



Driven by Texans

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

The 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. Considering local citizen input, the working group will make recommendations to guide TxDOT on I-369 project development in the Marshall area. The working group has been actively engaged since February 2014 and has:

- Identified goals for establishing I-369 in the Marshall area related to traffic and safety, connectivity, and community impacts.
- Identified potential Interstate route options and a preliminary recommended option to be studied in detail as part of the environmental process.

Interstate Route Options - Development and Evaluation

The working group identified 13 potential Interstate route options (west and east of Marshall) (Figure 1). Engineers developed the options along with the upgrade of US 59 through Marshall, in accordance with Interstate design standards. The initial 13 options were compared to each other in a prescreening process to determine how effective they were in addressing the goals established by the working group. Differentiating factors included traffic volumes, costs, potential residential and commercial displacements, and potential impacts to community features. Three of the options performed better than the rest with respect to the goals.

The three best performing options were then compared to each other using high level data, including environmental and engineering factors that were quantified by staff based on right-of-way and design elements. This comparison included potential impacts to schools, churches, cemeteries, development features, potential residential and commercial relocations, farmlands, historic and archeological resources, floodzones, streams, wetlands, water bodies, oil and gas wells, hazardous material sites, mine areas, pipelines, electric transmission lines and substations, communication towers, and public water wells. Engineering factors such as length, travel time, right-of-way, and cost were also compared. All three options performed similarly and were presented to the working group on June 10, 2014.

Traffic and Safety

- Serve high traffic and truck volumes
- Serve expected traffic growth
- Address safety concerns
- Improve travel times

Connectivity

- Provide for multi-modal connections
- Provide connection and access to major transportation facilities in the area

Community Impacts

- Maximize the use of the existing US 59 footprint to the greatest extent possible while seeking to reduce program costs and impacts to private property
- Incorporate public input
- Support local economic development plans and goals (retail, industrial, and commercial) by providing access and connectivity to the regional roadway network

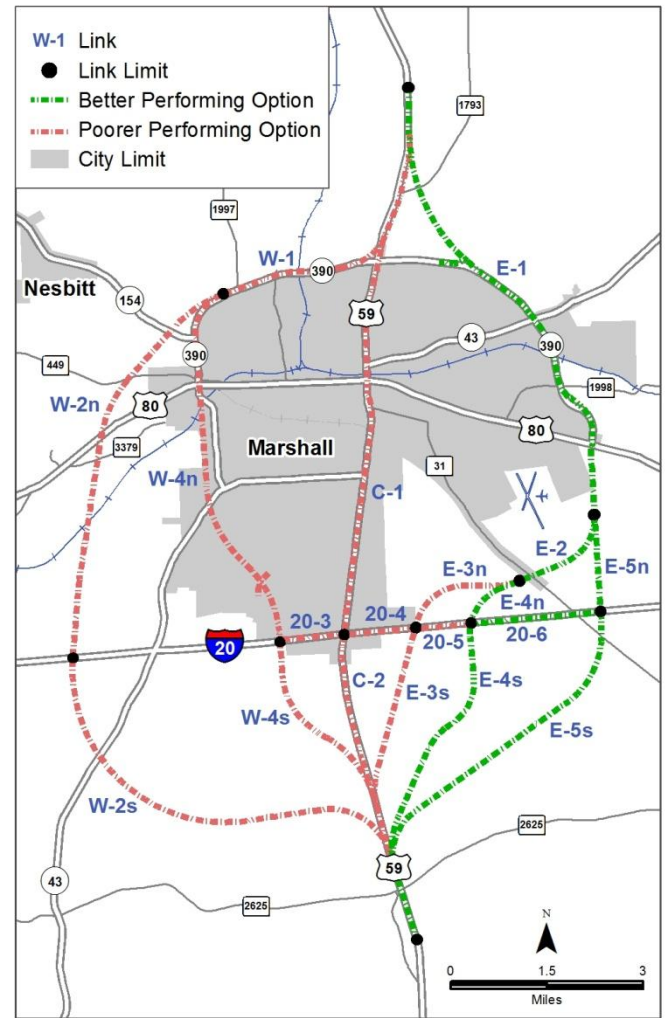


Figure 1. Working Group Potential Interstate Route Options





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Figure 2. Working Group Preliminary Recommendation

Interstate Route Options - Preliminary Recommendation and Refinements

Staff guided the working group through the prescreening of the initial 13 options and then discussed the three best performing options shown in green on the preceding page. These options, which include two new location options and one option which shares lanes with I-20, were reviewed in more detail on an aerial map, which included the identified constraints. The working group expressed concerns regarding potential traffic conflicts between I-20 through traffic and north/southbound traffic that may arise through shared use of I-20. Additionally, they noted it would be costly to extend utilities to the far east option to promote development along the new route (to support their economic development goal). The working group determined that based on these concerns, their preliminary recommendation would be the option that deviates from existing US 59 north of FM 2625, crosses I-20 just east of the city wastewater treatment plant, passes south of the airport, uses the Loop 390 alignment to north of Marshall, and then connects back to US 59 north of FM 1793 (Figure 2). Working group members then requested the preliminary recommendation be refined to include an interchange at N. Buck Sherrod Road to provide better traffic circulation.

Next Steps in the Process

Considering local citizen input, the working group will make final recommendations to guide TxDOT on I-369 project development in the Marshall area, including identification of an Interstate route option that will be studied in detail as part of the environmental process. After funding has been identified and the environmental process is complete, design of the roadway would follow and then construction, which would most likely be phased depending on funding.

Your Input is Needed!

Please participate in this important study by providing input and comments on the options:

- Take the survey or submit comments or questions online. Links can be found at www.txdot.gov/drivenbytexans/us59-harrison.htm
- Mail comments to:
Texas Department of Transportation
Attn: Deanne Simmons, P.E.
701 E Main Street, Atlanta, Texas 75551

For further information, please visit the website www.txdot.gov/drivenbytexans/us59-harrison.htm, or contact Deanne Simmons, TxDOT Atlanta District by email at Deanne.Simmons@txdot.gov or call 903.799.1308.

