



# WELCOME!

**Why  
Am I  
Here?**

- Learn about the proposed project
- Ask questions and provide comments on the proposed project



# Project Need and Purpose

## What are the Current Issues?

- New Tornillo-Guadalupe Land Port of Entry to open Fall 2014
- Manuel F. Aguilera Highway completed between new Land Port of Entry and State Highway 20
- Commercial truck traffic will now cross the new bridge
- Non-commercial traffic crossing the new bridge will increase



# Project Need and Purpose

## What are we trying to do ?

- Provide a direct connection from the new Port of Entry to Interstate Highway 10
- Enhance safety for mixed traffic
- Provide highway shoulders
- Promote economic development in east El Paso County
- Relieve congestion at other International Bridges in the El Paso region



# **What We Heard – September 9 2009 Public Meeting**

- Concern about continuous irrigation water availability
- All existing roadways will be connected to the new roadway
- How many lanes will be built
- A big increase in commercial truck traffic is anticipated
- An economic boom is anticipated in the area
- Will potable water be brought and installed in the area



**Please submit all comments by Friday August 8, 2014**

# How Can I Make Comments?

- Mail, email or drop off written comments to:

RKCI

Attn: Sam Blanco

12821 Golden Lane

San Antonio, TX 78249

[sblanco@rkci.com](mailto:sblanco@rkci.com)

- Speak during the comment period tonight
- Submit a written comment form tonight
- Fax comments to 210-699-6426
- Email comments to [sblanco@rkci.com](mailto:sblanco@rkci.com)

