



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



SH 68

Meeting with Affected Property Owners
September 9, 2014





SH 68
US 83/I-2 TO
US 281/I-69C

Meeting with Affected Property Owners (MAPO)

September 9, 2014

Open Meeting with Affected Property Owners

Presentation

- I. Welcome and Introduction
- II. Project Overview and Description
- III. Next Steps in Project Development

Continuation of the Open Meeting

Adjournment

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MAPO Purpose

- Encourage and maintain effective communication with affected property owners
- Provide project information
- Important step in environmental process
- Receive input and comments
- Request right of entry
 - Environmental Studies – entire limits from US 83/I-2 to US 281/I-69C
 - Surveying
 - Initial Construction Phase – from US 83/I-2 to FM 1925 (Monte Cristo)
 - Right of way mapping

Provide Your Comments

- Mark/Draw on maps and exhibits
- Speak to court reporter for verbal comments
- Leave written comments at registration table
- Mail or drop off comments: TxDOT Pharr District
600 W. US Expwy 83
Pharr, TX 78577
- Fax comments to (956) 702-6110
- Email comments to Margil.Maldonado@txdot.gov
- October 6, 2014 comment period deadline

Open Meeting with Affected Property Owners

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Continuation of the Open Meeting

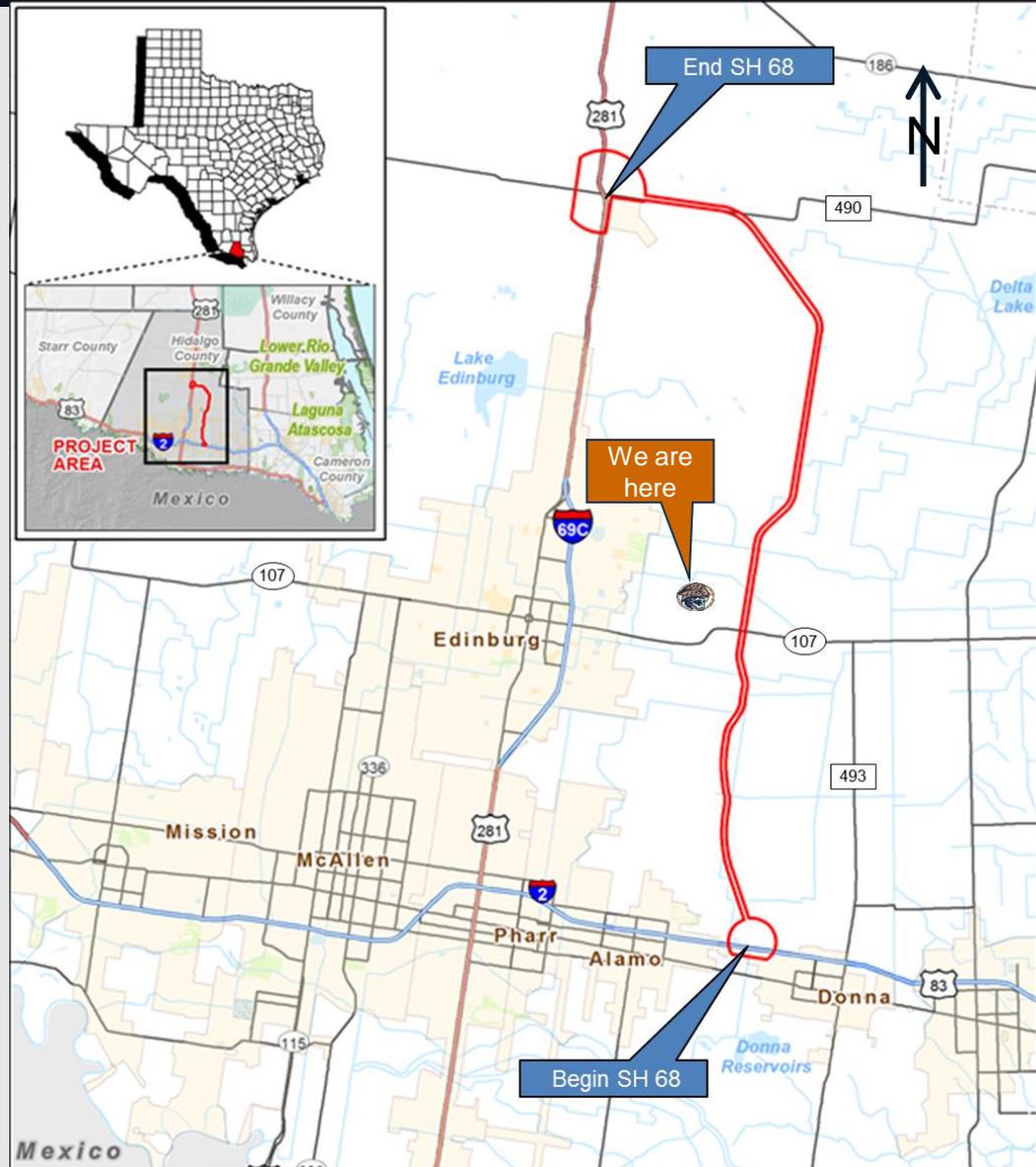
Adjournment

Study Overview – Recommended Alternative

Minimized impacts to:

- Homes
- Businesses
- Schools
- Churches
- Cemeteries
- Farms/Ranches
- Historic Irrigation Canals
- Other constraints

