



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



## SH 68

Public Meeting # 1  
September 25, 2014



## Open Meeting

## Presentation

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

## Public Comment

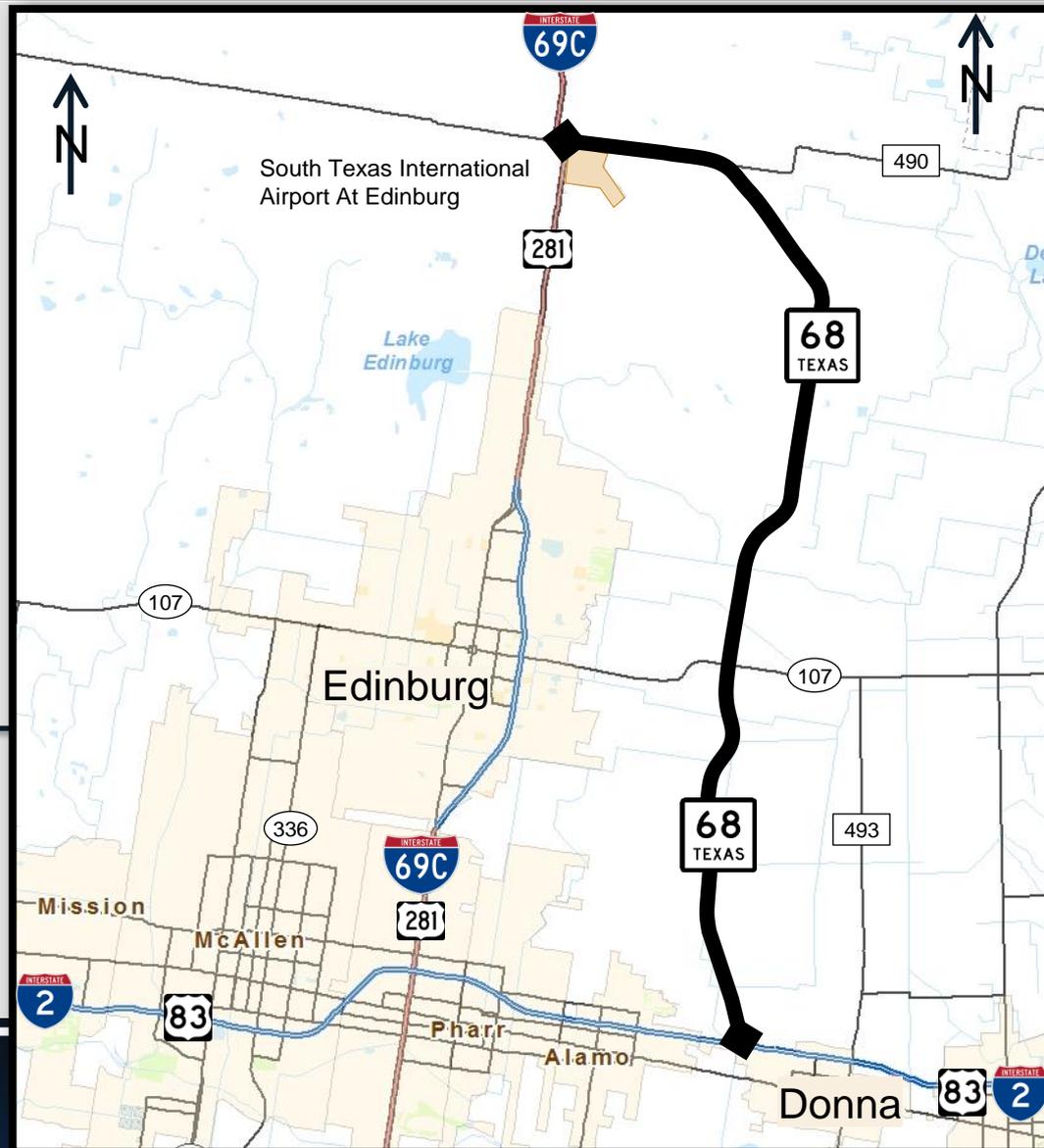
## Adjournment



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

Public Meeting # 1  
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# Public Meeting 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

