



Final Public Meeting Summary

US 281 from FM 3248 to FM 1421

CSJ# 0220-04-035

Prepared by: TxDOT Pharr District
September 2015

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) proposes improvements to U.S. Highway (US) 281 in the city of Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas. The proposed roadway improvements would extend along US 281 from Farm-to-Market (FM) 3248 northwest to FM 1421, a distance of approximately 5.2 miles (see **Figure 1** in **Appendix A**).

The existing facility is a two-lane, undivided, major rural arterial that serves as a designated Hurricane Evacuation Route through rural communities in western Cameron County. The current roadway is located within a 100-foot existing right of way and measures between 38 and 62 feet wide with 12-foot travel lanes (one in each direction), discontinuous 2- to 12-foot shoulders, and intermittent center left-turn lanes (see **Figure 2** in **Appendix A**). Currently, the speed limit on US 281 ranges from 45 to 60 miles per hour (mph). Open, graded ditches provide roadway drainage and are located within a vegetated buffer adjacent to the roadway.

The proposed improvements to this stretch of US 281 include widening the roadway from two to four lanes, adding intermittent right-turn lanes, adding dedicated center left-turn lanes at major intersections, and improving drainage infrastructure along the roadway. Continuous shoulders would also be constructed and would measure between five and eight feet wide, depending on location (see **Figure 3** in **Appendix A**). No changes to the existing speed limit have been proposed as part of this project. The majority of improvements would be constructed within the existing 100-foot right of way, although additional right of way totaling approximately 2.3 acres would be required to provide for the enhanced safety and operational improvements. The proposed facility would not include dedicated bicycle or pedestrian accommodations; however, the proposed five- to eight foot shoulders on each side of the roadway would accommodate use by bicyclists and pedestrians along this stretch of US 281.

2.0 PUBLIC MEETING OVERVIEW

A public meeting was held for the proposed project on April 1, 2015, from 5:30 PM to approximately 7:20 PM at Veterans Memorial Early College High School Auditorium at 4550 US 281, Brownsville, Texas, 78520. In accordance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 43, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter 3, Rule §2.107, the meeting provided information about the proposed project and gathered input from the public as part of the environmental review process. All meeting materials were available in English and Spanish, and TxDOT employees were available to provide translation services, as necessary.

Upon approval of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed project, the environmental document and supporting documentation will be made available for public review. Additionally, an opportunity for a public hearing will be held for the proposed project.

2.1 LEGAL NOTICES AND PUBLICATIONS

On March 19, 2015, notification of the public meeting (see **Appendix B**) was sent to local elected officials and individual property owners affected by the proposed project (see **Appendix C**). Newspaper

notices regarding the meeting were published in English and Spanish in the *The Brownsville Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald* on Sunday, March 15, 2015, and Sunday, March 29, 2015 (see **Appendix B**). The meeting was also advertised on the TxDOT Pharr District website (see **Appendix B**).

2.2 PUBLIC MEETING FORMAT

Upon arrival, attendees were asked to sign in (see **Appendix D**) and were given a comment sheet and handout discussing the proposed project. The meeting started with an open house beginning at 5:30 PM, during which time schematics of the proposed improvements were available for review. Afterwards, a formal presentation was given discussing design elements and potential impacts of the proposed project (see **Appendix E**). TxDOT Public Information Officer Octavio Saenz addressed the attendees at the beginning of the formal presentation. The presentation by TxDOT and the subsequent public comment session were transcribed by a certified court reporter (see **Appendix F**). The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 PM.

2.3 PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

A total of 97 people attended the meeting, including 68 members of the general public and 21 members of TxDOT staff and the project team. Also in attendance were two representatives from the Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), two representatives from the City of Brownsville, two representatives from Cameron County, one representative from the Brownsville Independent School District (ISD), and one representative from the Valley Municipal Utility District. Sign-in sheets are provided in **Appendix D**, and photographs of the public meeting are available in **Appendix G**.

