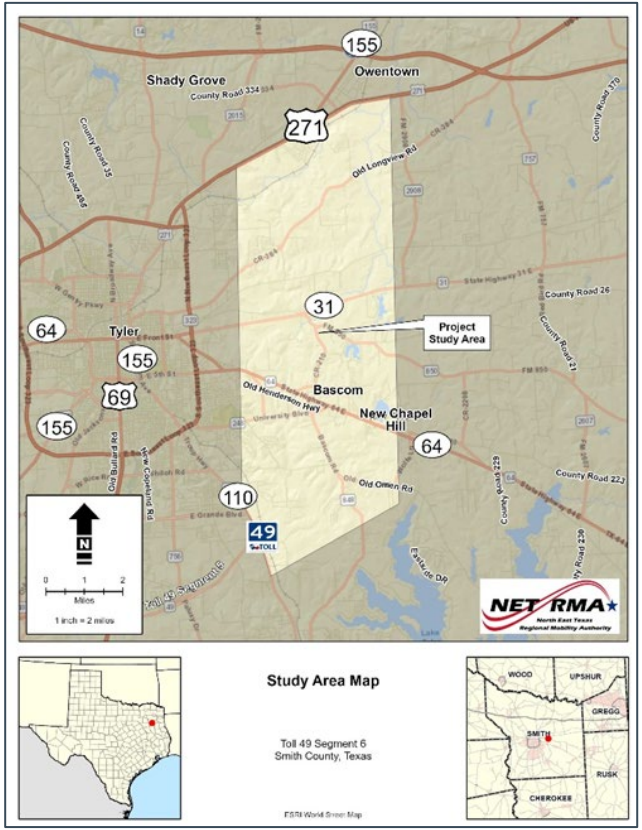
Project Overview

- Project Study Area: East of Tyler from SH 110 north to US 271
- Project Limits: from SH 110 to US 271
- Estimated project length is 10 to 14 miles



Project History

- 2018–2019 Public Workshops
- 2019 Feasibility Study
  - Informed by public involvement
  - Studied preliminary routes
  - Narrowed study area and set terminus at US 271
  - Identified preliminary routes to move forward
- 2020 Federal Register EIS Notice of Intent
- Covid 19 Pandemic delay
- 2025 Public and Agency Scoping (https://www.netrma.org/projects/segment-6/)

Access the May 6/May 8, 2025, Public Scoping Meeting Materials by clicking the hyperlink under the map.

Major NEPA Project Milestones

Milestone	Timeframe
NOI Published	March 2020
Draft Coordination Plan and Draft Purpose and Need	Spring 2025
Develop Range of Preliminary Alternatives	Spring–Fall 2025
Public Scoping Meetings	May 2025
Agency Scoping Meeting	August 2025
Stakeholder Meetings	2024 – Summer 2027
Screening of Preliminary Alternatives	Fall 2025
Public Meeting; present range of reasonable alternatives and the alternatives analysis	Mid 2026
DEIS	Winter 2025 – Spring 2028
NOA and DEIS Circulation	Early 2028
Public Hearing	Mid 2028
Final EIS Preparation	Early 2029
Combined Final EIS and Record of Decision	Mid 2029

Purpose & Need

*Why is the project **needed**?*

Traffic and population growth

- Current roadway network between SH 110 and US 271 northeast of Tyler is inadequate to meet current and future traffic volumes.
- Population growth in the region is contributing to increased congestion and longer travel times on roadways.
- The regional population of the four-county area (Gregg, Harrison, Smith, and Upshur): increased 22 percent over a 20-year period (2000–2020); predicted to grow to more than half a million people by 2060.
- Travel time in 2050 is projected to increase during AM and PM periods compared to existing conditions.