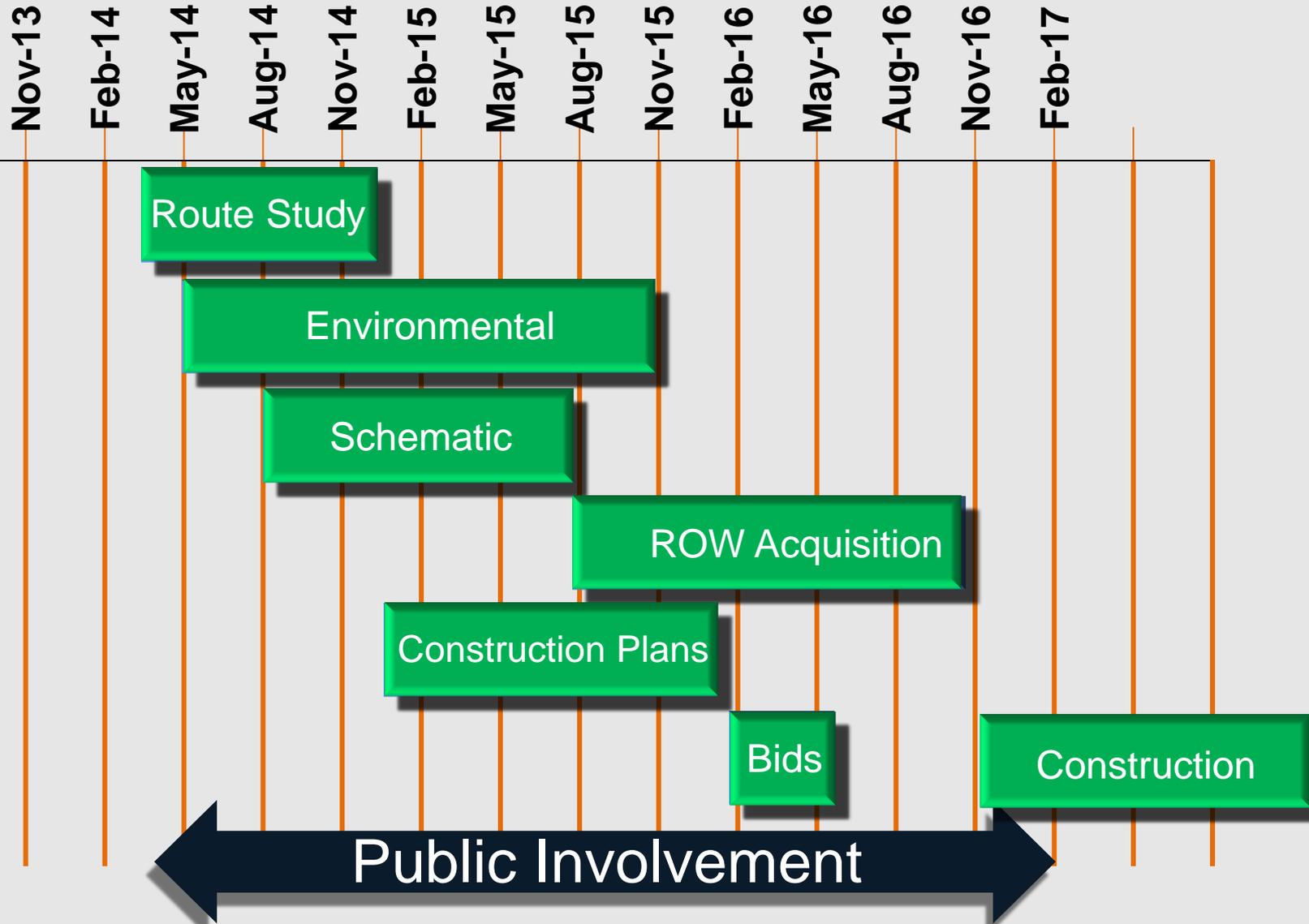
- Mark/Draw on maps and exhibits
- Speak to court reporter for verbal comments
- Leave written comments at registration table
- Mail or drop off comments: TxDOT Pharr District  
600 W. US Expwy 83  
Pharr, TX 78577
- [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) -> Pharr District -> Public Meetings
- Fax comments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

# Study Overview – Background

- Hidalgo County and the Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA)
  - *Preliminary Alternatives Development Study – August 2008*
  - *Public Meeting Summary and Analysis Report – February 2009*
- Texas Transportation Commission
  - SH 68 Designation Minute Order – February 2013

*“for the purpose of facilitating the flow of traffic, promoting public safety, and maintaining the continuity of the state highway system”*

# Project Development Process



# Project Purpose and Need

## ■ Project Need:

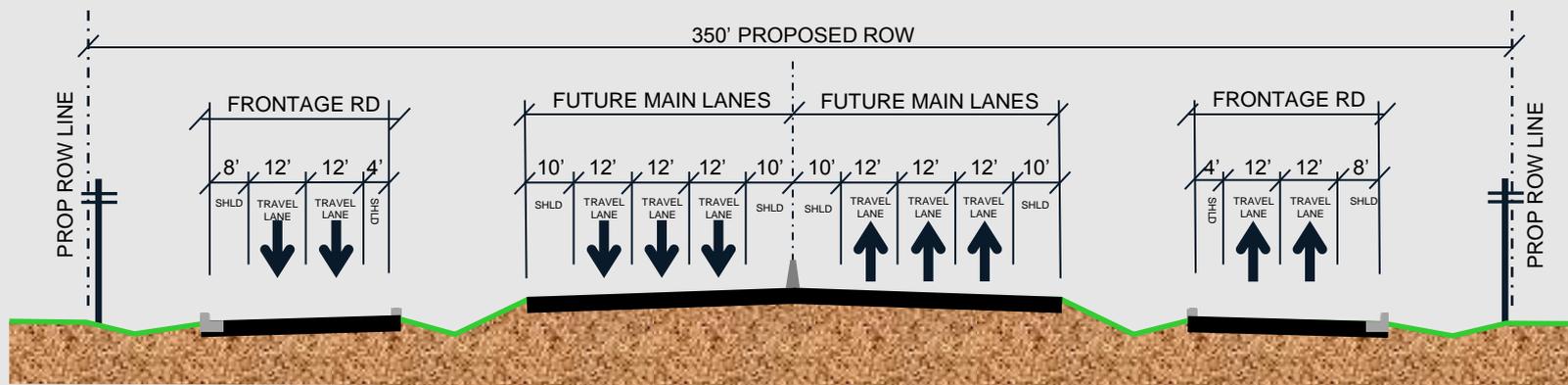
- Insufficient north-south travel capacity within eastern Hidalgo County and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region.
- Lack of alternate north-south evacuation routes during emergency events, including hurricanes.
- Compromised traffic safety due to the high ratio of slow-moving, heavy truck traffic to faster, local commuter traffic on US 281/I-69C.

