

August 20, 2026

FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRESS – The Alliance is leading a national effort through the CAFI Coalition to secure dedicated federal funding for the completion of congressionally authorized Future Interstates like I-69. Congressional debate on a new 5-year surface transportation reauthorization bill is underway but moving slowly and an extension is likely before the Sept. 30 expiration of the current program. In a recent letter to Senate leaders, USDOT Secretary Sean Duffy called for a new program to accelerate completion of unbuilt, congressionally designated interstate corridors. We now have an opportunity to build on the Administration's stated priority and demonstrate broad support.



SUPPORT LETTERS - The Alliance is asking for letters of support to be sent to USDOT and Senate committee leaders. Show your support and encourage other entities such as chambers and EDCs to submit letters as well. Please download our sample letter ([LETTER TO DUFFY](#)) and then personalize for your organization. Email your final letter to Secretary Duffy (secretaryseanduffy@dot.gov) and to your congressional delegation. Also email a copy to the Alliance at gmyers@hslawmail.com so we can provide copies to key committee leaders.

LEGISLATURE AT WORK – State legislative committees are at work holding hearings on interim charges as members ready for the Regular Session starting in January. The Senate Transportation Committee will meet Aug. 25th at 10 a.m. in Austin with a focus on rail grade crossing safety and autonomous vehicles. The House Subcommittee on Transportation Funding, chaired by Rep. Terry Canales, will meet on Sept. 2nd at 9 a.m. at the Ortiz Center in Corpus Christi. During a House Transportation Committee hearing Aug. 17, Chairman Tom Craddick spoke in favor of individual



members of the Legislature having direct input on prioritizing funding for highway projects in their districts. During a Senate Finance Committee hearing on July 27, witnesses from across the state spoke about the need to address the state's growing highway funding gap. Comments from the Transportation Advocates of Texas included a specific recommendation that the state appoint an independent commission to evaluate transportation funding needs. It would be patterned after the 2030 Commission established in 2008. They produced two reports setting the stage for passage of Prop 1 and Prop 7 funding increases in 2014 and 2015.



I-69 IN HOUSTON – TxDOT has started the process of selecting a design-build contractor to rebuild the complex I-69 interchange with I-10 northeast of downtown Houston, a project currently estimated to cost about \$2.1 Billion. A contract is expected to be let in 2028 with construction completion in 2036. Known as Project 3C-2, the freeway expansion is one of a series of projects to that will upgrade I-69 through central Houston that includes rerouting a portion of I-45 through this intersection. This location is ranked #2 most congested in the state and work is being funded as a Texas Clear Lanes Project. By statute, TxDOT is authorized to award up to six design-build projects each biennium.

COMMISSION COMMENTS – Jennifer Shepard, Alliance executive director, spoke at the July Commission meeting, thanking the commissioners for the investments in I-69 that will be realized through the 2027 Unified Transportation Program (UTP). She pointed out that 2026 is the 35th anniversary of the congressional designation of I-69 as a national corridor and reminded them that there is a growing and compelling case for robust investment to complete I-69. She applauded TxDOT for its national leadership on transportation policy, particularly on the upcoming federal surface transportation bill. She promised the Alliance will continue to do our part to maximize both state and federal funding to build I-69 projects. The Commission will vote Aug. 26 on the UTP allocating \$95 Billion statewide over the next decade, a total that is slightly lower than last year's plan. The Alliance submitted comments for the record including urging TxDOT to continue to prioritize I-69 relief route construction funding. [See Comment Letter.](#)

❑ **GRAND PARKWAY LINKAGE** – Under a new agreement with Fort Bend County, TxDOT will now take on the task of building a major new segment of the SH 99 Grand Parkway connecting to I-69 in Sugar Land. The 26-mile segment of the 180-mile toll loop is known as C-1 and C-2 and will run south from I-69 to connect with SH 288. This is expected to be a large design-build project with a targeted completion in 2032.

❑ **EARLY SPONSORS FOR ANNUAL MEETING** – The Alliance is seeking early sponsors for this year's Alliance Annual Meeting and Luncheon on December 4th in Houston. TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams will be our keynote speaker. Mark your calendar and watch for more information. To be an early-bird sponsor, please contact Jennifer Shepard. Jennifer@jgshepard.com

❑ **MORE I-69 CORRIDOR ECONOMIC MILESTONES** – Interstate 69 East provides critically important freight access to upcoming additions to the growing coastal industrial complex in Cameron County. At the Port of Brownsville construction will start soon on the *Saronic Technologies* military shipbuilding facility that could create up to 10,000 jobs. Phase 1 of *Rio Grande LNG's* \$31 billion export facility, under construction since 2023, is expected to go into production in 2027. Plans for new port-related projects have been announced by *Texas LNG* and by *America First Refining*. At Starbase, *SpaceX* continues to expand rocket assembly and launch facilities.

❑ **NEW BOARD MEMBER** – Chris Bentley, who recently was sworn in as Nacogdoches County Judge, is the newest member of the Alliance Board of Directors. Bentley retired as a U.S. Army Major General after a 35 year military career.

❑ **FREIGHT PLAN WORKSHOPS** – The Freight Advisory Committee will be meeting in Laredo on Tuesday, September 1st, to continue working on the updated freight plan that must be finished this year. That same day TxDOT will hold the first of a series of freight stakeholder workshops. To register to participate please email: dassi.farideh@txdot.gov

Laredo	Sept. 1st, 1:30-3:30 pm
San Antonio	Sept. 15th, 10 am-Noon
Fort Worth	Sept. 16th, 9-11 am
Tyler	Sept. 17th, 9-11 am
Baytown	Sept. 22nd, 9-11 am
Lubbock	Sept. 23rd, 9-11 am
Brownsville	Sept. 24th, 9-11 am

IBC Bank Annex
Northeast Service Center
UTA Fort Worth Center
W.T. Brookshire Conference Center
Hyatt Regency Baytown
Lubbock County Government Building
Brownsville Public Library Main Branch



Membership Opportunity

The Alliance is a membership-based organization. We are able to support the significant advancements on I-69 due to the financial support of members. We invite companies to participate in this effort as Alliance associate members. Please consider joining. Scan this QR code for more membership information.

GET MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.i69texasalliance.com/NewsUpdates/AssociateMembersWelcome.html>



Alliance for I-69 Texas

Alliance Contacts: Jennifer Shepard, Alliance Executive Director & State Representative - (703) 963-3822; Jennifer@jgshepard.com
Larry Meyers, Washington Representative - (202) 223-8881; LMeyers@hslawmail.com
Don Rodman - State Adviser & Communications - (361) 877-0409; don@therodmanco.com
Judge Sydney Murphy, Alliance Board Chairman - (936) 327-6813; smurphy@co.polk.tx.us
101 N. Shoreline, Suite 500, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

www.i69TexasAlliance.com

August 2026