



Alliance for I-69 Texas

2015 Interstate Highway Progress Report



I-69 Now A Reality in Nine Counties

- Interstate 69 in Texas is being developed as a series of incremental upgrades to existing highways - US 59, US 77, US 281 and US 84. Efforts are underway to make SH 44 a system connector in South Texas.
- 205 miles of the Interstate 69 system route in Texas have now been designated as part of the national Interstate Highway System and signed with red, white and blue interstate shields. The following segments have been designated:
 - 11 Miles (US 59/I-69) - Houston inside Loop 610
 - 35 Miles (US 59/I-69) - Harris and Montgomery Counties
 - 28 Miles (US 59/I-69) - Harris and Fort Bend Counties
 - 7.8 Miles (US 77/I-69E) - Nueces County (1.6 miles awaiting final FHWA approval)
 - 3.5 Miles (US 59/I-369) - Texarkana south from I-30
 - 53.3 Miles (US 77/I-69E) - Raymondville to Rio Grande
 - 46.8 Miles (US 83/I-2 connector) - Harlingen to Palmview
 - 18 Miles (US 281/I-69C) - Edinburg to Pharr, Hidalgo County (4.5 miles awaiting final FHWA approval)
 - 1.4 Miles (US 59/I-69W) - Laredo, Webb County

More Interstate 69 On The Way

Additional miles of the I-69 route are already at or near interstate highway standard. Construction projects are underway or have been funded that will add more miles to the I-69 system over the next few years.

\$1.3 Billion in Funded Projects

Since 2010, TxDOT has dedicated more than \$1.33 billion to the I-69 funding program. Some of these projects are in initial route study or environmental review while others are in design, under construction or were recently completed. Others will be let to construction within a few years. More than a dozen upgrade projects are currently underway along the I-69 route. Many of these projects are focused on providing safety upgrades including elimination of busy crossovers and intersections.

The Alliance for I-69 Texas

Established in 1994, the Alliance for I-69 Texas has consistently been successful in advocating to advance the development of I-69 on a system route that stretches from Texarkana on the north to Houston and then south to Victoria, Corpus Christi and international border crossings in Webb, Cameron and Hidalgo Counties. The Alliance is a non-profit made up of local governments, economic development groups, port authorities and private sector associate members. More than one-third of the Texas population lives in 35 counties along the I-69 route.

Congress established I-69 as a high priority corridor in 1991 and it remains a federal priority. Local and state support for I-69 development is at an all-time high as the pace of tangible progress quickens. Milestone federal legislation supported by the Alliance and passed in 2012 removed a requirement that completed highway segments must be connected to an existing interstate highway before they could be added to the Interstate Highway System. The Alliance joined other transportation advocates in supporting voter approval of Proposition 1 in 2014. Funding for 12 projects on I-69 routes was included in 2015 Prop 1 allocations. These projects have a total cost of \$219.5 million and include a \$93 million project in Fort Bend County that will all but complete I-69 upgrades to the Wharton County line.



Don Redman - 2015

I-69 Alliance Federal 2015 Priorities

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

The Alliance has been actively working to advance I-69 at the federal level for two decades. The Alliance was instrumental in helping organize the eight-state Interstate 69 Congressional Caucus. Local leaders from states along the I-69 corridor have participated in I-69 DC Fly-Ins to emphasize the importance of making progress on this national corridor.

Alliance 2015 Federal Priorities:

In order to continue and accelerate the ongoing development of I-69 as a major freight corridor providing strategic intermodal connections, we urge Congress to enact a surface transportation reauthorization bill that:

- Is long-term to provide a level of certainty and an appropriate planning horizon.
- Provides increased funding for surface transportation. Ensure no reductions in the guaranteed rate of return and that the Equity Bonus program is renewed and that new funds return to each state at 100% rate of return.
- Protects the following gains made in MAP-21:
 - Signage provision to facilitate interstate designation of roadway sections at interstate standard but not connecting to an existing interstate
 - Environmental streamlining provisions
 - Reduction of funding categories in order to provide greater flexibility to states in how they allocate funding
- Protects and expands the innovative financing options in MAP-21:
 - Reauthorize TIFIA
 - Provide greater flexibility in the use of Private Activity Bonds
 - Ensure legislation does not limit P3s
 - Reauthorize Build America Bonds



- Reauthorize Transportation Development Credits Program
- Establish a flexible National Infrastructure Bank
- Advances the concept of a national freight plan to focus federal investment on projects like I-69 that will enhance intermodal freight movements. Include I-69 in the designation of the National Freight Network.
- Reauthorizes and funds the Projects of National and Regional Significance Program and promotes prioritization of multi-modal transportation projects, like I-69, that enhance the movement of freight.
- Designates SH 44 from Freer to Corpus Christi as future I-69.
- Allows flexibility in interstate designations in rural areas.
- Allows transition time for weight restrictions on highway upgrades to interstates and grandfather clauses where applicable.
- Encourages the use of rights-of-way on federally funded highways to accommodate broadband infrastructure in order to improve broadband connectivity for rural communities and improve broadband services in urban areas.

Alliance for I-69 Texas Board Members - 2015

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Alliance Secretary/Treasurer
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 Alan Johnson, Chairman, Port of Harlingen Authority
 Ramon Garcia, County Judge, Hidalgo County

Aurelio Guerra, County Judge, Willacy County
 Alex Meade, Mission Economic Development Corp.
 Tecló Garcia, City of McAllen
 Sergio Contreras, City of Pharr
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 Pete Saenz, Mayor of Laredo
 David Silva, County Judge, Bee County
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Ex-Officio Members

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* Executive Committee Member