## ■ Project Purpose:

- Improve north-south mobility and increase travel capacity within eastern Hidalgo County and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region.
- Per Minute Order 113515, the Texas Transportation Commission designated SH 68 on February 28, 2013 *“for the purpose of facilitating the flow of traffic, promoting public safety, and maintaining the continuity of the state highway system.”*

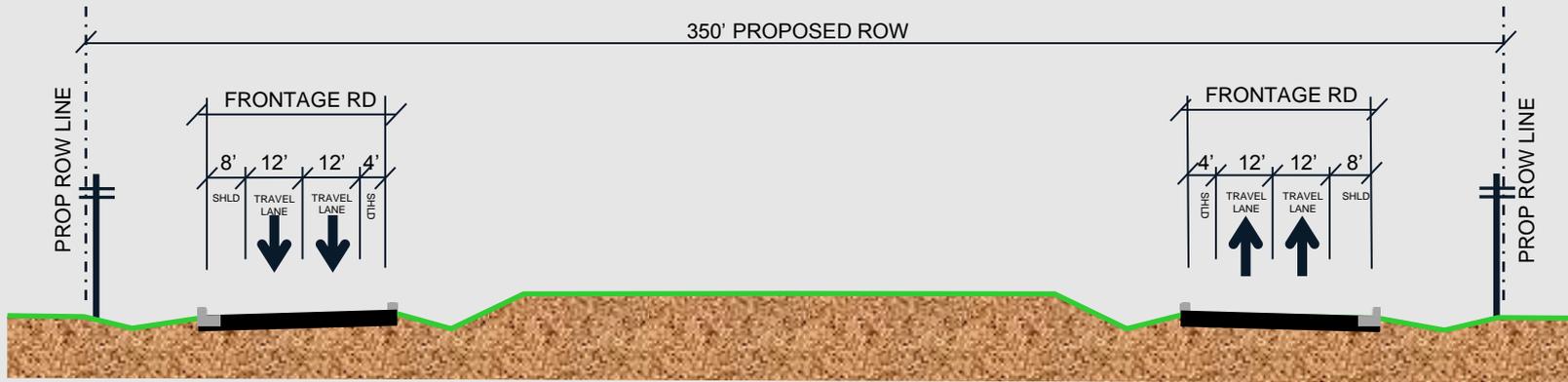