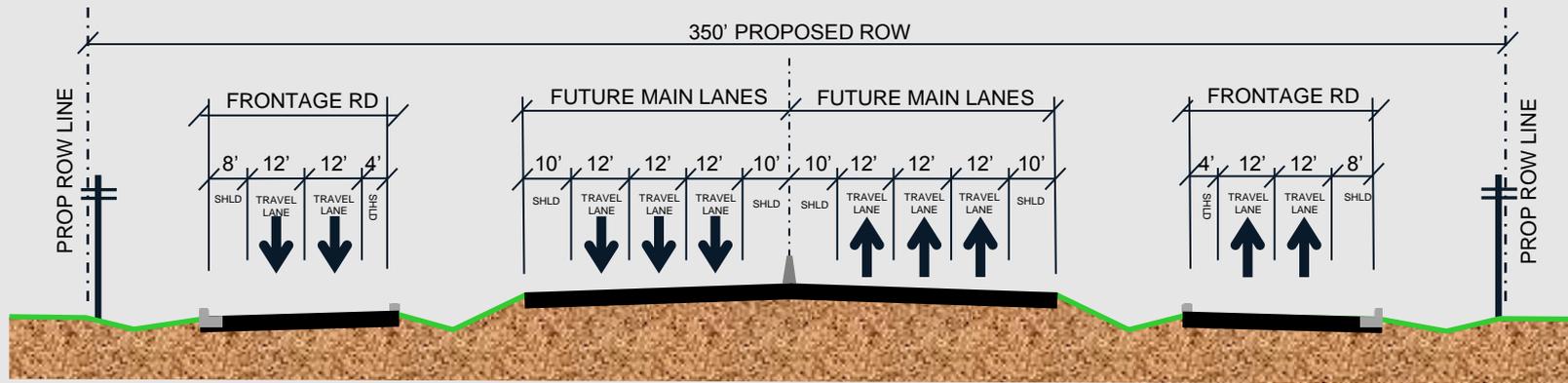
Meets Purpose and Need



Study Overview – Background

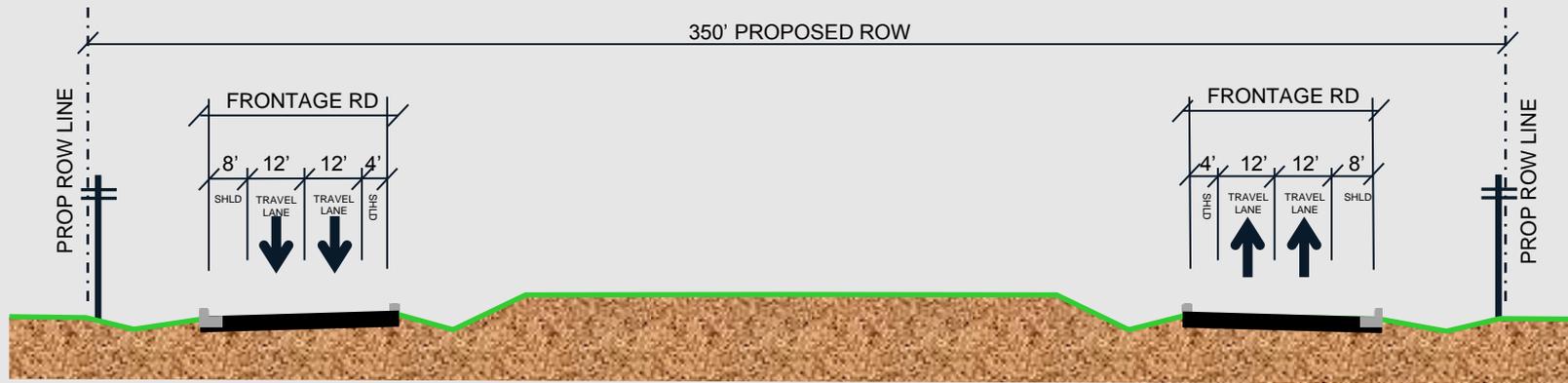
- Hidalgo County, Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO) and Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA)
 - *Preliminary Alternatives Development Study – August 2008*
 - *Public Meeting Summary and Analysis Report – February 2009*
- Texas Transportation Commission
 - MO # 113515 designated SH 68 – February 2013

SH 68 Proposed Typical Section



SH 68 Ultimate Facility

SH 68 Proposed Typical Section

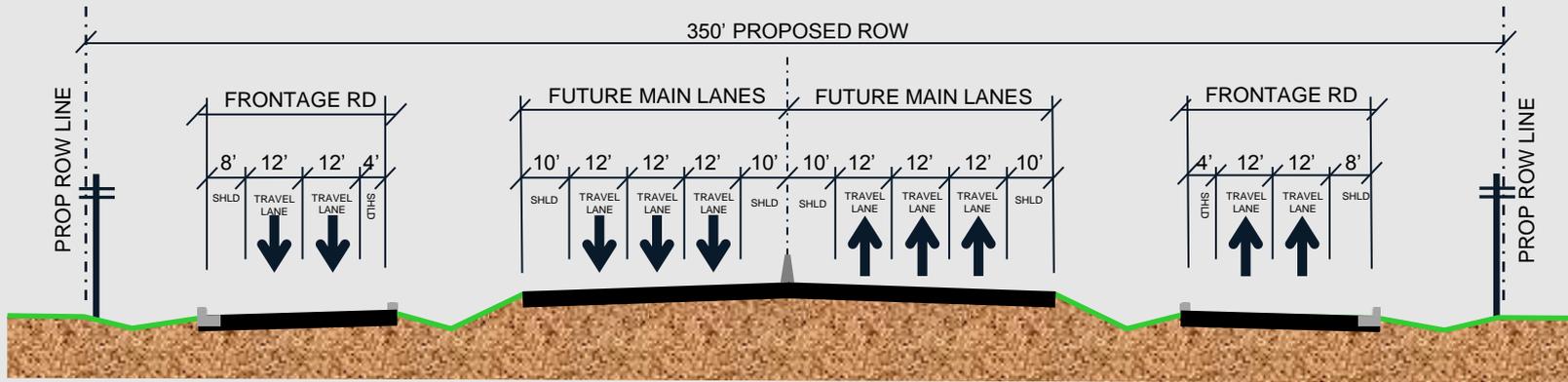


SH 68

Phase I – US 83/I-2 to FM 1925 (Monte Cristo)

