



## CITY OF MARSHALL

### COMMISSION AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET:

**MEETING DATE:** November 12, 2015

**PROJECT:** Consider and respond to an updated report on the status of I-69 in Texas and I-369 in Harrison County – requested by Mayor Eric Neal. (Public Services Director)

**DESCRIPTION:**

This report is a follow up to our previous report to the City Commission on September 10, 2015.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Alliance for I-69 Texas, continue to work toward the construction of Interstate 69 from Brownsville, northeastward through Houston, and northward to Texarkana.

A local I-369 initiative, chaired by County Judge Hugh Taylor, is also working to move our local segment of the I-69 corridor forward (signed as I-369), which runs from Carthage, northward along the existing Highway 59 corridor, through Marshall and Atlanta, to a terminus with I-30 in Texarkana. A local Harrison County Work Study Group met throughout 2014 to develop a specific set of goals and recommended routing for Interstate 369. The committee recommendation included a preferred routing of I-369 around the east side of Marshall through an extension of Loop 390 southward from Highway 80 to I-20 and eventually to Highway 59 south of Marshall.

Detailed information is also available at the following web links:

[www.txdot.gov/drivenbytexas/us59-harrison.htm](http://www.txdot.gov/drivenbytexas/us59-harrison.htm)

[www.i69texasalliance.com](http://www.i69texasalliance.com)

**UPDATE:** Part of the first hurdle, extension of Loop 390, should see some movement soon according to County Judge Hugh Taylor. He expects to hear soon, that funding approval will be announced soon for the “environmental” portion of a segment extension of Loop 390 from Highway 80 East, southward to Interstate 20. According to Judge Taylor, this extension is being referenced as Loop 390 and not I-369 at this time. There are no published timeframes for completion of I-69/I-369 in our area due to lack of dedicated federal and state funding, but a normal timeframe for an approved TxDOT project like Loop 390 runs approximately 15 years. With available funding to start the environmental portion for the next Loop 390 segment, and if construction funds are allocated at a later date, it could be in place by 2030.

- 2 to 5 years Planning and Environmental
- 1 to 3 years Engineering and Design
- 1 to 3 years Right-of-Way and Move Utilities
- 2 to 4 years Construction Stage (if funded)

**COST:**

N/A

**FUNDING:**

N/A

Acct. Name & No

Original Budget

**RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION:**

Consider and respond to a presentation regarding status of I-69 in Texas and I-369 in Harrison County.

**CITY CONTACT:** J.C. Hughes, Public Services Director 903-503-4503

**ATTACHMENTS:**

TxDOT I-69 & I-369 Public Outreach Information

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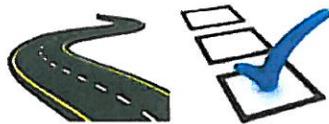


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• Tracking the Progress of Interstate 69 in Texas

» Overwhelming 83% Approval for Prop 7

Texas voters gave 83% approval to Proposition 7 on the November ballot. Starting in FY 2018 the measure will dedicate \$2.5 billion a year in state sales tax revenues to the State Highway Fund. Starting in FY 2020 an additional amount from vehicle sales taxes -- about \$500 million a year -- will flow to the Highway Fund. **Sen. Robert Nichols and Rep. Joe Pickett** were key champions of the successful constitutional amendment proposal along with statewide leaders, local officials and regional transportation advocates who worked to get the measure passed. **[Full Report]**



» Texas Editorial Boards Endorse Prop 7 Funding

Editorial boards at the state's major newspapers are unanimous in urging Texas voters to approve Proposition 7, the highway funding amendment on the Nov. 3rd ballot. They agree that it is essential to provide the funding that is needed to start catching up on the backlog of highway construction and maintenance needs that grow worse by the day as facilities age, the Texas population grows and vital freight volume builds. Early voting for the election ends on Friday, Oct. 30th. **[Full Report]**



» Voters Urged to Pass Prop 7 Highway Funding

Texas voters will get the chance on November 3rd to approve Proposition 7, a constitutional amendment that will dedicate more than \$2.5 billion each year in existing sales tax revenues to improving Texas highways and bridges. Prop 7 is supported by community leaders across the state and by state lawmakers, **Gov. Gregg Abbott** and other top Texas officeholders. This reliable continuing funding source will be important in sustaining steady progress toward building priority upgrade projects along the I-69 route in Texas in the coming years. **[Full Report]**

» Signs Unveiled on Busy I-69 in Central Houston

Local, state and federal officials celebrated the addition of 12 more I-69 miles to the Interstate Highway System in a cheerful but rainy ceremony. During a federal update over lunch, Congressman Blake Farenthold said a long-term federal transportation bill is not likely in the coming months. Texas Transportation Commissioner Jeff Austin III said efforts to find new state funding for highways must continue in the coming years even after passage of Prop 1 in 2014 and the possible upcoming passage of Prop 7 this fall. **[Read More/Photos]**