# SH 68 Proposed Typical Section



SH 68 Ultimate Facility

# SH 68 Proposed Frontage Roads

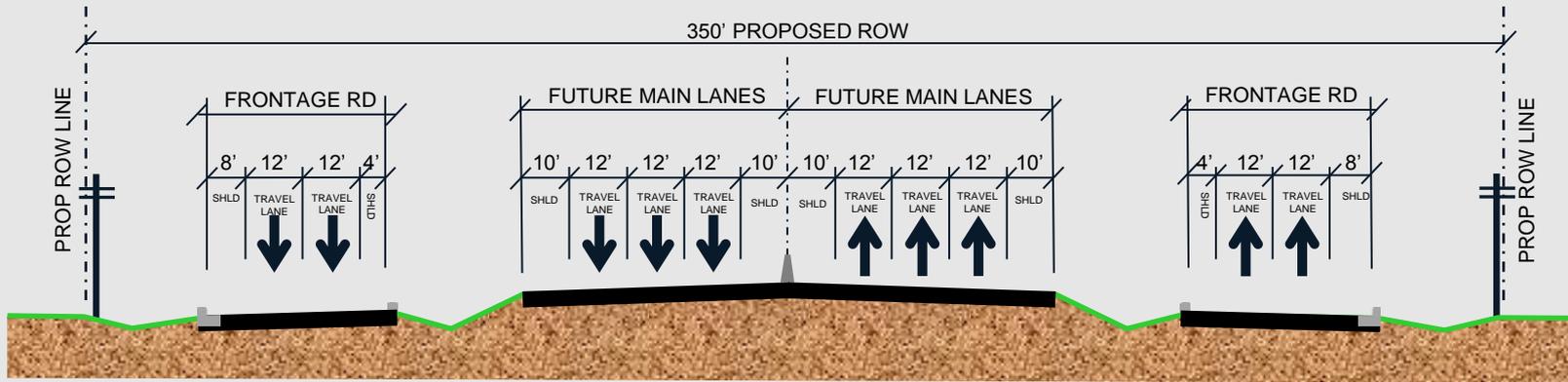


## SH 68

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

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

# SH 68 Proposed Main Lanes



## SH 68

Phase I – US 83/I-2 to FM 1925 (Monte Cristo Rd.) Frontage Roads

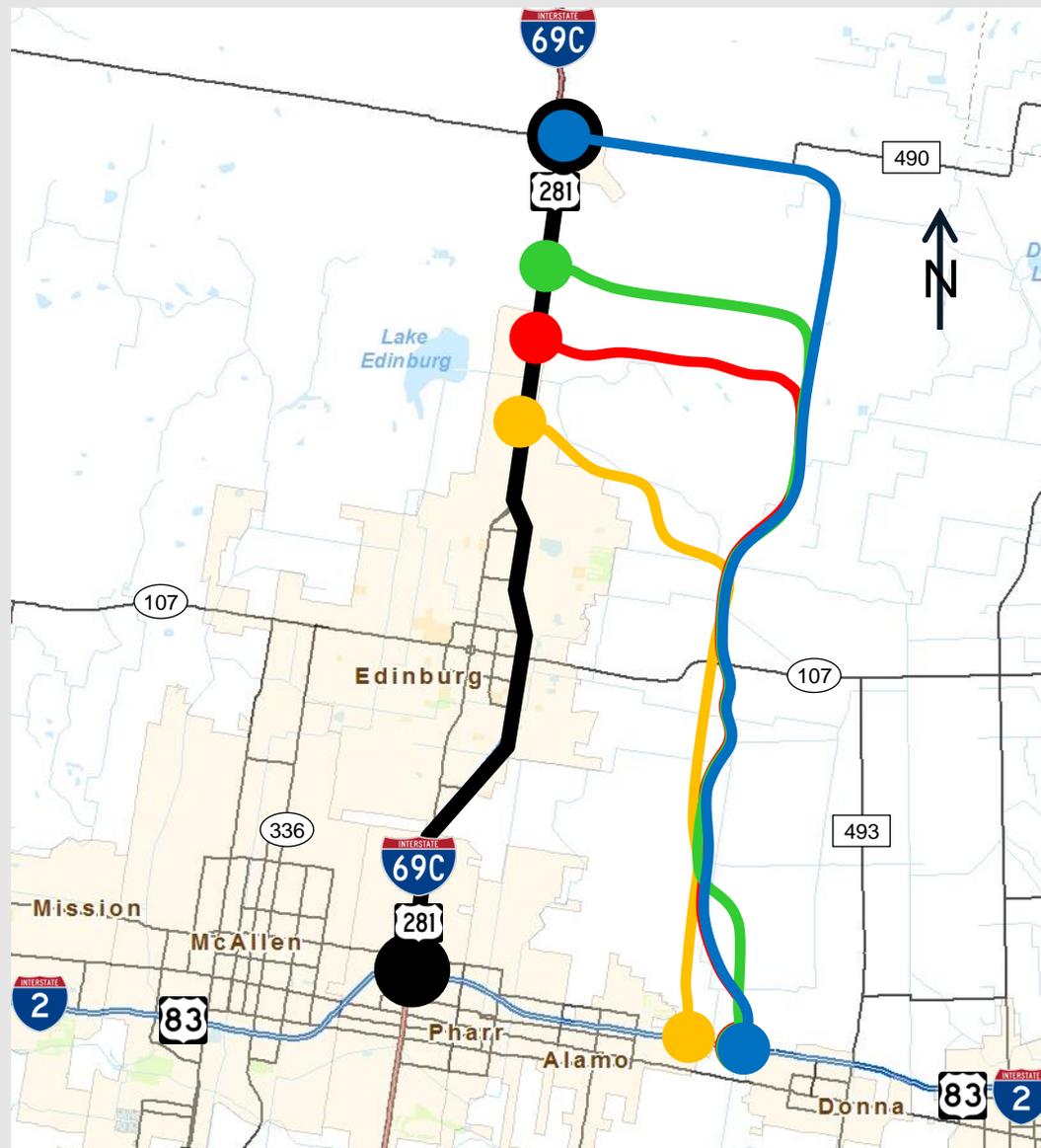
Phase II – Future FM 1925 (Monte Cristo Rd.) to US 281/I-69C Frontage Roads

