

March 19, 2008

Donald E. Davis, P.E.  
District Engineer, Texas Division  
Federal Highway Administration  
Federal Building, Rm. 826  
300 East 8th Street  
Austin, TX 78701

Dianna Noble, P.E.  
Director, Environmental Affairs Division  
Texas Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 14428  
Austin, TX 78761

Dear Mr. Davis and Ms. Noble:

I am writing to request that your agencies grant a 45-day extension of the public comment period for the I-69/Trans-Texas Corridor-69 Tier One Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which is currently scheduled to end on today.

As you are aware, the proposed creation of Interstate 69/TTC-69 in east Texas has received a great deal of public attention. I understand that many of the public meetings held to discuss the DEIS have been well-attended. Many interested members of the public have raised serious concerns about the project's potential impacts on private property, businesses and agricultural lands.

On Friday, March 14, 2008, the Texas Farm Bureau (TXFB) publicly released a detailed legal analysis which expressed serious concerns about the conclusions in the DEIS. I believe that those affected by I-69/TTC-69 need more time to digest TXFB's report and submit comments. Specifically, I am very concerned about the DEIS's lack of analysis of alternative routes that rely on existing infrastructure wherever possible. I have long supported building I-69 in Texas, and it would be a shame for this opportunity to add needed interstate capacity succumb to the same mistakes that have plagued the planning process for TTC-35. I-69/TTC-69 should not rely on taking thousands of acres of private land through eminent domain, displacing families, and bisecting valuable farm land that is vital to the Texas economy.

The I-69/TTC-69 project is a tremendous undertaking and additional time to submit comments would not delay this project. In this spirit, I ask that you give the public 45 additional days, through May 5, 2008, to comment on the Tier One DEIS. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kay Bailey Hutchison