New Braunfels Outer Loop Task Force
Meeting #2 (May 18, 2009): Comment Cards Tally

A total of 6 Comment Cards were received.	**Strongly Agree**	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**Strongly Disagree**	**Not Applicable**
1.The objectives of this meeting were clearly articulated.		2			
2.The stated objectives for this meeting were met.		2			
3.I felt that my time was valued and utilized well.		1		1	
4.The speakers/presenters were well prepared and informative.		2			
5.I believe the topics were covered adequately in the time available.		1		1	

Comments:

- 1) I would like to know building of Toll Rd versus non toll road. 2) Funding difference for both types of roads. 3) How property owners process is handled. 4) Send me email w/answers. Email: nmkrueger78@yahoo.com

- Have public comments at the beginning of meetings.

- Why would TxDOT and/or RJ RIVERA Associates, Inc. tell me my house under construction could not be included on the map when Mark Maronye's (sp?) house was included even though it was also under construction?

- Generally good meeting. Can you really get municipality and county officials into a listening and receiving mode? How can you critique the entire concept of the loop as an answer rather than creating more problem? Citizens by and large view the concept as outmoded to smart transportation designs for the future, not the past.

- Public comments should be at the end of the meetings. 15 minutes may be too short. 3 minutes per person is only 5 public comments. Need to hear all comments.

  Did not get notification of this meetings.

  TxDOT needs to brief Guadalupe County Commissioners about this process and impact on Guadalupe County.

  Southern portion of Outer Loop is in Guadalupe County. Assign additional Task Force member from Guadalupe County property owners.

- Does Task Force Roster indicate the area(s) represented by each Task Force member? If not, can it? Finally, will the roster be made public?

  If I'm encouraged to get information from and provide input to my member of the Task Force, how will I know who that is and how to contact them?

New Braunfels Outer Loop Task Force
Make-Up Meeting (May 14, 2009): Comment Cards Tally

A total of 2Comment Cards were received.	**Strongly Agree**	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**Strongly Disagree**	**Not Applicable**
1.The objectives of this meeting were clearly articulated.		1			
2.The stated objectives for this meeting were met.		1			
3.I felt that my time was valued and utilized well.		1	1		
4.The speakers/presenters were well prepared and informative.			1		
5.I believe the topics were covered adequately in the time available.		1			

Comments:

- When referencing the need for ads announcing upcoming Task Force Meetings in local newspaper there was an objection by TxDOT that it would be costly. I mentioned that this study was already had already cost $3.2 million dollars, as of last year. Linda Ximenes stated “so what is another 1 to 2 million dollars.” Not only do most people know that advertising in local newspapers would not cost in the millions of dollars, but this comment coming from the so called “neutral/independent” facilitator is not neutral. Further I think it should show Task Force members that there is an agenda set up by TxDOT and Linda Ximenes will carry it out.

  I appreciated that Jonathan Bean, of TxDOT, stated that, “that an EIS (Environmental Impact Study) would have to be done for a project of this size.” However, I see no evidence that TxDOT is now or ever has collected environmental data on this project. Another TxDOT project, Highway 281 Toll road project which is the same size or smaller did not have an EIS and is no in court because of .irregularities” with that study. Judy Friesenhahn, of TxDOT was the project manager for both the highway 281 project and the New Braunfels Outer Loop Study; she is no longer in that position because of “irregularities” in both of these projects. So if past performance is any indication of our current situation, then I have very little faith in TxDOT.

  I appreciate Jonathan Bean agreeing that “TxDOT would change the route of the N.B. Outer Loop, if there was a consensus to do so.” Instead of the Task Force recommendations being relegated to a foot note of recommendation at the back of the study submitted to the City of New Braunfels/Comal County.

  I would like to know what certifies R.J. RIVERA as an expert in NEPA guidelines, as stated in this meeting. Would NEPA agree. I think back to his comments made at the Orientation Meeting where he states that farms/ranches were not being cut in half by their loop. However, any one who looks at the loop can see that farms/ranches are being split in two by this outer loop. So now I have to question his expertise on any subject. I also do not like how he side steps questions preferring to change the subject or give answers with no objective evidence to back him up.

- 1) How were task force members selected and by whom?

  2) How many reside in Comal County? How many reside in Guadalupe County?

  3) How can we serve as a liaison to our constituencies when our constituencies are not being informed, by media available, as to when these public meetings are being held?

4) When the final Study Report is completed will the Task Force members be able to review it before it is presented to Council, Counties, Cities?

5) Will the Study Report be presented to Council, Counties and Cities at same time or one at a time?

New Braunfels Outer Loop Task Force
Meeting #1 (April 2, 2009): Comment Cards Tally

A total of 2 Comment Cards were received.	**Strongly Agree**	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**Strongly Disagree**	**Not Applicable**
1.The objectives of this meeting were clearly articulated.			2		
2.The stated objectives for this meeting were met.			2		
3.I felt that my time was valued and utilized well.			2		
4.The speakers/presenters were well prepared and informative.		1		1	
5.I believe the topics were covered adequately in the time available.			1	1	

Comments:

- I do not think that this meeting was clear in scope or information. I think the public, as well as many of the task force members were unclear as to their roles, the role of TxDOT/Linda Ximenes or the objectives of the task force.

  County Judge D. Scheel, once again misinformed the public by stating “Do not listen to a few disgruntled people “ and derail the process. Maybe he was referring to the 500 people who attended the Town Hall Meeting in April 2008 and spontaneously booed the TxDOT representative for stating that the “Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone signs were taken down because they were a road hazard.” Or the 100 people who spoke against the outer loop at that same meeting. Perhaps he was referring to the letter GEAA, or Greater Edwards Aquifer Authority, sent to the first meeting of the Task Force decrying a loop the size of San Antonio’s 410 loop should not be built over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone GEAA is made up of 65 member group, such as the Audobon Society, Sierra Club, etc. This is not a “few” people.

  Combined the Town Hall meeting and GEAA comprise over a thousand, if not thousands of disgruntled people.

  I found it interesting that just like the Town Hall meeting in April 2008, that not a single person from the public spoke for an outer loop. They all spoke against it!

  Mr. Mario Medina stated that goals of this study – 1) Identify/preserve the right-of-way. 2) Identify portions of the loop that could be constructed as stand alone projects. 3) Conform with NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) guidelines.

  I have seen no evidence of goals #2 or #3. It is not TxDOT is so driven to identify/preserve the right-of-way, that it has forgotten or elected to skip over these two very important goals of their own study? These two goals need to be identified now, during this current phase of the study, not allowed to be deferred to later in the hopes that they will be forgotten.

I also notice that Judge Scheel states that the County has been requesting an “alignment study”, but is reality the County of Comal has been requesting an “alignment and feasibility study.” TxDOT has elected not to perform a feasibility study, despite this request from the County. I have to assume the question, “Why is a feasibility study not being performed? What is TxDOT afraid of finding out?”

- The meetings should be longer.