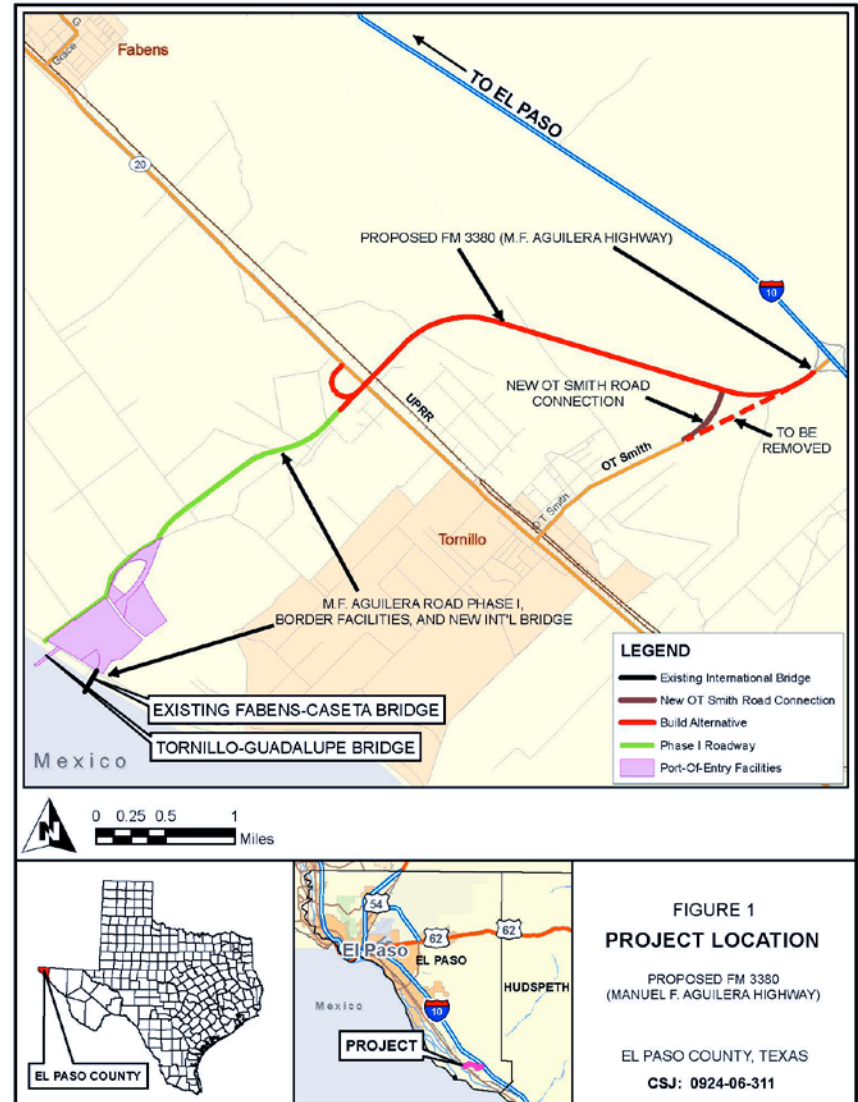


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est. 1850*

# Technical Presentation



# Project Location





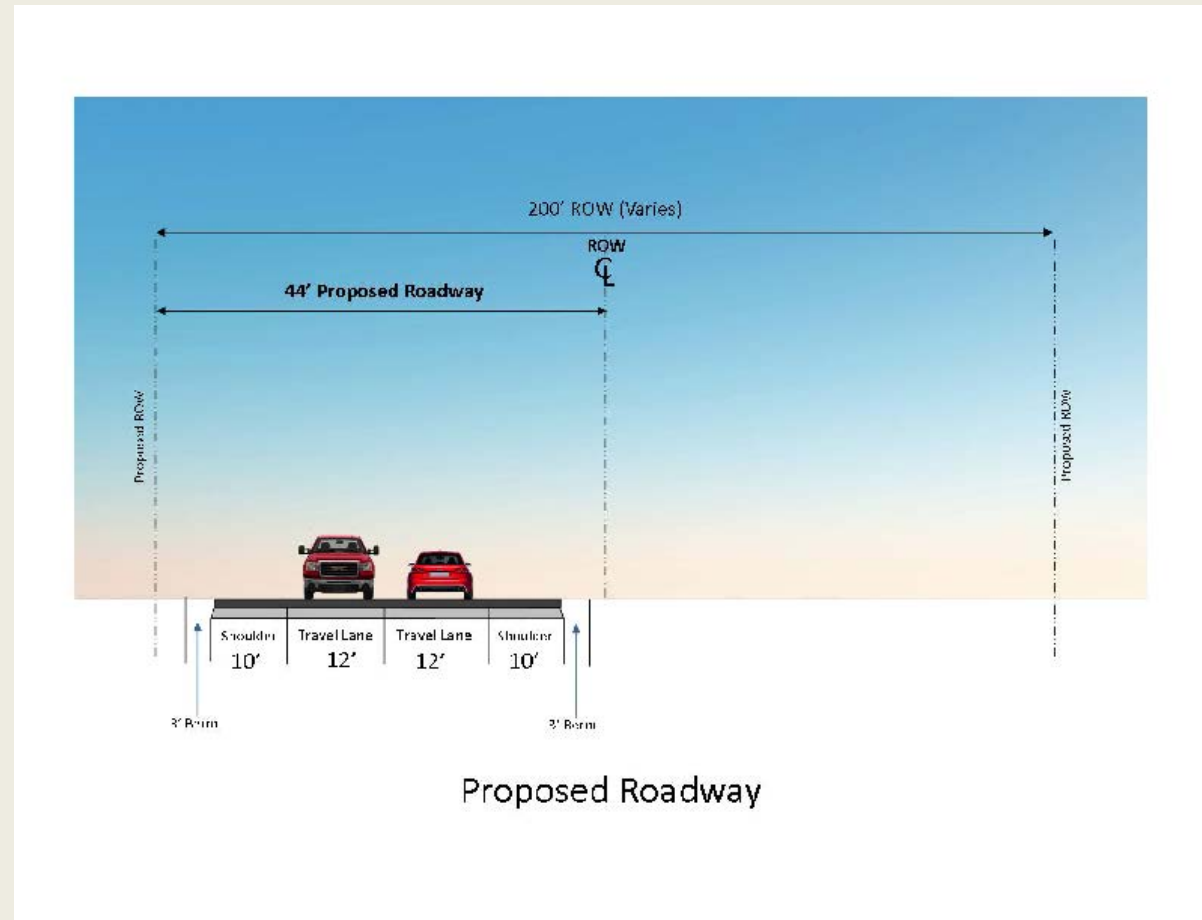
# Project Right-of-Way

- Project to be constructed on new right-of-way
- A total of 201.97 acres is needed for this project
- Nine parcels of land from only three landowners is required
- These parcels have been or will be acquired