Written comments regarding the proposed project were encouraged during and following the meeting via email or regular mail for a period of twelve days after the public meeting (until April 13, 2015). Summaries of the comments received and the TxDOT Pharr District's responses are included below.

3.0 COMMENTS RECEIVED

During the public meeting, 16 members of the general public provided verbal comments. A total of ten written comments and nine emailed comments were also received within the public comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015) (see **Appendix H**). TxDOT's responses to these comments are provided below.

No comments expressing opposition to the proposed project as a whole were received, and the majority of commenters expressed their support of the proposed improvements. Comments and questions were generally related to specific project design elements or accessibility to residential areas and public facilities along the corridor. Several commenters indicated concern regarding safety at the entrances to Villa Nueva Elementary School, Veterans Memorial Early College High School, and the community of San Pedro, requesting that TxDOT consider incorporating design elements such as signalized intersections, additional street lighting, and lower speed limits at these locations. Similar comments about safety and accessibility were also made for the Gem Estates area, the River Bend Resort, and Alton Gloor Boulevard. Comments included requests that either additional turn lanes or new or modified signals be integrated into the proposed project design in these areas.

In addition to these comments, several members of the general public had questions about right of way acquisition and vegetation removal in specific areas along the corridor, including the removal of mature palm trees outside of the River Bend Resort. Several commenters also suggested that bicycle lanes, sidewalks (particularly around the high school), and continuous lighting be considered throughout the proposed project corridor. TxDOT's responses to all questions and comments are provided below. A full transcript of verbal comments is provided in **Appendix F**; copies of all written and emailed comments are provided in **Appendix H**.

3.1 VERBAL COMMENTS

COMMENT 1

Commenter: Leroy Stoltenburg

Received: April 1, 2015

Mr. Stoltenburg is a property owner at River Bend Resort that generally supports the proposed improvements. He has two primary concerns, the first of which is ensuring there is adequate room at the entry gate to River Bend Resort for large trailers. He expresses concern that by taking property only from the River Bend Resort side of US 281, TxDOT would not allow for adequate room for a trailer to enter the River Bend Resort without causing a safety concern. He suggests that the proposed right of way could be split between the River Bend Resort property and the property on the opposite side of the roadway (which he believes is owned by the same individual), unless TxDOT intends to rebuild the entrance to River Bend Resort. He also expresses concern regarding the large palm trees along the side of the roadway that may be removed.

RESPONSE 1

A right-turn lane is being proposed at the entrance to the River Bend Resort, and coordination with the River Bend Resort property owner has been initiated. Concern regarding adequate room at the entry gate has been noted, and the proper distance required at the entry gate is being reviewed and analyzed.

The palm trees noted are within the right of way that would be acquired for the proposed project. Coordination with the River Bend Resort property owner regarding the removal or potential relocation of the palm trees is currently underway.

COMMENT 2

Commenter: Sylvia Suarez

Received: April 1, 2015

Sylvia Suarez lives in the community of San Pedro and generally supports the proposed improvements. She does, however, have concerns about various design elements of the proposed project. She expresses concern over the safety of school buses accessing Villa Nueva Elementary School (located in San Pedro) from US 281 and the general ability of San Pedro residents to safely enter and exit their community. She requests that a traffic light be installed at the community entrance to ensure safer conditions for those who enter and exit the area. She also requests that the proposed project include

drainage improvements at the San Pedro entrance, as this area is low-lying and often has drainage issues. Also, she thinks two turn lanes onto Alton Gloor Boulevard from US 281 are necessary at this intersection.

RESPONSE 2

As per TxDOT policy, the City must first run a traffic study to determine if a traffic signal is warranted in a particular area. Upon completion, the City must then submit a request to TxDOT for review of the study before a decision can be made as to whether a new signal light or beacon is needed in the area of concern. In this instance, TxDOT has contacted the City of Brownsville directly regarding these concerns and is waiting on a response from the City.