Phase II – FM 1925 (Monte Cristo) to US 281/I-69C

SH 68 Proposed Typical Section



SH 68

Phase I – US 83/I-2 to FM 1925 (Monte Cristo)

Phase II – FM 1925 (Monte Cristo) to US 281/I-69C

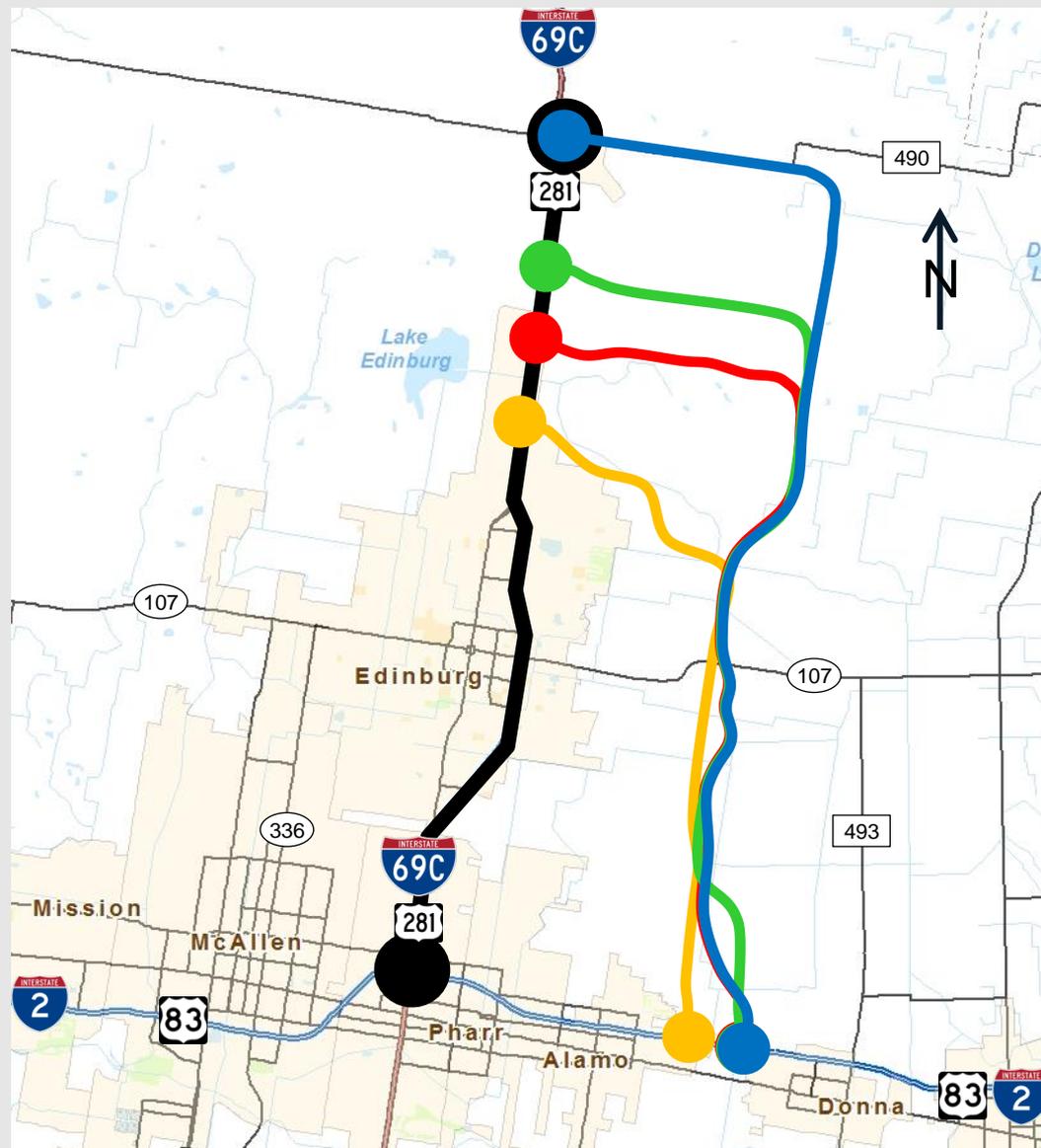
Phase III – Future Main Lanes

Project Purpose and Need

- Project Purpose:
 - Improve safety
 - Improve north-south mobility in the region
 - Provide long-term transportation improvements
- Project Need:
 - Insufficient north-south mobility in the region
 - Lack of alternate north-south evacuation routes during emergency events (e.g., hurricanes)
 - Compromised safety due to the high ratio of slow-moving, heavy truck traffic to faster, local commuter traffic on US 281/I-69C
 - Improve the transportation network

