

US 281 Planning and Feasibility Study – Interstate Evaluation Fact Sheet



Why Texas Needs I-69

The I-69 Advisory Committee, led by citizen volunteers, recommends the development of I-69 in Texas to relieve traffic congestion caused by a growing population, provide safer travel through the state, improve emergency evacuation routes, and promote economic development in the region.

Development of I-69

TxDOT is currently reviewing existing highways along the I-69 route and working with the Federal Highway Administration and other partners to begin designating “Interstate-ready” sections as I-69. TxDOT is also developing improvements for sections of road that do not currently meet Interstate design standards. Ultimately, these identified improvements will be constructed in small sections as funding becomes available.

Study Purpose

The purpose of this study is to develop a plan to bring US 281 (from US 83 to I-37) and US 59 (from US 281 to I-37) up to Interstate design standards, with the eventual goal of designating and signing these highways as part of the I-69 system.

The study will include:

- A comprehensive look at travel and traffic patterns
- An inventory of existing roadway and environmental features
- Public involvement and input through workshops, open houses and other meetings

This information will be used to develop a long-range plan that identifies needed improvements to bring the highway up to Interstate design standards. A draft of the plan will be completed in the summer of 2013 with the final report complete in late 2013.

Interstate Design Considerations

The following improvements to US 281 and US 59 are being considered:

- Interchanges/overpasses at crossroads
- Freeway-style roadways with entrance and exit ramps
- Elimination of crossovers and driveways to freeway mainlanes
- Other safety designs such as wide medians, roadside clear zones and separating cross traffic from highway mainlanes

Public Input

A series of community workshops and open houses will be held in 2013 to provide citizens with first-hand information about the study and potential future developments along the highway. Written comments will be received at these workshops and included in the final study report. Comments can also be submitted online at www.txdot.gov/drivenbytexans or by mail to:

Texas Department of Transportation – I-69 GEC
Attn: US 281 Planning and Feasibility Study Team
7745 Chevy Chase Drive
Building 5, Suite 300
Austin, TX 78752

If you would like to be added to the mailing list to be notified about upcoming events, please submit your name, email address and mailing address on the website or to the address above.

Contact Information

For further information, please refer to the website: www.txdot.gov/drivenbytexans or contact Rickey Dailey, Corpus Christi District Public Information Officer, at (361) 808-2544 or Elizabeth Paradise, Pharr District Public Information Officer, at (956) 702-6117.