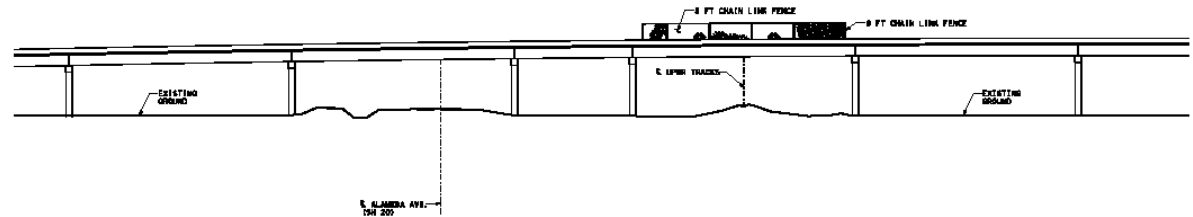
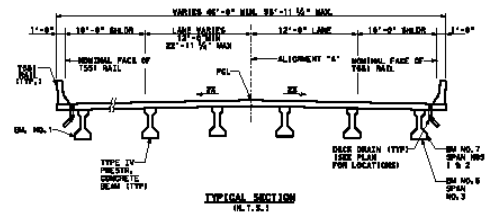


# Typical Roadway Cross-Section





# Bridge at State Highway 20 Elevation & Cross Section



ELEVATION



# Project Estimated Cost

- The construction of this project is estimated to be \$ 17.2 million
- This amount includes the bridge at State Highway 20 and the Union Pacific Railroad along with the roadways, drainage culverts, storm water retention ponds, signage, and striping



# Project Funding Source

- Original funding source for construction was Category 10 – Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funds, as indicated within the current Environmental Assessment document
- In early 2014 the source of funding was changed to a Special Vehicle Registration Fee of \$ 10.00, as authorized in section 502.402 of the Texas Transportation Code



# Project Timeline

1997		Preliminary Feasibility Study of Bridge was prepared
2001		Environmental Assessment State of Texas International Bridge permit Application Presidential Permit Application began
2002	Dec.	Application Submitted to the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC)
2003	March	Texas Transportation Commission approved permit
2003	April	Submitted to the U.S. Department of State
2004	Dec.	FONSI issued for Environmental Assessment
2005	March	Presidential Permit approved
2006		
2007		
2008	Spring	Project limits revised to extend to Interstate Highway 10
2008		Revised Environmental Assessment started
2009		
2010		Project limits revised to exclude phase I portion
2011	Spring	Project Phase II Plans begin
2011	Spring	Project Phase I construction begins
2012		
2013	Dec.	Project Phase I construction finishes
2014	Jan.	Project Phase II plans completed
2014	Fall	Finalize Revised Environmental Assessment
2014	Fall	ROW acquisition begins
2015	Spring	ROW acquisition ends
2015	Fall	Phase II Construction Letting by TxDOT
2016	Fall	Phase II Construction completed



# Environmental Evaluation



# Environmental Review

- Land Use
- Displacements
- Environmental Justice
- Limited English Proficiency
- Community Cohesion
- Vegetation
- Invasive Species
- Wildlife
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Migratory Birds
- Farmland Impacts
- Archeological Resources
- Historic Resources
- Tribal Consultation
- Section 4(f)/6(f) Properties
- Water Resources and Quality
- Floodplains
- Airway-Highway Clearance
- Hazardous Materials
- Air Quality
- Traffic Noise
- Construction Impacts



# Threatened Species

- Texas Horned Lizard
- Mountain Short-horned Lizard



**Texas Horned Lizard**

Photo ©TPWD

**WHAT TO DO**

1. **Stop** work if a Texas Horned Lizard is found.
2. **Avoid** harming the lizard.
3. Consider **working in another area** to give the lizard time to leave the construction zone on its own.

**IDENTIFICATION**

**Horns:** two prominent horns at the rear and center of the skull

**Scales:** two rows of spiky fringe scales on the side of the body

**Color:** gray to brown to rust, with dark spots in rows down the back, a light central stripe, and dark lines radiating from the eye

**Length:** 3.5 to 5 inches



Photo ©TPWD



Photo ©TPWD



**Mountain Short-Horned Lizard**

Photo: Flickr User Carla Kishnam

**WHAT TO DO**

1. **Stop** work if this lizard is found.
2. **Avoid** harming the lizard.
3. Consider **working in another area** to give the lizard time to leave the construction zone on its own.

**IDENTIFICATION**

**Horns:** robust head that is wider than long and heart-shaped, back of the head is tipped only with small horns

**Scales:** one row of spiky fringe scales along the side of the body

**Color:** variable colors and patterns ranging from simple brown or grey to intricate patterns of bright colors including orange, yellow, white, red, blue and green

**Length:** 3.5 to 6 inches



Photo: Flickr User Carla Kishnam



Photo ©TPWD





# Archeological Resources

- Archeological Surveys conducted
- Tribal Consultation



# Next Steps

- Compile and consider community input from tonight's hearing
- Finalize Environmental Assessment document
- Acquire Right-of-Way
- Finalize Design
- Construction



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# 15 Minute Break



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# Public Comment Session