Alternatives Development

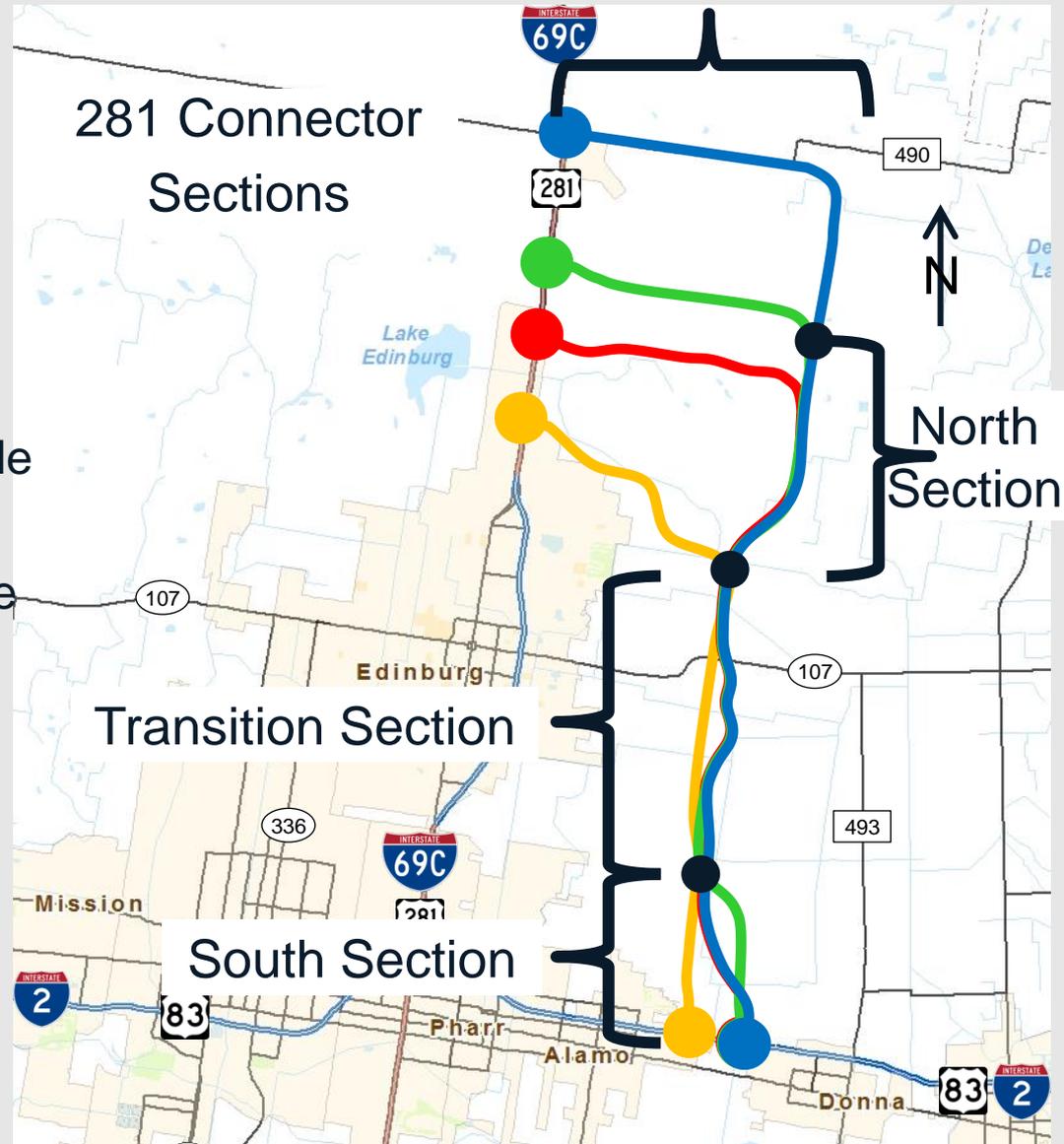
- Three Alternatives from PM #3 – 2-26-2009
 - Added 2 Alternatives
 - North of Airport (Blue)
 - Widen US 281 (Black)
- 1,000-foot wide corridors
- Refined Alternatives to 600-foot wide corridor
- Evaluated and Recommending 600-foot route



