



Driven by Texans

The I-69 System in Texas

In Texas, the national I-69 route is to begin along US 84 in Joaquin at the Texas-Louisiana border. It will extend south to Laredo and the Lower Rio Grande Valley via US 84, US 59, US 77, and US 281. US 59 north of Tenaha is intended to function as an Interstate spur, I-369, eventually connecting the future national I-69 route along US 59/US 84 to I-30 in Texarkana. (Note: Interstate spur routes connecting with a main Interstate route at one end are required to carry a three digit Interstate number that begins with an odd number followed by the number of the main route.) The first section of I-369, from I-30 to Loop 151 in Texarkana, was signed in May 2013. Once the remaining sections of US 59 between Tenaha and I-30 are upgraded to meet Interstate standards and are connected to or planned to connect to the existing Interstate system by July 2037, they would also be designated as I-369 (per the federal legislation Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)).



Planning and Development of the I-69 System

The I-69 Advisory and Segment Committees, led by citizen volunteers, recommended the development of the I-69 System in Texas to:

- Relieve traffic congestion caused by a growing population,
- Provide safer travel through the state,
- Improve emergency evacuation routes, and
- Support economic development.

The I-69 Advisory Committee proposed a two-pronged approach to developing the I-69 System:

- First, identify those sections of existing highways along the I-69 System that meet Interstate standards and designate them as Interstate (e.g., I-69, I-69E, I-69C, and I-369). TxDOT is continuing to work with the Federal Highway Administration and other partners to designate those “Interstate-ready” sections.
- Second, identify those sections that do not meet Interstate standards and begin the project development process, which includes identifying community and environmental concerns and needed improvements to meet Interstate standards. TxDOT has initiated several studies to identify projects along the I-69 System. Ultimately, these identified projects will be constructed as funding becomes available.



The I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Route Study

US 59, the proposed I-369 route through Marshall, does not currently meet Interstate standards (for example, local driveways and cross roads intersect the mainlanes). As such, TxDOT is undertaking an I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Route Study to develop and evaluate options for the advancement of I-369 in the Marshall area, with the eventual goal of constructing, designating, and signing US 59 as I-369. Two broad options are under consideration:

- Upgrade of existing US 59 through Marshall to an Interstate highway (I-369), or
- Construction of I-369/US 59 on a new location and conversion of existing US 59 through Marshall to Business 59.



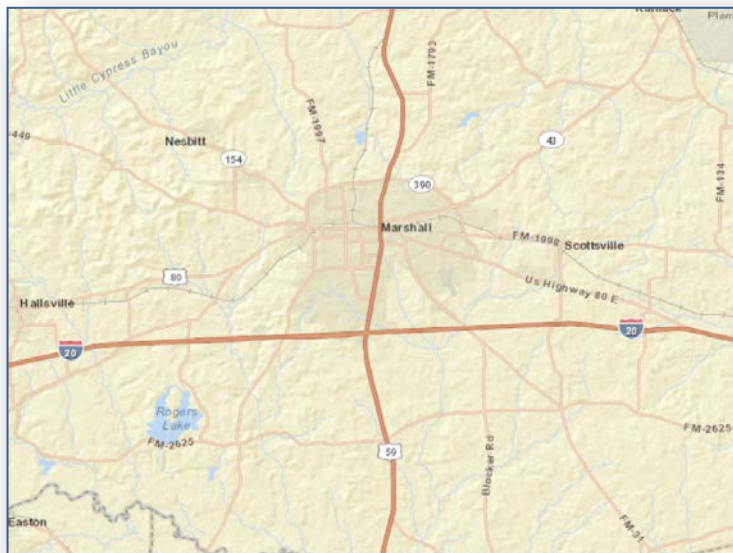
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The I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group

As a continuation of the citizen-led I-69 development effort, an I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Working Group was created to provide input to the I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Route Study, the Interstate route options to be considered, and the merits of those options. This working group will present the Interstate route options to local citizens to learn about any concerns and issues that may need to be addressed. Considering local citizen input, the working group will make recommendations that will guide TxDOT on I-369 project development in the Marshall area.

The study will include working group input on:

- Identification of working group goals and issues for establishing I-369 along US 59 in the Marshall area
- Determination of travel and traffic patterns, and identification of high level environmental and planning features
- Determination of access needs, future growth, and development that could influence the Interstate route options
- Development of Interstate route options to meet Interstate standards
- Evaluation of the Interstate route options including potential environmental effects (historic, archeological, potential residential and business displacements, wetlands and streams, community features, utilities and railroad), right-of-way needs, and costs
- Refinements to the route options
- Determination of public outreach methods and development of materials to gather citizen input on the route options
- Innovative funding and project development strategies and priorities for TxDOT and local partners to consider in advancing projects for I-369 development in Harrison County and the Marshall area



Ultimately, this route study and the working group's efforts will result in the identification of an Interstate route option that will then be studied in detail as part of the environmental process.

The I-69 System (I-369) Harrison County/Marshall Route Study is anticipated to be completed in late fall 2014.

Comments or questions can be submitted online at www.txdot.gov/drivenbytexans/ or by mail to:

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Attn: Deanne Simmons, P.E.
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For further information, please refer to the website: www.txdot.gov/drivenbytexans/, or contact Deanne Simmons, TxDOT Atlanta District at Deanne.Simmons@txdot.gov and (903) 799-1308.