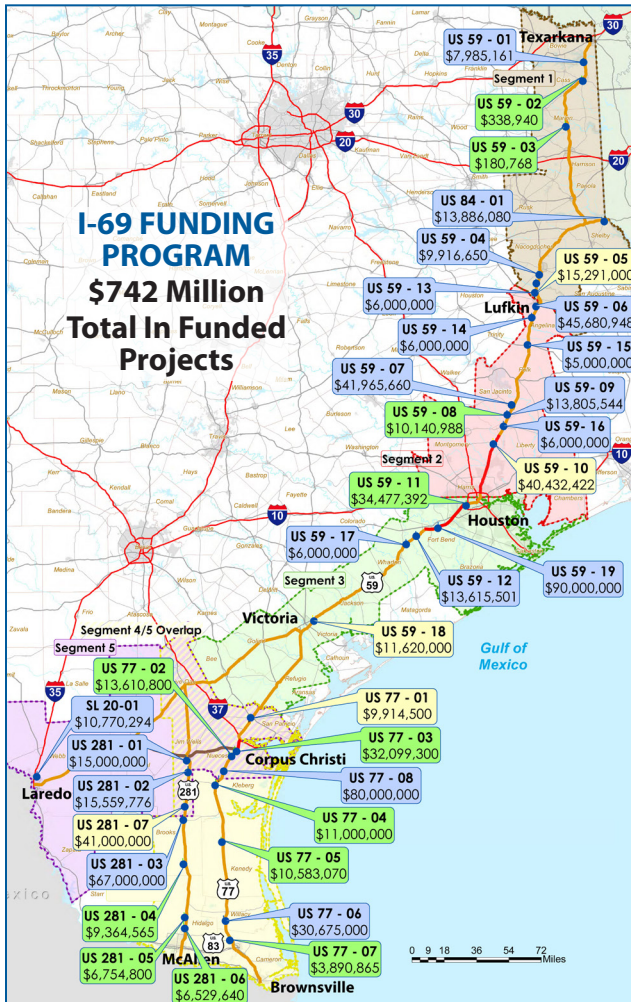




Alliance for I-69 Texas

Interstate Highway Progress Report



I-69 Now A Reality in Four Texas Counties

- Interstate 69 in Texas is being developed as a series of incremental upgrades to existing highways - US 59, US 77, US 281, US 84 (Shelby County) and Loop 20 (Webb County).
- Seventy miles of the Interstate 69 route in Texas have now been designated as part of the national Interstate Highway System and signed with new I-69 shields.
- The first designated section is 6.2 miles running concurrently with US 77 on the western edge of Corpus Christi in Nueces County.
- The second section covers 35 miles of the US 59/Eastex Freeway from Loop 610 North in Harris County through Kingwood and on north across Montgomery County to the Liberty County Line.
- The third section covers 28.4 miles in Harris and Fort Bend Counties stretching from the south side of Rosenberg to Loop 610 in southwest Houston, all part of the US 59/Southwest Freeway.

More Interstate 69 On The Way

- More than 150 additional miles of the I-69 route are already at or near interstate highway standard. This includes parts of US 59 in Texarkana, US 77 in Cameron and Willacy Counties, US 281 in Hidalgo County and US 59 inside Houston's Loop 610. These sections are currently the subject of TxDOT and Federal Highway Administration engineering reviews in preparation for interstate designation.
- By the end of 2013 the final 11 miles of US 59 in Houston and five miles of US 59 in Texarkana are expected to be added to I-69.
- A total of 111 miles of Lower Rio Grande Valley freeway are expected to be added to the Interstate Highway System at the same time later this year. This includes 27 miles of US 77, 13 miles of US 281 and 46 miles of US 83 from Harlingen to west of Mission. The Alliance for I-69 Texas has consistently supported bringing US 83 in as an important part of the I-69 system.
- Altogether anticipated designations are expected to bring the I-69 system total in Texas to 197 miles by the end of 2013.

\$742 Million in Funded Projects

In the past few years TxDOT has dedicated a total of \$742 million to I-69 projects. Some of them are under construction or recently completed while others will be let to construction within a few years. A dozen upgrade projects are currently underway along the I-69 route. Many of these projects are focused on providing safety upgrades with new overpasses, elimination of cross-overs and limiting access.

The Alliance for I-69 Texas

Established in 1994, the Alliance for I-69 Texas has consistently been successful in working with officials to secure funding and legislation to advance the development of I-69. The Alliance is a non-profit made up of local governments, economic development groups, port authorities and private sector associate members.

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. State legislation supported by the Alliance has also facilitated I-69 development.



Getting I-69 Projects Built

I-69 will provide the freight corridor needed to link border ports of entry with seaports and inland commercial centers. I-69 will provide connectivity between Texas communities and will help mitigate congestion and safety issues arising from the dramatic surge in freight traffic.

The Alliance for I-69 Texas supports development of a new highway authorization bill that preserves and enhances elements of MAP-21 that will continue the completion of I-69 as a major freight corridor.

Transportation Authorization Bill

The Alliance urges that the Surface Transportation Authorization include provisions to:

1. Protect the environmental streamlining provisions of MAP-21
2. Protect the reduction of funding categories in order to provide greater flexibility to states in how they allocate funding
3. Protect and expand the innovative financing authorities
4. Provide a long term bill (5 years)
5. Advance the concept of a national freight plan to focus federal investment on projects like I-69 that will enhance freight movements not only on the roadway, but through intermodal connections.

The Alliance will continue working with FHWA and TxDOT to review and designate additional sections of the I-69 route in Texas that are already at or soon will be at interstate highway standard.

Building I-69 through a series of incremental projects will take years. That will happen in a reasonable time horizon only if federal and state leaders put in place a more reliable and sustainable means of financing highway infrastructure. The Alliance for I-69 Texas supports action that results in new revenues to fund growing highway construction needs, particularly on corridors with rapidly expanding freight traffic.

WRDA Reauthorization

The Alliance, recognizing the essential role played by Texas seaports, supports the reauthorization and adequate funding of the Water Resources Development Act.



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