PM – Public Meeting by HCRMA

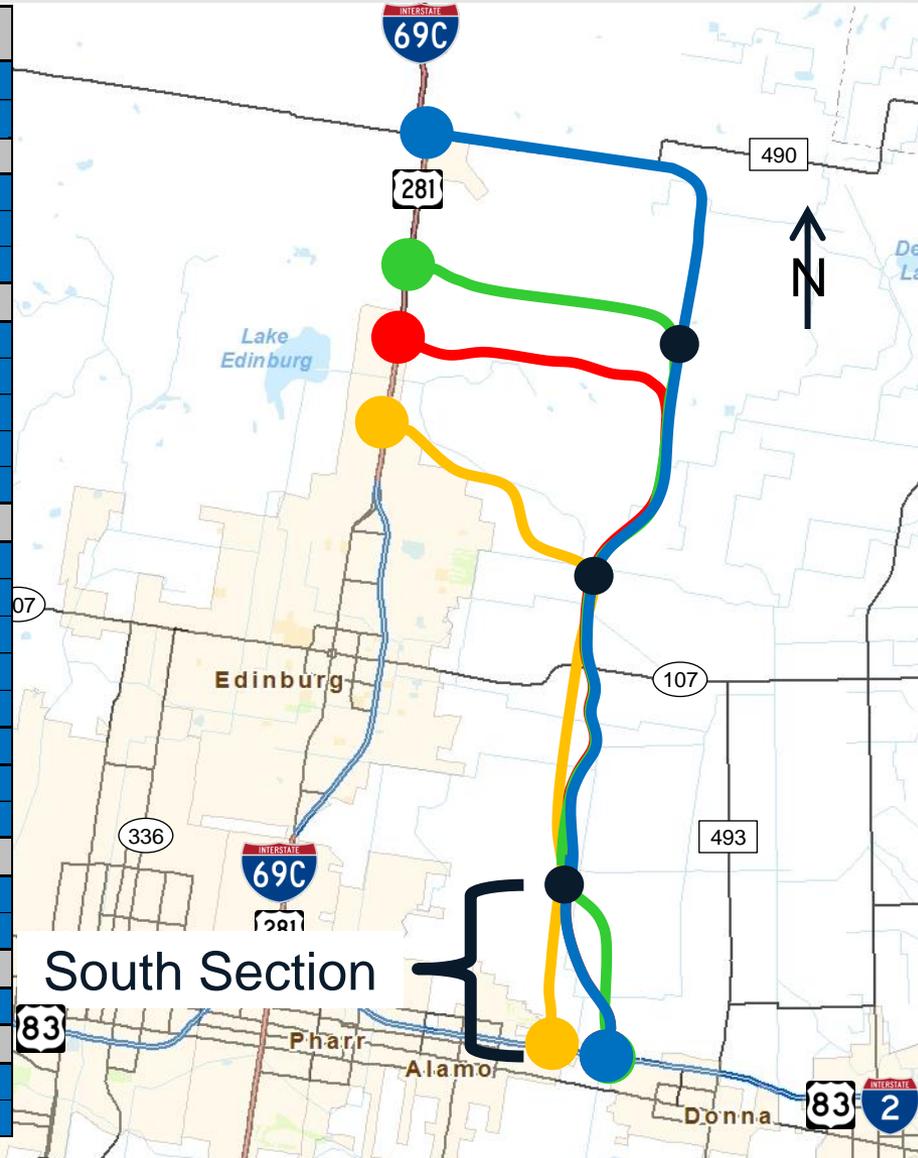
Screening and Evaluation

- Junction Points
- Four Sections for Evaluation
- 24 Possible Routes
- Screening Matrix
 - ❑ 3 Least impacts/most desirable
 - ❑ 1 Neutral impacts/desirable
 - ❑ 0 Most impacts/least desirable



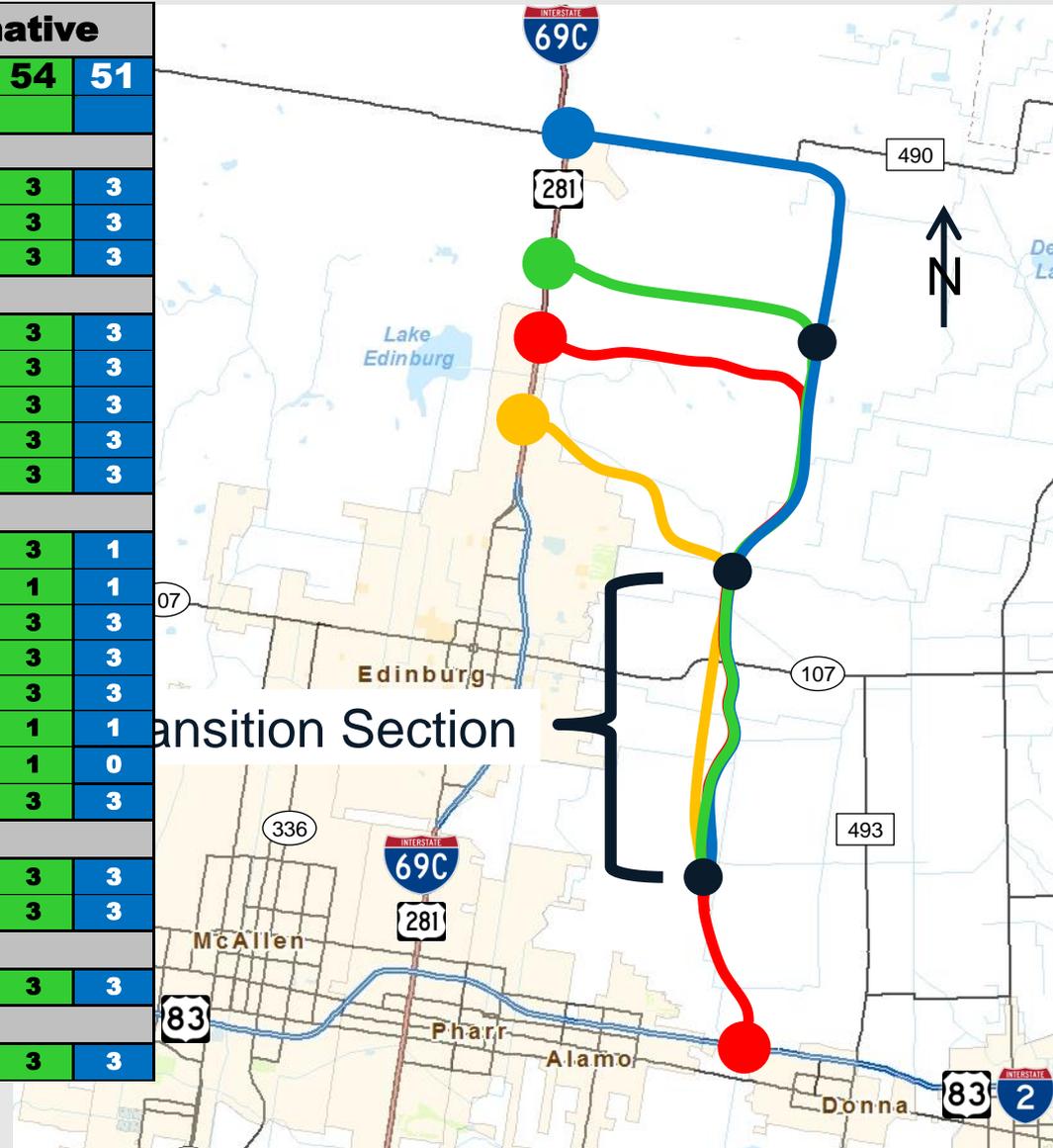
Screening and Evaluation – South Section