Purpose & Need

*What is the **purpose** of the project?*

- Relieve congestion
- Provide shorter travel times

(for regional and local traffic between SH 110 and US 271)

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Draft Purpose and Need

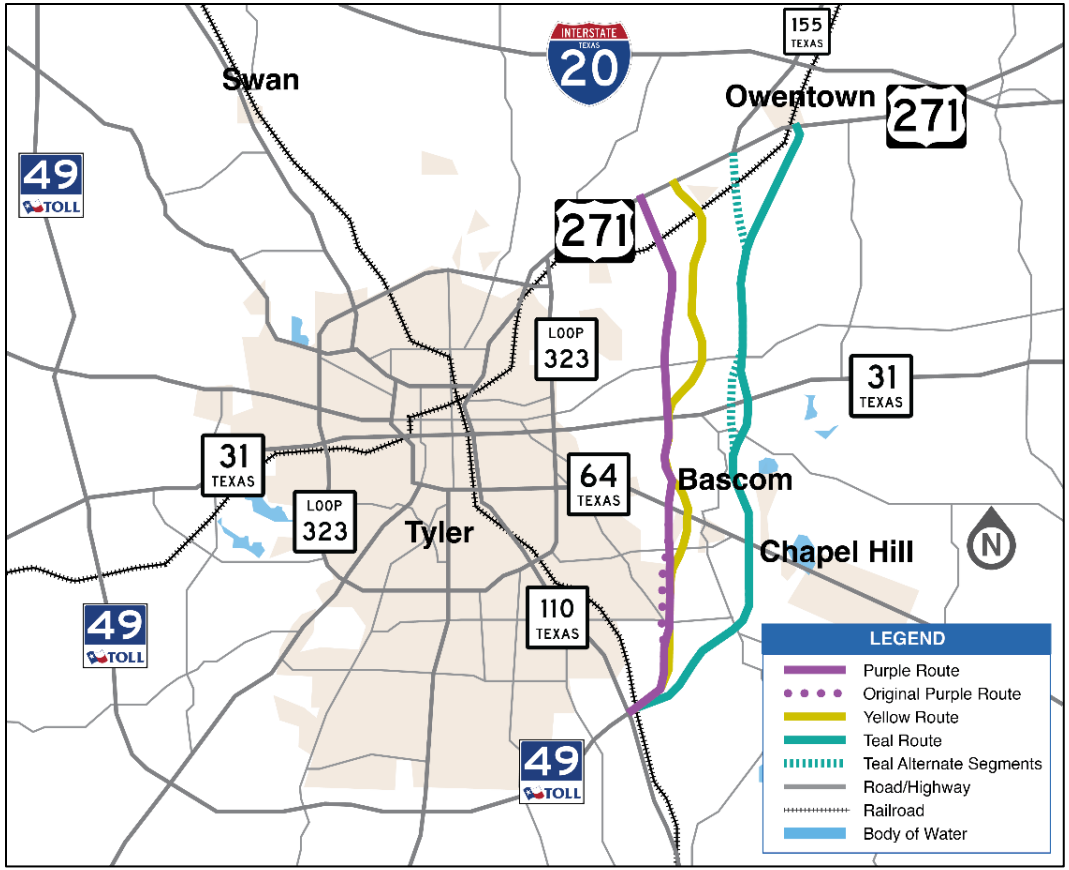
Environmental Impact Statement
Toll 49 Segment 6 from SH 110 to US 271