Phase III – Future Main Lanes from US 83/I-2 to US 281/I-69C

Potentially Tolled

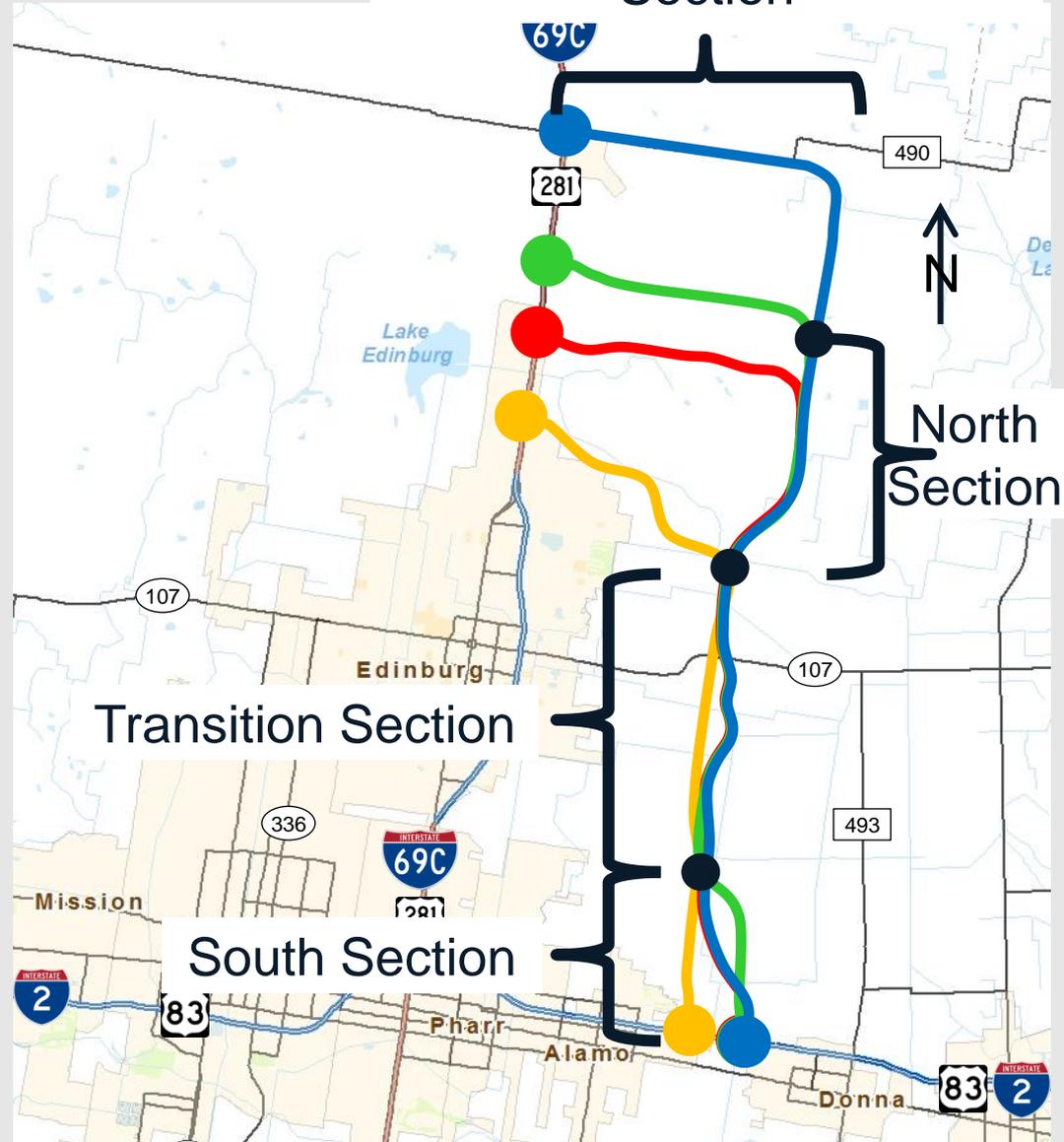
# Alternatives Development

- 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 #3 – Public Meeting by HCRMA