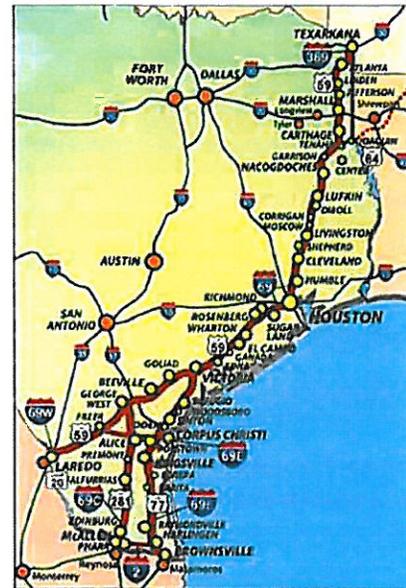


» Alliance Issues Federal and State Call to Action

The Alliance for I-69 Texas has called for federal and state actions that will continue the forward momentum for development of upgrade projects on the I-69 system in Texas. It was part of the information presented to community leaders during an August meeting in Houston. **[Full Report]**

» Planning Groups Urge Marshall Project Progress

Three regional planning groups have jointly endorsed the I-69 route planning and community outreach efforts of the I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group. The local working group has been building community consensus for an I-69 route at Marshall. The next step is to obtain funding for the required environmental clearance process. **[Full Report]**



I-69 System Segments Part of National Interstate Highway System

- 6.2 Miles (US 77) - Western edge of Corpus Christi (plus 1.6 miles awaiting final FHWA approval)
- 75 Miles (US 59) - Montgomery, Harris and Fort Bend (partial) Counties
- 3.5 Miles (US 59/I-369) - Texarkana south from I-30
- 53.3 Miles (US 77) - Raymondville to Rio Grande
- 46.8 Miles (US 83/Interstate 2) - Harlingen to Palmview
- 13.5 Miles (US 281) - Edinburg to Pharr, Hidalgo County (plus 4.5 miles awaiting final FHWA approval)
- 1.4 Miles (US 59) - Laredo, Webb County
- TOTAL MILES - 200**



Serving Texas Ports

The 1,000 miles of existing highways that make up the I-69 Texas system route today serve as critical connectors to the deepwater ports at Houston, Galveston, Beaumont, Freeport, Point Comfort, Corpus Christi and Brownsville. Each completed Interstate 69 upgrade project extends the

### » I-69 Supporters Urge Federal Highway Bill Passage

State and local leaders from the eight states on the Interstate 69 route were on Capitol Hill in Washington in April urging federal officials to continue the ongoing development of I-69. The large Texas delegation was led by Transportation Commissioners Jeff Austin and Jeff Moseley. The group met with members of the I-69 Congressional Caucus and with individual members of Congress urging the adoption of a long-term highway reauthorization bill that provides increased funding for highway projects. **[Full Report]**



market reach of all Texas seaports which are vital engines of the Texas economy.

### Miles of Existing Freeway

Sections of existing freeway continue to be added to the Interstate Highway System as part of I-69. There are still many more miles of highway along the I-69 route that are at freeway standard or near that level. More sections will be added to the system as they are evaluated and as projects are completed that provide the required controlled access, free flow and safety features that are the hallmark of interstate highways.

### » Key 12 Mile Section in Houston Added to I-69

The 12 mile section of US 59 inside of Loop 610 in Houston has been added to the Interstate Highway System as Interstate 69. All of the route through Harris County is now part of I-69 and a continuous section of 75 miles of I-69 is now in place through Montgomery County, Harris County and extending to a point at the south edge of Rosenberg in Fort Bend County. The Texas Transportation Commission voted March 26 to complete the designation process for the section through central Houston.

### » I-69 Congressional Caucus Returns for New Session

South Texas Congressmen Blake Farenthold and Henry Cuellar joined four colleagues in re-launching the successful bipartisan I-69 Congressional Caucus for the new 114th Congress. The caucus has taken on the task of educating other members of Congress on the importance of I-69 and advocating for acceleration of I-69 projects. Approximately 750 miles of the I-69 national route have been completed to interstate highway standard and more are under construction. The route, which is an important freight corridor, runs through Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan. **[Full Report]**



**Get Email Updates from the Alliance**

### » Garza Honored for Service to Transportation



Cameron County Commissioner **David A. Garza** is the latest recipient of the Texas **Road Hand Award** presented by the Texas Department of Transportation. The award honors citizens who serve as strong champions for transportation in their community and in Texas. Garza has been active in the Alliance for I-69 Texas for many years and was elected Alliance Secretary-Treasurer for 2015. **[Full Report]**

### » 6.1 Miles in Two New Sections to be Added to I-69

Two new sections totaling 6.1 miles will be added to Interstate 69 in South Texas once final approval comes from the Federal Highway Administration. The Texas Transportation Commission voted Nov. 20th to designate 1.6 miles of newly finished freeway near Robstown in Nueces County as I-69E/US 77. A 4.5 mile section of new freeway on the north side of Edinburg in Hidalgo County was designated as I-69C/US 281. This action means a total of 194 miles of the I-69 System route in Texas will soon have been added to the Interstate Highway System. The designations were recently approved by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials -- the organization which determines highway designation numbering.