Criteria by Goal	Alternative			
	47	56	43	56
Safety Goal	15%			
Provides for Grade Separations at Major Crossings	3	3	3	3
Provides Route for Larger/Heavier Vehicles	3	3	3	3
Accommodate Bicycles, Pedestrians	3	3	3	3
Mobility Goal	15%			
Provides Additional Capacity to Relieve Existing Roads	3	3	3	3
Provides Continuous Major Route Between I-2 and I-69C	3	3	3	3
Enhances System Access/Connectivity	3	3	3	3
Enhances Congestion Management	3	3	3	3
Improves Transportation System Reliability	3	3	3	3
Community and Environment Goal	50%			
Minimizes Impacts to Residential Property	0	3	1	3
Minimizes Impacts to Commercial/Industrial Property	0	1	1	1
Minimizes Impacts to Schools	3	3	0	3
Minimizes Impacts to Churches	3	3	3	3
Avoid Cemeteries	3	3	0	3
Minimize Impacts to Farmlands / Ranchlands	1	0	1	0
Minimize Impacts Irrigation/Drainage Canals	3	1	1	1
Other Constraints	3	3	3	3
Feasibility/Design Goal	5%			
Driver Expectancy	3	3	3	3
Constructability	1	3	1	3
Cost Effectiveness Goal	10%			
Approximate Total Relative Cost	1	3	1	3
Economic Factors	5%			
Located within Hidalgo County Tax Re-investment Zone	1	3	1	3
Connectivity to Port of Entry	1	3	3	3



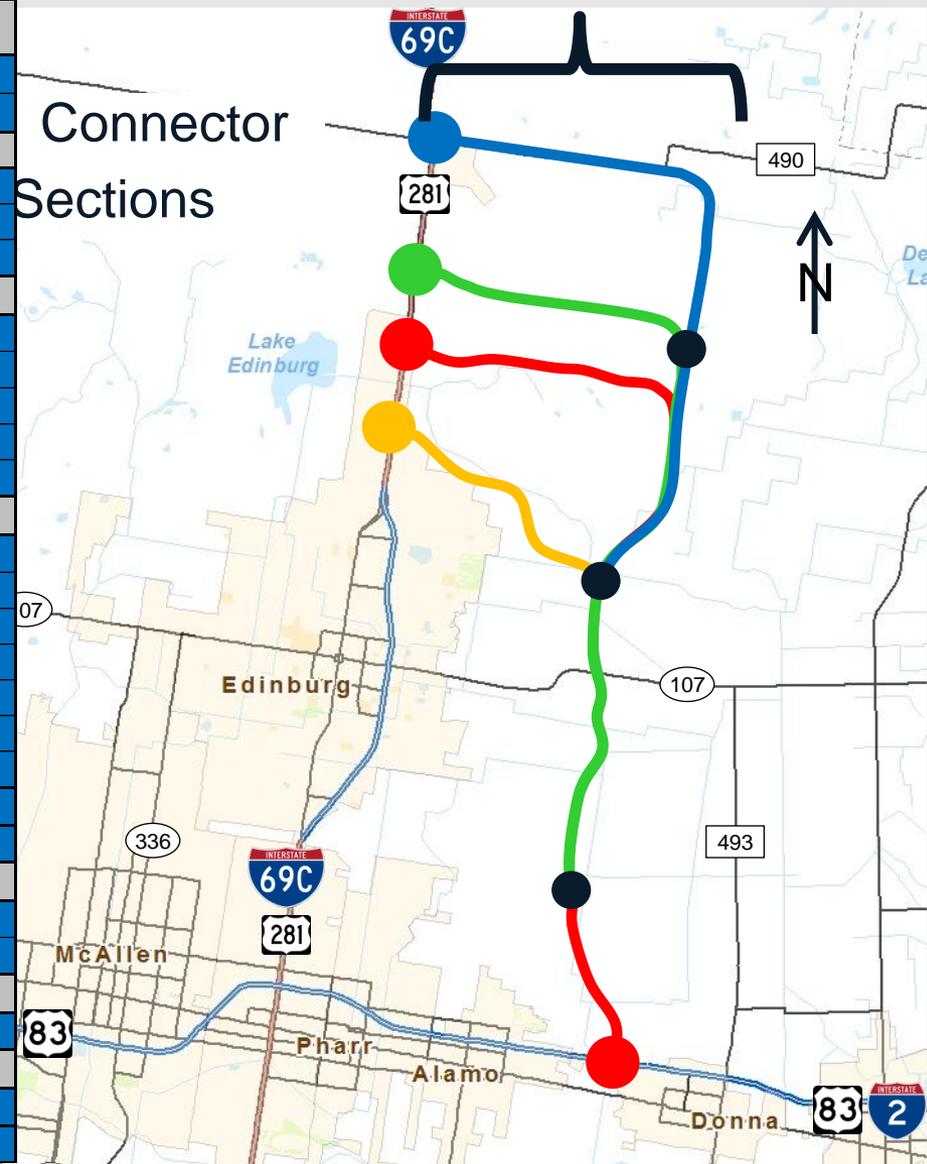
Screening and Evaluation – Transition Section

Criteria by Goal	Alternative			
	51	52	54	51
Safety Goal				
Provides for Grade Separations at Major Crossings	3	3	3	3
Provides Route for Larger/Heavier Vehicles	3	3	3	3
Accommodate Bicycles, Pedestrians	3	3	3	3
Mobility Goal				
Provides Additional Capacity to Relieve Existing Roads	3	3	3	3
Provides Continuous Major Route Between I-2 and I-69C	3	3	3	3
Enhances System Access/Connectivity	3	3	3	3
Enhances Congestion Management	3	3	3	3
Improves Transportation System Reliability	3	3	3	3
Community and Environment Goal				
Minimizes Impacts to Residential Property	0	1	3	1
Minimizes Impacts to Commercial/Industrial Property	1	1	1	1
Minimizes Impacts to Schools	3	3	3	3
Minimizes Impacts to Churches	3	3	3	3
Avoid Cemeteries	3	3	3	3
Minimize Impacts to Farmlands / Ranchlands	1	1	1	1
Minimize Impacts Irrigation/Drainage Canals	3	1	1	0
Other Constraints	3	3	3	3
Feasibility/Design Goal				
Driver Expectancy	3	3	3	3
Constructability	3	3	3	3
Cost Effectiveness Goal				
Approximate Total Relative Cost	3	3	3	3
Economic Factors				
Located within Hidalgo County Tax Re-investment Zone	1	3	3	3