- Four Sections for Evaluation
- Screening Matrix



# Screening and Evaluation

## Criteria by Goal

Safety Goal

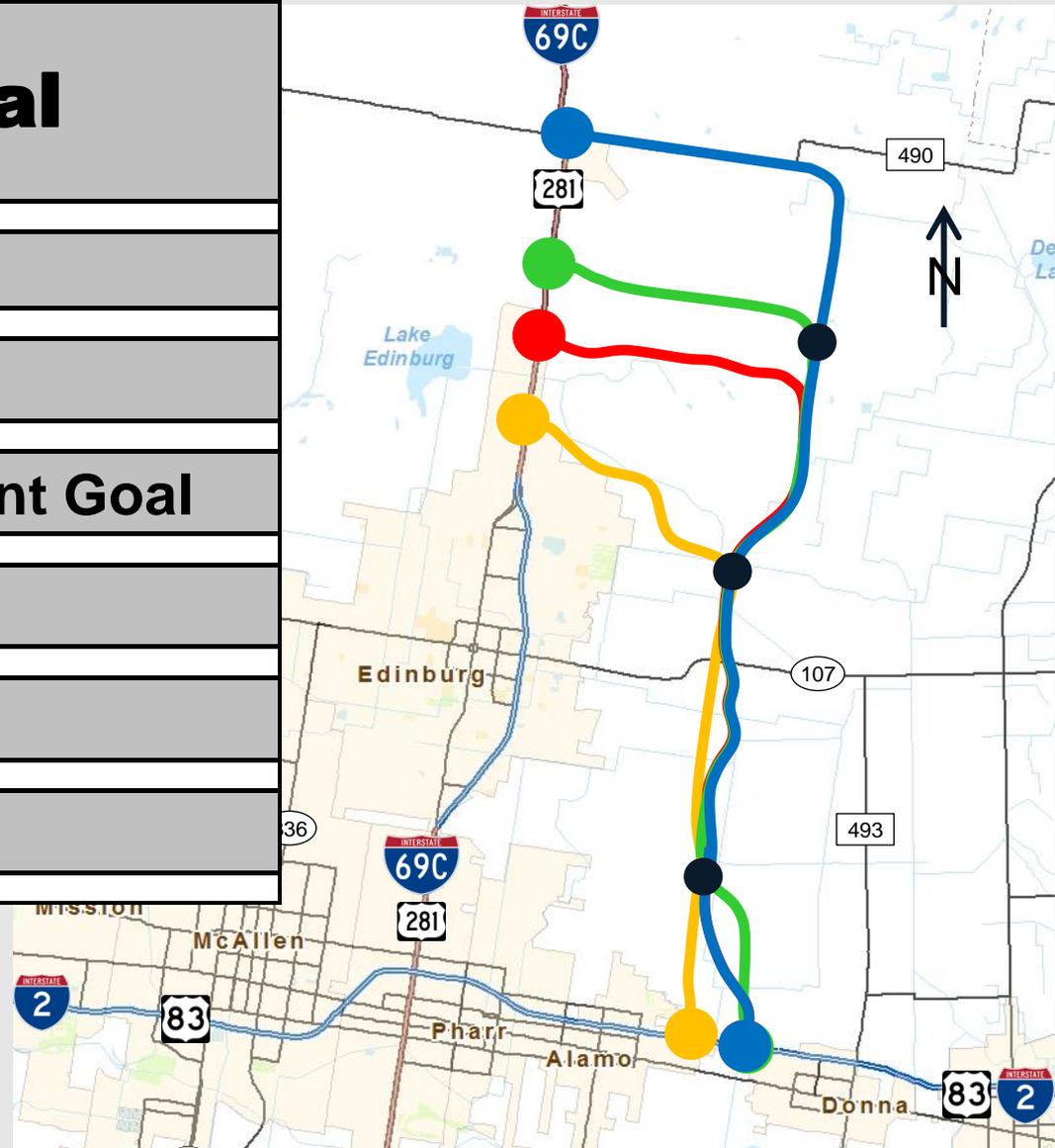
Mobility Goal

Community and Environment Goal

Feasibility/Design Goal

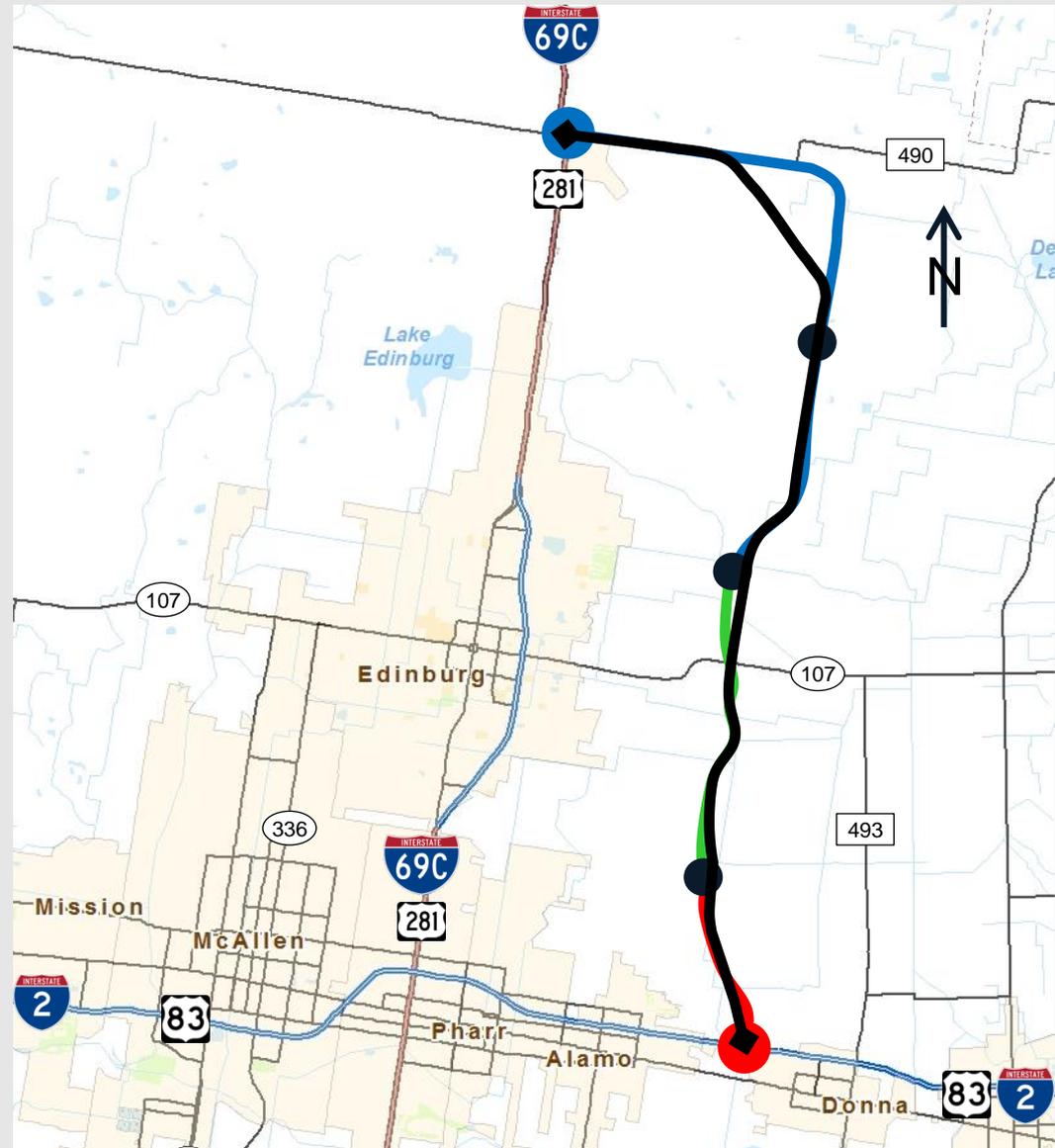
Cost Effectiveness Goal

Economic Factors



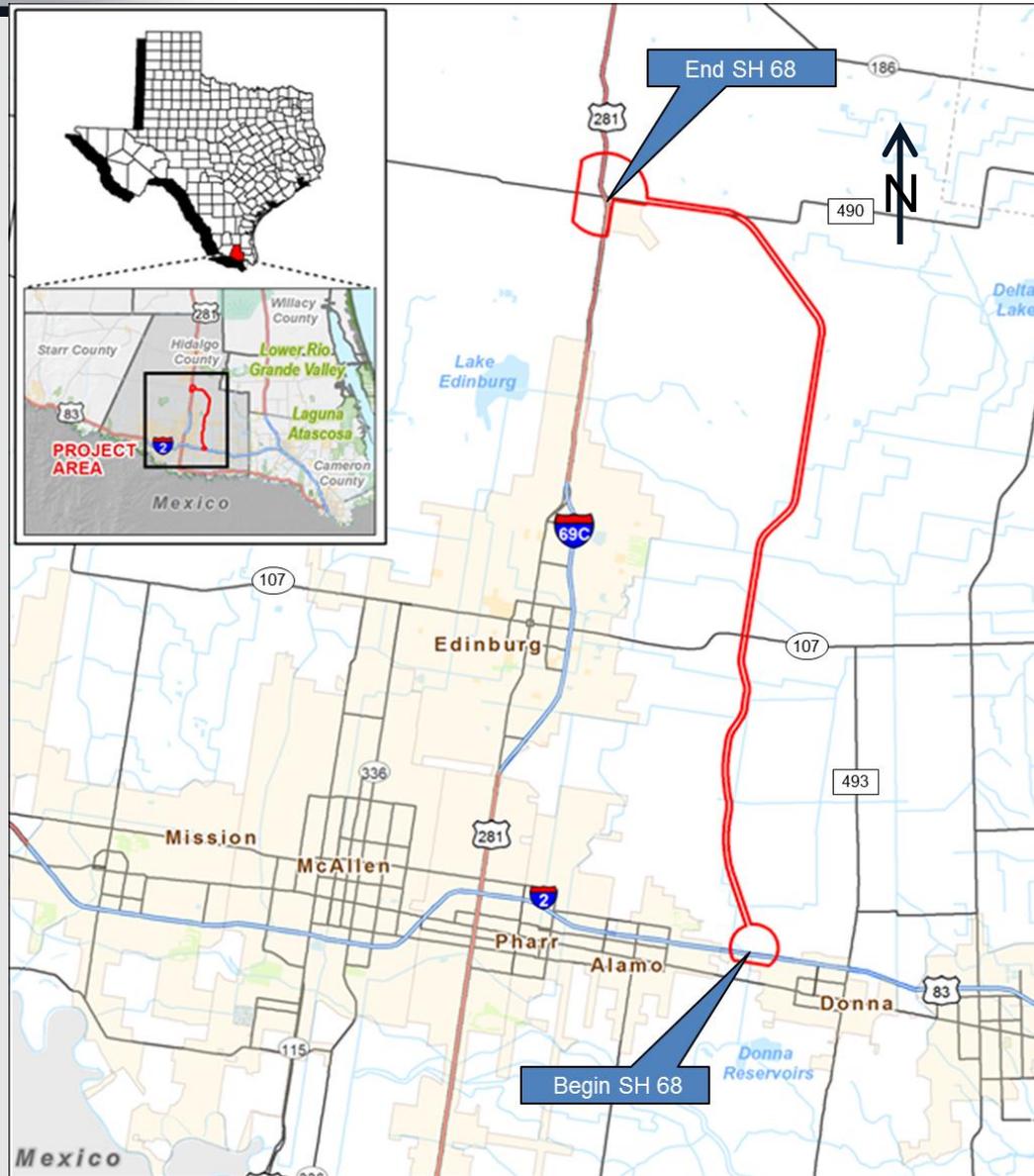
# Project Route Refinements

- Geometric Refinements
- Minimize Impacts