### » Texans Approve Highway Funding in a Big Way

Texas supported the Proposition 1 highway funding amendment by an overwhelming margin of 4 to 1 and the result will be that the state has more than \$1.5 billion a year in additional funds for highway construction and preservation. Voters agreed to dedicate a portion of the state's oil and gas production tax to highways. The total oil and gas tax revenue will move up or down from year to year depending on production levels and energy prices. **Governor-Elect Greg Abbott** has joined others in stressing the need for additional highway funding. He made additional transportation funding a major theme of his successful campaign. **[Full Report]**



### » 14 Miles of Upgrades Underway in Nueces & Kleberg

Four I-69E projects covering a total of 14 miles are under construction from Robstown to Kingsville in Nueces and Kleberg Counties west of Corpus Christi. Together the projects have an estimated cost of \$151 million. The largest is a design-build contract covering 8 miles running north from Kingsville through Bishop. A second project covers 4 miles just south of Robstown. All of these upgrade projects will be part of Interstate 69 East. An

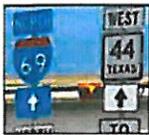


unfunded future relief route around the town of Driscoll will close a final six-mile gap between Interstate 37 and Kingsville. **[Full Report]**

### » Supporters Update Congress on I-69 Progress

Local leaders from five states along the national I-69 Corridor participated in a coordinated "I-69 DC Fly-In" this spring to meet with members of the I-69 Congressional Caucus and drive home the importance of continued progress on building out the entire interstate route. They delivered the message that I-69 provides "North-South Connectivity in the Heartland." More than 40 community leaders participated in the effort emphasizing the importance of Interstate 69 as a national freight corridor. Texas Transportation Commissioner Jeff Austin joined a dozen other Texans in the two-day event. This report includes a **state-by-state update** on the progress being made in the eight states along the I-69 route that starts at the Rio Grande and ends at Port Huron, Michigan. **[Full Report]**

### » Bill Would Add SH 44 to I-69 Priority Corridor



U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold has introduced legislation that would add State Highway 44 between Corpus Christi and Freeport to the Congressionally Designated Interstate 69 priority corridor routes. The proposal has been championed by community leaders and the Alliance. The segment would begin at the SH 358 freeway near the Corpus Christi airport and run west for 73 miles. In the process it would connect all three legs of the I-69 system in South Texas and eventually provide an interstate connection between

Laredo and Corpus Christi, both busy freight centers. **[Full Report]**

### » Laredo Celebrates Steps to Convert Loop to I-69



Interstate 69 champions join local, state and federal officials in celebrating the unveiling of new signage declaring that Laredo's **Bqb Bullock Loop** will be the link between Laredo's World Trade Bridge, Interstate 35 and the western leg of I-69 in South Texas. The Texas Transportation Commission has redesignated Loop 20 as US Highway 59, a move that makes the loop eligible to be part of I-69. The section of the loop from I-35 to the Rio Grande bridge is complete and is being evaluated for addition to the Interstate Highway System. **[Full Report and Event Photos]**

### » Major Upgrades Coming to I-69 in Rosenberg Area

The Transportation Commission has awarded the first contract and work will get underway soon on more than \$250 million in projects that will convert five miles of the **I-69 Southwest Freeway** at Rosenberg to an expansive superhighway. This section of highway was added to the Interstate Highway System as I-69 in February 2013 but major upgrades are needed to meet traffic demand. Williams Brothers will rebuild and add lanes between SH 36 and FM 762. **[Full Report]**