The capacity of the roadway would be increased by the addition of the through travel lanes, which would help to improve traffic congestion at the intersection of FM 3248 (Alton Gloor Boulevard) and US 281. Constructing two left-turn lanes in this area is not feasible due to right of way constraints.

Drainage improvements have been proposed throughout the entirety of the project area. Ditches would be re-graded and additional drainage structures (equalizers) have been proposed.

COMMENT 3

Commenter: Ernesto De Leon

Received: April 1, 2015

Mr. De Leon owns land adjacent to the proposed improvements. He suggests that, due to heavy traffic, a side entrance/exit to Veterans Memorial Early College High School from Carmen Avenue be integrated into the proposed project design, as well as a roadway running parallel to US 281 for school buses.

RESPONSE 3

While TxDOT cannot accommodate routes outside of TxDOT-owned right of way, TxDOT will coordinate with external entities regarding these concerns.

COMMENT 4

Commenter: Miguel Gonzales

Received: April 1, 2015

Miguel Gonzales lives in the Gem Estates area across from San Pedro. He requests that a center turn lane be installed throughout the Gem Estates area to ensure the safety of residents entering and exiting Halo Avenue and Gastin Drive from US 281.

RESPONSE 4

Existing right of way limits have been reviewed in the vicinity of Gem Estates (in front of Halo Avenue and Gastin Drive) and may allow for incorporation of a center left-turn lane in this area. However, further study regarding the designated right of way limits at Halo Avenue and Gastin Drive is required before design plans can be finalized. The ten-foot right of way in this area must also accommodate

maximum grades in order to achieve proper drainage flow. Additionally, noise abatement walls may be constructed at this location. Further survey work has been initiated, and final decisions regarding the center left-turn lane and the construction of noise abatement walls are pending.

COMMENT 5

Commenter: Henry Osher

Received: April 1, 2015

Henry Osher owns approximately a half-mile stretch of land along the proposed project and is in support of the proposed improvements. However, he would like to know more about who is responsible for traffic signal timing, phasing, and maintenance along the US 281 corridor, as he thinks the current signal phases are inefficient. He is also concerned about the speed of traffic along this portion of US 281.

RESPONSE 5

San Benito Area Engineer Juan Bosquez has responded to this question and explained the process of managing signal timing. Additional concerns regarding traffic signals should be directed to the City of Brownsville in order for coordination between the City and TxDOT to be initiated.

COMMENT 6

Commenter: Santiago Trevino

Received: April 1, 2015

Santiago Trevino owns approximately 1,000 feet of farmland within the proposed project area that would be affected by the proposed improvements. He has questions regarding the feasibility of integrating street lighting into the proposed project and would like to know more about plans for utilities in the proposed project area, including water and wastewater infrastructure and irrigation.

RESPONSE 6

Street lights cannot be accommodated solely by TxDOT and must be proposed by the City of Brownsville (with partnership involved). Regarding utilities, TxDOT has contacted the Military Highway Water Supply Corporation in order to coordinate any future plans for proposed utilities within the project limits, including water and wastewater infrastructure. Within TxDOT's jurisdiction, proper drainage structures—such as equalizers, rural side ditches, and siphons—have been sized and proposed for incorporation into the project.

COMMENT 7

Commenter: Amador Carbajal

Received: April 1, 2015

Amador Carbajal lives in the Gem Estates area and would like information regarding any potential plans to construct turn lanes in this area. He also has questions regarding previous plans to include curb-and-gutter drainage throughout the proposed project area, as well as whether or not roadway lighting (or

lighting upgrades) are being considered as part of the project. He also believes signal timings at Veterans Memorial Early College High School are inefficient, particularly during off-times when no one is accessing the school, and would like more information on how signal timings are managed. Finally, he has concerns regarding potential damage to his home during construction.

RESPONSE 7

Graded ditches have been incorporated into the design for the proposed project, which is considered a rural facility. Curb-and-gutter drainage improvements are considered beyond the scope of the proposed project.

For information regarding street lighting, please refer to **Response 6**.

For information regarding signal timing, please refer to **Responses 2 and 5**.