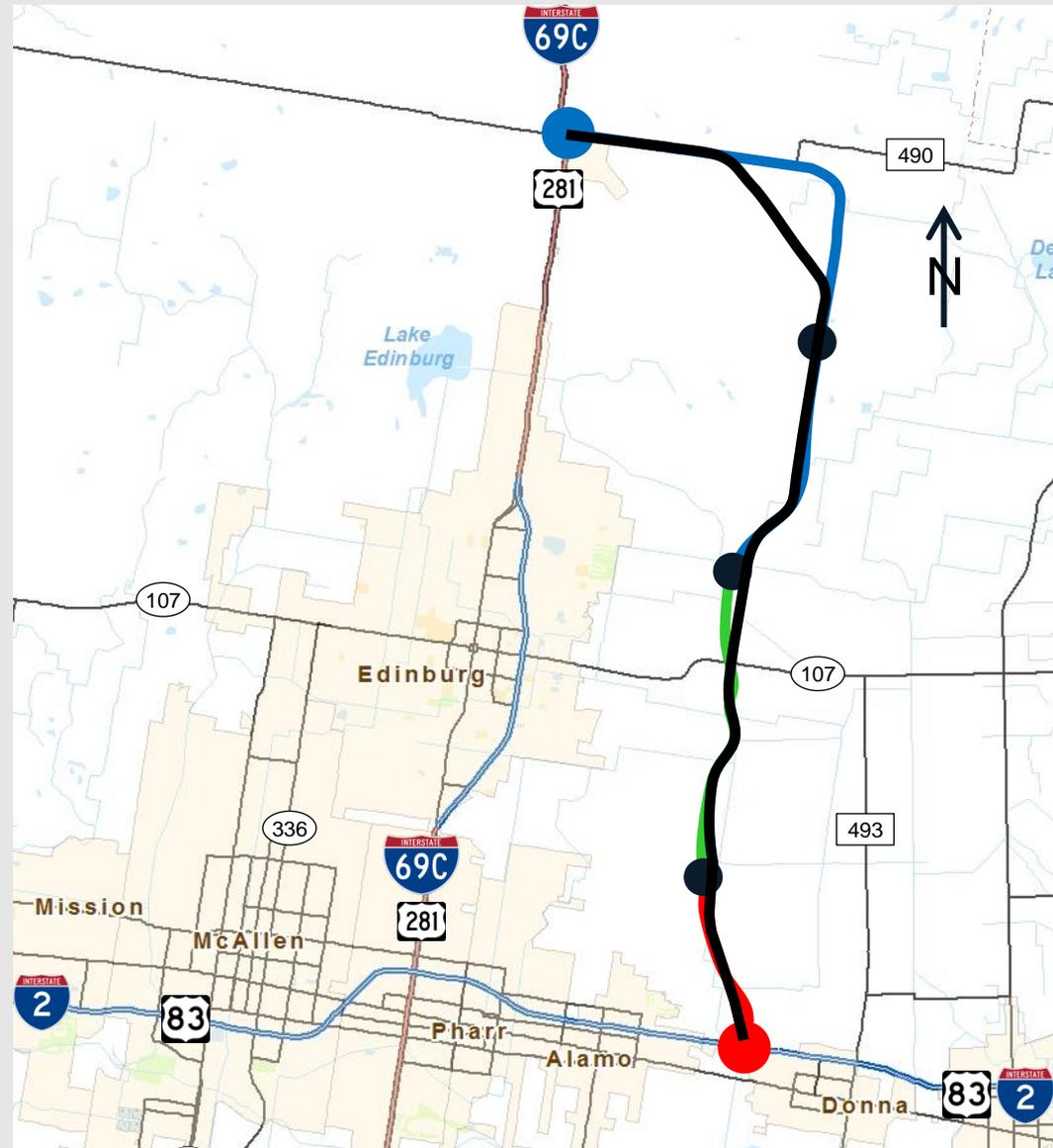
Screening and Evaluation – 281 Connector Section

Criteria by Goal	Alternative			
	45	43	45	55
	49	42	46	55
Safety Goal				
Provides for Grade Separations at Major Crossings	3	3	3	3
Provides Route for Larger/Heavier Vehicles	3	3	3	3
Accommodate Bicycles, Pedestrians	3	3	3	3
Mobility Goal				
Provides Additional Capacity to Relieve Existing Roads	0	1	1	3
Provides Continuous Major Route Between I-2 and I-69C	3	3	3	3
Enhances System Access/Connectivity	0	1	1	3
Enhances Congestion Management	3	3	3	3
Improves Transportation System Reliability	0	1	1	3
Community and Environment Goal				
Minimizes Impacts to Residential Property	1	0	3	1
Minimizes Impacts to Commercial/Industrial Property	0	1	1	1
Minimizes Impacts to Schools	3	0	3	3
Minimizes Impacts to Churches	3	3	0	3
Avoid Cemeteries	3	3	1	3
Minimize Impacts to Farmlands / Ranchlands	3	3	1	3
Minimize Impacts to Landfill	3	0	3	3
Minimize Impacts Irrigation/Drainage Canals	1	3	3	3
Other Constraints	3	3	3	1
Feasibility/Design Goal				
Driver Expectancy	3	3	3	3
Constructability	3	3	3	3
Cost Effectiveness Goal				
Approximate Total Relative Cost	3	1	1	0
Economic Factors				
Proximity to Airport	0	1	1	3
Located within Hidalgo County Tax Re-investment Zone	1	1	1	1