### » Community Groups Recommend Upgrade Routes for Future I-69 In Nacogdoches and Angelina Counties

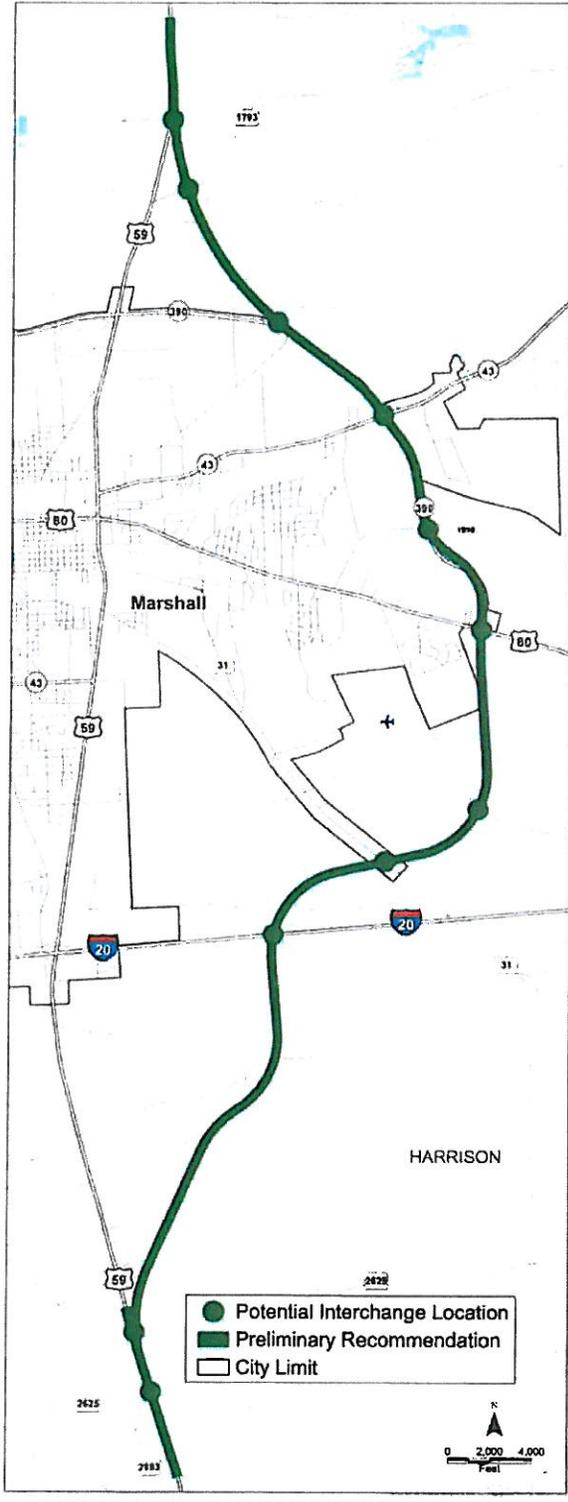
Two community committees have developed a recommended plan for the route of Interstate 69 in the Nacogdoches-Lufkin region of East Texas. Their recommendations cover about 47 miles and for most of those miles they are recommending that existing sections of US 59 be upgraded to interstate highway standard. Relief routes on new right of way are recommended on the west side of Nacogdoches, on the southeast side of Lufkin and at Diboll. **[Full Report and Map]**

**[PREVIOUS I-69 UPDATE POSTINGS]**



Driven by Texans

# I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group Preliminary Recommendation



Driven by Texans



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**Projects & Studies**

US 281  
I-37 - US 83

US 59  
Angelina County  
El Campo  
Harrison County  
Nacogdoches County  
Polk County  
Wharton County

US 77  
Kingsville-Driscoll

**US 59 - Harrison County**

The I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Route Study has, with substantial citizen and community participation, determined options for the development of I-369 in the Marshall area. The goal is to construct, designate and sign US 59 as I-369.



The study includes two broad options:

- Upgrade existing US 59 through Marshall to an interstate highway (I-369), or
- Construct I-369/US 59 at a new location and convert the existing US 59 through Marshall to Business 59.

TxDOT completed the study in December 2014.

**Final Report**

- [Working Group Recommendation Report](#)
- [Appendix](#)

**Background on the Working Group**

The [I-69 System \(I-369\) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group](#) was created to provide input and recommendations on the route study. The group, which met starting in February 2014, identified:

- Goals for establishing I-369 in the Marshall area related to traffic safety, connectivity and community impacts
- Potential interstate route options
- A preliminary, recommended interstate route option to study as part of the environmental process

**Public Outreach**

The working group [met regularly](#) to gather feedback from local citizens to learn about concerns and issues that may need to be addressed.

- [Public Outreach Report](#)
- [Fact sheet No. 1: I-69 route study and working group](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [Narrated presentation](#)
- [Fact sheet No. 2: Interstate route options development, evaluation and recommendation](#)

**Exhibits**

- [Interstate designation process | status of I-69 system | status of interstate designation](#)
- [Typical sections](#)
- [Working group: charge and purpose | activities and](#)
- [Typical interchanges](#)
- [Potential interstate routes evaluated](#)

[schedule](#) | [goals](#) | [issues](#) |  
[additional items to consider](#) |  
[preliminary recommendation](#) |  
[map](#)

• [Map of two best-performing options](#)

#### Next Steps

1. The working group made recommendations for further study as part of the environmental process.
2. After completion of the environmental process, funding will be identified and the design of the roadway will begin.
3. Construction would most likely be phased depending on funding.

For more information, contact TxDOT by [email](#) or call (903) 799-1308.

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