Proper construction methods intended to minimize the risk of property damage would be utilized throughout the construction phase of the project. Nevertheless, it is recommended that all citizens maintain a record of their property condition in the event that any complaints would need to be filed.

COMMENT 8

Commenter: Scott Fry

Received: April 1, 2015

Scott Frye is the General Manager of Valley Municipal Utility District No. 2, which provides water and wastewater service to the area from New Carmen Avenue to the resaca just east of Veterans Memorial Early College High School. He is concerned about safety and accessibility at New Carmen Avenue at its intersection with US 281 and inquired as to whether a continuous left-turn lane could be extended west of Veterans Memorial Early College High School to Carmen Avenue.

RESPONSE 8

Extension of a continuous left-turn lane to New Carmen Avenue is not feasible due to the constrained right of way near the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) levee on the south side of the project area. If the proposed project design were to incorporate an additional turn lane in this area, proper ditch grading would not be feasible and would potentially pose a safety hazard due to flooding.

COMMENT 9

Commenter: William Poole

Received: April 1, 2015

William Poole lives near the San Pedro community entrance where some houses would be within 40 feet of the proposed project. He wants to know whether guardrails are being considered in this area to protect homes in close proximity to the proposed improvements. He also has concerns regarding the safety of residents living adjacent to US 281 and inquires as to whether the flow of hazardous materials would increase if the proposed improvements are constructed.

RESPONSE 9

Areas throughout the project corridor have been evaluated and analyzed for safety, including determining where obstacles exist and whether houses may be subjected to unsafe conditions. Guardrails are only incorporated into roadway design when absolutely necessary in order to avoid introducing additional obstacles along the roadway.

US 281 is a public roadway, and the local government is in charge of allowing and regulating specific cargo (such as hazardous materials). However, an increase in hazardous materials on the roadway would not be anticipated to occur.

COMMENT 10

Commenter: Jesse Perez

Received: April 1, 2015

Mr. Perez owns property in the proposed project area near the San Pedro entrance, and the proposed improvements would require approximately 10 feet of right of way from his land. He is in disagreement with the acquisition of this land in front of the San Pedro intersection. He requests that the proposed right of way be redesigned to avoid his property. He also expresses concern over the accessibility of San Pedro from US 281 and thinks that the intersection is unsafe and in need of a signal at the community entrance.

RESPONSE 10

A potential realignment has been analyzed in the vicinity of the San Pedro intersection. Acquisition of right of way in this area is due to the widening of the roadway intersection. In order to create safe ditch slopes, TxDOT needs to create room for flat grades and proper safety clearances. The alignment cannot be moved towards the north side of the project area, because right of way acquisition is already being divided equally on both sides in order to minimize impacts to individual property owners. The adjacent properties to the east and west would also be affected as a result of widening the intersection. The lots west of the affected property not proposed for right of way acquisition were previously dedicated for use by TxDOT. In sum, the roadway cannot be realigned without further affecting other property owners, existing utility easements, and roadway functionality. For additional concerns, please contact TxDOT's Right of Way Division at (512) 416-2901.

For information about intersection signalization, please refer to **Response 2**.

COMMENT 11

Commenter: Peggy Poole

Received: April 1, 2015

Peggy Poole is a resident in San Pedro and is in support of the proposed project, noting that there is a great need to expand US 281. However, she requests that left-turn lanes extending from US 281 to FM

3248 (Alton Gloor Boulevard) be considered as part of the proposed improvements, as it would make the intersection more efficient.

RESPONSE 11

For information on turn lanes at Alton Gloor Boulevard, please refer to **Response 2**.

COMMENT 12

Commenter: Jaime Trevino

Received: April 1, 2015

Jaime Trevino is a property owner near the West Rail Bridge. He raises questions regarding future work planned for the bridge and the continuous movement of rail traffic in the area.

RESPONSE 12

It is not probable that work would be required at the West Rail Bridge, since the intersection of West Rail Bridge and US 281 is not a supply pick-up or delivery station and is intended for through traffic.