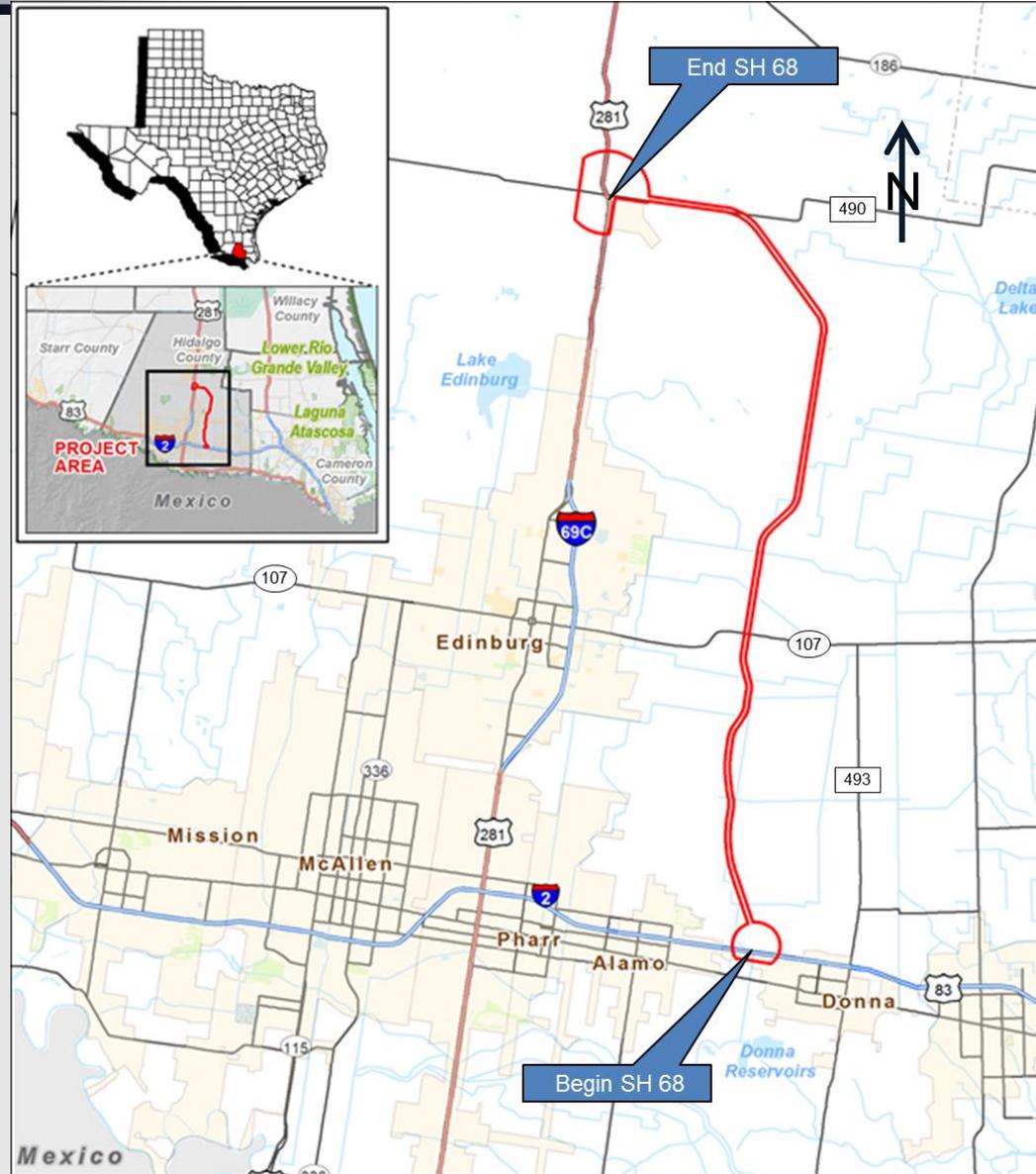
Screening and Evaluation –

- Geometric Refinements to Recommended Route



SH 68 Alternatives – Recommended Alternative

- Reduce corridor width from 600-foot to 350-foot



ROW Acquisition/Relocation Assistance

- Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Act of 1970
 - Title II
 - Title III
- ROW staff available for your questions with regards to ROW acquisition and Relocation Process
- Please pick up Pamphlets

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Next Steps

- Public Meeting #1 – September 25, 2014, Donna North High School (Public meeting notice in packet)
- Public Meeting #2 – Spring 2015
- Geometric Schematic – Summer 2015
- Environmental Clearance – Late 2015
- Begin ROW Acquisition – Late 2015
- Receive Bids (Project Letting) – April 2016
- Begin Construction Phase I Frontage Roads – US 83 to FM 1925 (Monte Cristo) – Early 2017

Recent Questions

- Q1. Were existing roads considered for expansion?
A1. Yes, but impacts to adjacent development was greater than the other alternatives considered.
- Q2. What is the difference between SH 68 and previous efforts?
A2. SH 68 is an independent project with limits from US 83 north to US 281 only and not part of a larger project or system.
- Q3. Will the project require any displacements of businesses and/or residences?
A3. Yes, the SH 68 project will require displacements of businesses and/or residences.
- Q4. Will displaced property owners receive fair market value and a relocation package for their properties?
A4. Yes, property owners by law have the right to receive fair compensation for their properties.
- Q5. Will the state buy my entire property?
A5. The State can only purchase the right of way that is required for the specific project limits.
- Q6. What happens if I do not want to sell a piece of my property?
A6. If all negotiations to acquire fail, the property will be acquired by Eminent Domain proceedings as prescribed by the law.

Continuation of Open Meeting w/Affected Property Owners

- Thank you for attending tonight's meeting
- Continuation of Open MAPO
- Please attend the Public Meeting at:

Donna North High School

September 25, 2014

5:00 to 7:00 PM

Provide Your Comments

- Mark/Draw on maps and exhibits
- Speak to court reporter for verbal comments
- Leave written comments at registration table
- Mail or drop off comments: TxDOT Pharr District
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Pharr, TX 78577
- Fax comments to (956) 702-6110
- Email comments to Margil.Maldonado@txdot.gov
- October 6, 2014 comment period deadline