North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority

Date: May 2025
CSJ: 0910-00-129
County: Smith County

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

Proposed Route Options



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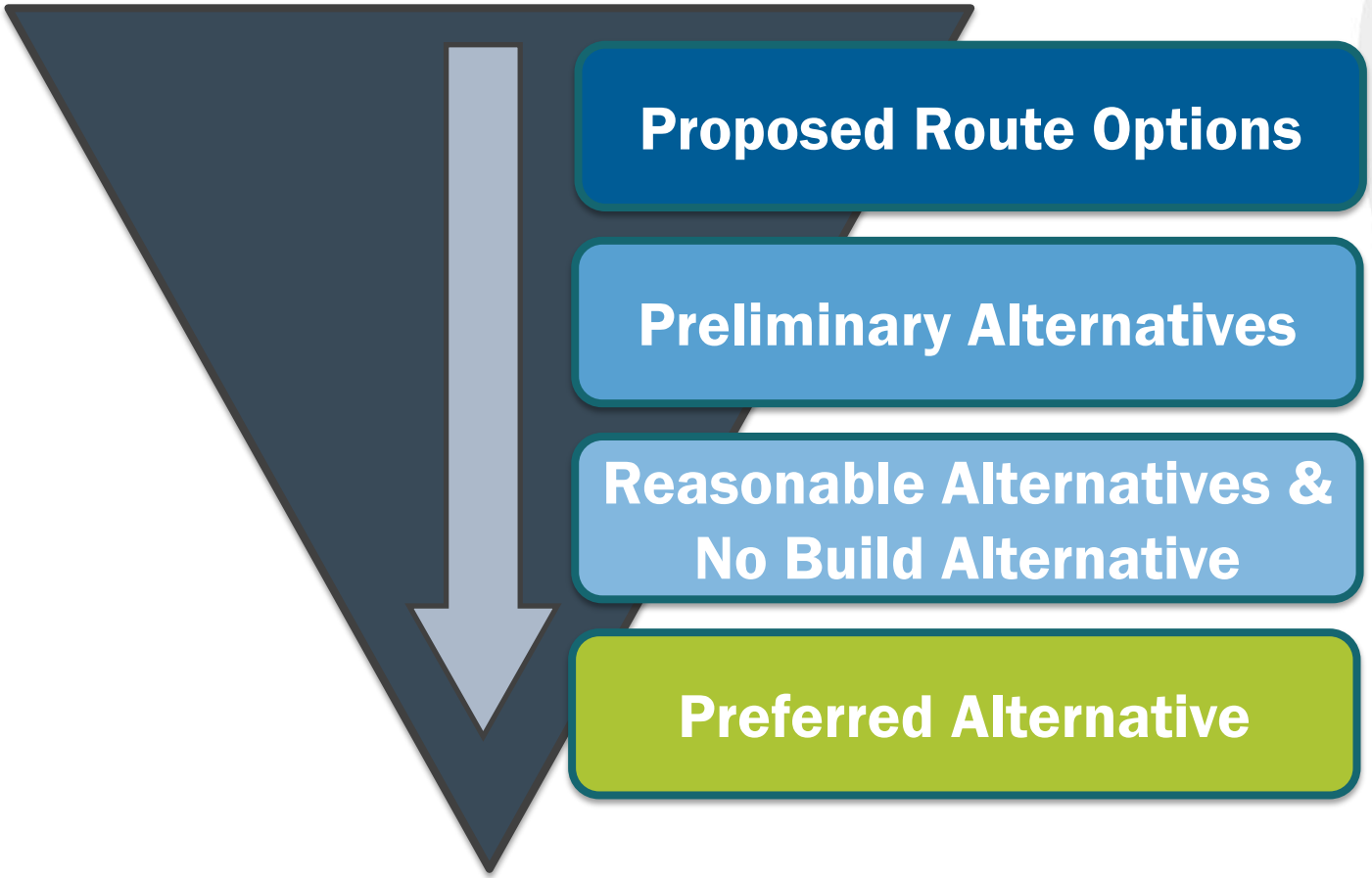
Alternative Evaluation Process



Proposed Alternatives Analysis Methodology–Purpose and Need

Criteria	Method of Analysis
Relieves congestion for regional and local traffic	Traffic analysis (Yes/No)
Provides shorter travel times for regional and local traffic	Traffic analysis (Yes/No)

Proposed Alternatives Analysis Methodology-Engineering

Criteria	Method of Analysis
Estimated Average Daily Traffic Volume	Number of Vehicles
Parcels Impacted	Number
Major Utility Conflicts	Number and type
Proposed ROW	Acres
Alternative Length	Miles
Bridge-type Hydraulic Structures	Number
Potential Floodplain Impacts	Acres of 100-year floodplain within alternative
Estimated Construction Cost	Dollars
Conflicts with Platted Developments	Low, Medium, High