COMMENT 13

Commenter: Corcina Garza

Received: April 1, 2015

Corcina Garza is a resident living on Vasquez Ranch Road. She has questions regarding potential changes to the speed limit on US 281 and requests that a continuous turn lane be considered for the Vasquez Ranch Road/US 281 intersection. She is also concerned about the safety of children accessing schools in the proposed project area in general and would like to know about any plans for street lighting and utility improvements as part of the proposed project.

RESPONSE 13

There are no plans to change the speed limit on US 281.

Due to right of way constraints, a continuous left-turn lane cannot be accommodated in the vicinity of Vasquez Ranch Road. Nevertheless, traffic would be expected to have better access along the roadway due to the added capacity of the proposed four-lane, bi-directional roadway. Exiting vehicles would be able to utilize either the outside or inside lanes to accelerate, allowing drivers to avoid faster traffic from behind. Safer conditions would be expected to result from the proposed addition of lanes within the project limits.

A right-turn lane has been proposed to facilitate safer access to Veterans Memorial Early College High School.

For information regarding street lighting and utility improvements, please refer to **Response 6**.

COMMENT 14

Commenter: Sylvia Suarez

Received: April 1, 2015

Sylvia Suarez is a resident living in San Pedro. She announced a community meeting to residents of San Pedro present at the public meeting to address the issue of getting street lights installed in the community.

RESPONSE 14

For additional information on street lights, please refer to **Response 6**.

COMMENT 15

Commenter: Rogelio Cabrera

Received: April 1, 2015

Rogelio Cabrera is a local resident who is concerned about the proposed project impacting his private cemetery.

RESPONSE 15

No right of way would be taken from the area in question, and the cemetery would not be affected by the proposed improvements.

COMMENT 16

Commenter: Hector Camerana

Received: April 1, 2015

Hector Camerana is a resident living in the proposed project area. He is concerned about work being done near the cemetery located at the intersection of San Pedro Road and US 281.

RESPONSE 16

The area in question would not require any right of way acquisition, and the cemetery would not be affected by the proposed project.

COMMENT 17

Commenter: Raul Trevino

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Raul Trevino is a property owner in the San Pedro area who lives in Austin. He requests project information.

RESPONSE 17

Contact was established with Mr. Trevino to provide project information and inform him that no right of way acquisition would take place on his property.

3.2 WRITTEN COMMENTS

COMMENT 18

Commenter: Ernesto De Leon

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Ernesto De Leon requests that an entrance/exit to Veterans Memorial Early College High School be considered as part of the proposed improvements to accommodate buses and to prevent them from using the US 281 exit from the high school to New Carmen Avenue.

RESPONSE 18

For information on a side entrance/exit to Veterans Memorial Early College High School, please refer to **Response 3**.

COMMENT 19

Commenter: Scott Fry

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Scott Fry (General Manager of Valley Municipal Utility District No. 2) is concerned about two locations where Resaca de la Palma crosses US 281 (Station 10+80.00 to 11+35.00 on the schematics for the proposed project). He says that these areas would eventually need to serve as a main drainage outfall for future development in the area and would like adequate culverts to be proposed for future development. He also requests that TxDOT consider extending the left-turn lane west from Veterans Memorial Early College High School to accommodate New Carmen Avenue.

RESPONSE 19

Proper drainage structures have been sized and proposed for existing and future conditions of the proposed project. For unexpected future conditions that may arise, TxDOT can reevaluate the drainage study and propose changes as needed. For more information on drainage and utilities, please refer to **Response 2**.

Extension of a continuous left-turn lane to New Carmen Avenue is not feasible due to the constrained right of way near the IBWC levee on the south side of the project area. Proper ditch grading is required and could not be achieved if the proposed project design included an additional turn lane in this area, which could pose a safety hazard due to flooding.

COMMENT 20

Commenter: Mike and Cindy Gonzales

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Mike and Cindy Gonzales request that a center turn lane be constructed throughout the Gem Estates area (Halo Avenue/Gastin Drive), as well as request the installation of street lights and sidewalks throughout the entirety of the proposed project area.