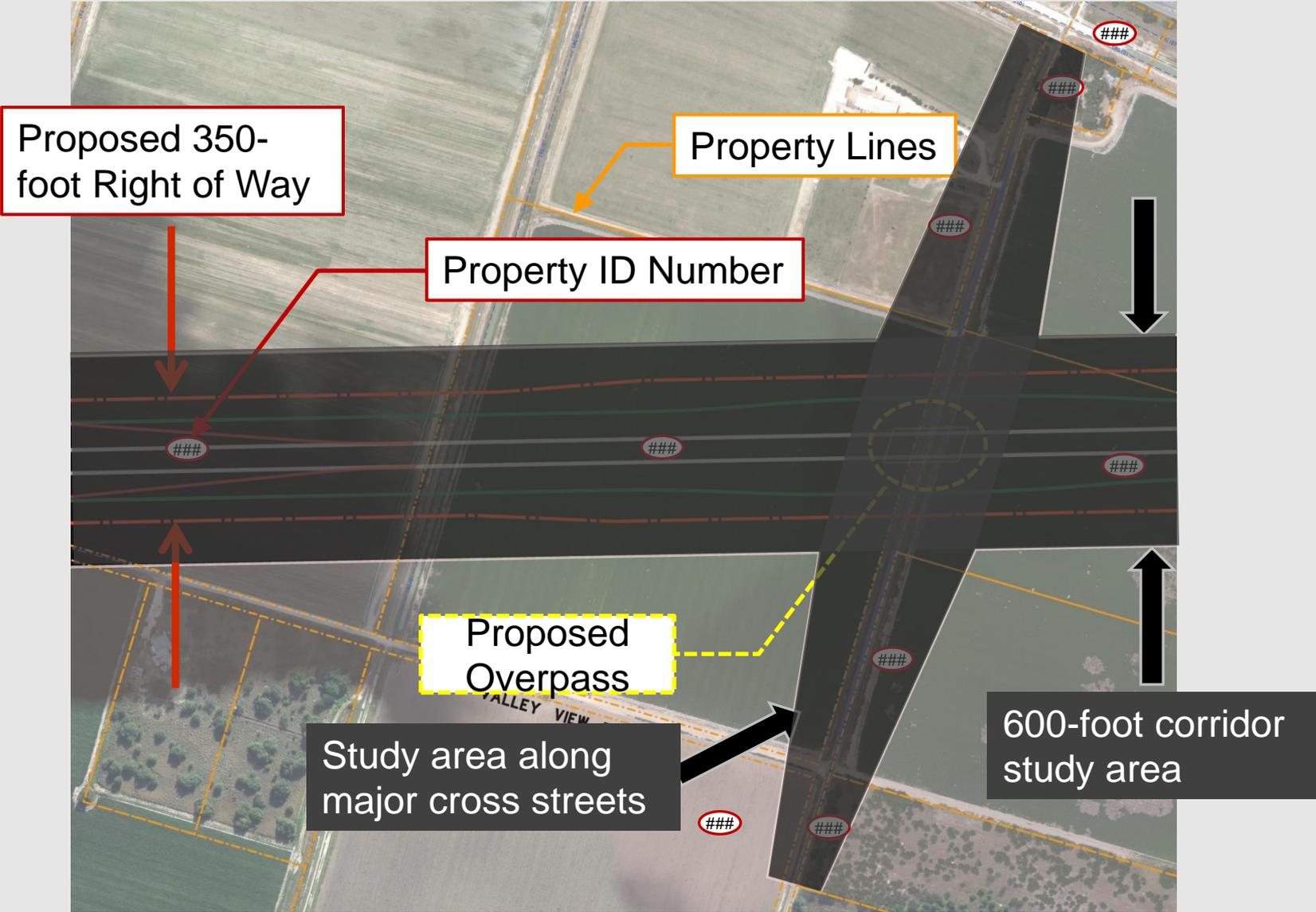


# Continued Refinements

- MAPO – September 9, 2014
- Provide advance information
- Gather Public Input
- Identify constraints



# Layout Map Excerpt



# ROW Acquisition/Relocation Assistance

- Right of way map and plats and deeds
- Information Notice
- Appraisal
- Negotiation
- Administrative Settlement
- Eminent Domain
- Relocation assistance
  - In addition to market value paid
  - Comparable housing
  - Moving costs



# Next Steps

- Compile public input
- Stakeholder & MAPO Meetings
- 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

# Public Comment Period

- Use the microphone
- State your name
- State your interest in the project
- Limit your comment to three minutes on the SH 68 project
- Others wishing to make a public comment

# Provide Your Comments

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