Proposed Alternatives Analysis Methodology–Environmental

Land Use Impacts	Method of Analysis
Agricultural	Acres within alternative
Pasture	Acres within alternative
Prime Farmland Soils	Acres within alternative
Developed	Acres within alternative
Water Wells	Number within alternative
Oil & Gas Wells	Number within alternative
Displacements	**Method of Analysis**
Commercial	Number
Residential	Number
Other (place of worship, school, etc.)	Number

Proposed Alternatives Analysis Methodology–Environmental

	Method of Analysis
Community Impacts	Type and number within or adjacent to alternative; potential for proximity-related effects (Low, Medium, High)
Traffic Noise Impacts	Probability of traffic noise impacts based on land use activity areas/number of receptors (Low, Medium, High)
Air Quality Impacts	Based on projected traffic make-up and projected traffic volumes (Low, Medium, High)
Hazardous Materials	Type of site within or adjacent to Alternative (Low, Medium, High)
Visual/Aesthetic Impacts	Changes in visual character (Low, Medium, High)

Proposed Alternatives Analysis Methodology–Environmental

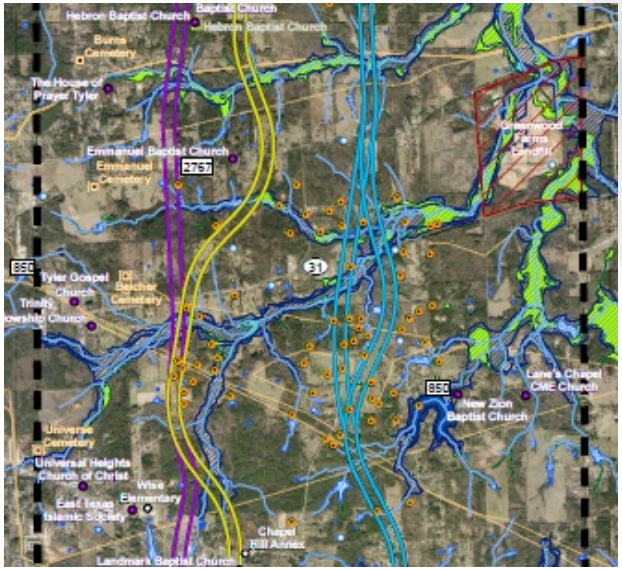
Threatened and Endangered Species (IPaC) Impacts	Method of Analysis
Critical Habitat	Yes/No
Listed Species	Potential for adverse effects (Low, Medium, High)
Waters of the U.S.	**Method of Analysis**
National Wetland Inventory (NWI)	Acres within alternative
National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)	Linear feet within alternative
NHD (Waterbodies)	Acres within alternative
Stream Crossings	Number
303(d) Listed Waters	Number and proximity to impaired stream segment (miles)

Proposed Alternatives Analysis Methodology–Environmental

	Method of Analysis
National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-Listed	Number
NRHP-Eligible	Number
Section 4(f) Properties	Yes/No, Number
Section 6(f) Properties	Yes/No, Number
Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code	Yes/No
Archeological Resources	Number, type, and acres of high potential
Historic Resources	Number within or adjacent
Cemeteries	Number within or adjacent

Environmental Constraints

- Wetlands and waters of the U.S.
- Communities and community resources
- Wildlife habitat and protected species
- Land use compatibility
- Cultural resources



Project Development Process

Dates subject to change

Questions and Comments

- Questions?
- Comments

Comments after the meeting can be emailed by September 18, 2025, to jbuntz@hicksenv.com

Closing

- Thank you!
- Contacts
  - NET RMA – 903.630.7894
  - Lochner – 903.581.7844
  - Hicks & Company – 512.478.0858
  - TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division– 512.416.3001