RESPONSE 20

Sidewalks cannot be accommodated in the proposed project area due to right of way constraints; however, continuous shoulders would be constructed and would measure between five and eight feet wide, depending on location. These shoulders would serve to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians travelling along this stretch of US 281.

For information on street lights, please refer to **Response 6**.

For information on turn lanes into the Gem Estates area, please refer to **Response 4**.

COMMENT 21

Commenter: Lauren Heiy

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Lauren Heiy requests that a caution sign be installed at the River Bend Resort entrance in order to ensure the safety of motor homes entering the community. Her concern is in regards to the River Bend Resort's gated entryway where vehicles often must wait to access the card reader and allow the gate to open.

RESPONSE 21

For information on plans for the River Bend Resort entrance, please refer to **Response 1**.

COMMENT 22

Commenter: Harold Ewald

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Harold Ewald is in support of the proposed improvements. However, he requests that a right-turn lane be added at the River Bend Resort entrance to ensure the safety of those needing to access the card reader and wait for the gate to open. He also wants to know whether the mature palm trees which border the River Bend Resort's golf course in the proposed project area could be saved.

RESPONSE 22

For information on plans for the River Bend entrance (including palm trees), please refer to **Response 1**.

COMMENT 23

Commenter: Araceli Palomino

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Araceli Palomino requests that turn lanes be considered as part of the proposed improvements in the Gem Estates area as accidents have happened in the past.

RESPONSE 23

For information on turn lanes in the Gem Estates area, please refer to **Response 4**.

COMMENT 24

Commenter: Oscar Ceballos

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Oscar Ceballos lives adjacent to the proposed project area. He would like to know whether any plans to improve drainage and wastewater infrastructure are included in the project scope.

RESPONSE 24

For more information on drainage and wastewater infrastructure, please refer to **Responses 2 and 6**.

COMMENT 25

Commenter: Sylvia G. Suarez

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Sylvia Suarez is a resident of San Pedro. She requests that a traffic light be added at the entrance to San Pedro; two turn lanes be constructed at the intersection of US 281 and Alton Gloor Boulevard; and two exits from Veterans Memorial Early College High School onto US 281 be added to the proposed project design.

RESPONSE 25

For information on signalized intersections at San Pedro and turn lanes onto Alton Gloor Boulevard, please refer to **Response 2**.

A right-turn lane has been proposed for the entrance to Veterans Memorial Early College High School; however, two left-turn lanes cannot be accommodated due to right of way constraints.

COMMENT 26

Commenter: Carlos Palomino

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Carlos Palomino is a resident living in the Gem Estates area. He was involved in an accident while turning into the community and is a strong advocate of including a center turn lane as part of the proposed improvements in that area.

RESPONSE 26

For information on turn lanes in the Gem Estates area, please refer to **Response 4**.

COMMENT 27

Commenter: Joe de la Fuente

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Joe de la Fuente is generally in support of the proposed improvements. However, he is concerned about safety in the proposed project area and requests that a center turn lane and flashing beacon for oncoming traffic be integrated into the proposed improvements at the intersection of US 281 and Villanueva Street due to heavy traffic in the area and several accidents which have occurred in the past. He also thinks that sidewalks and bicycle trails are needed in the proposed project area, especially for the benefit of students attending Veterans Memorial Early College High School.

RESPONSE 27

Surveys are currently being conducted to determine if a turn lane at Villanueva Street can be incorporated into the proposed project design.

For information on signalized intersections, please refer to **Response 2**.

For information on pedestrian/bicycle accommodations, please refer to see **Response 19**.

3.3 E-MAIL COMMENTS

COMMENT 28

Commenter: Norm Rourke

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Norm Rourke is in support of the proposed improvements.

RESPONSE 28

Comment noted.

COMMENT 29

Commenter: Peggy Poole

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Peggy Poole requests a schematic of the proposed improvements.

RESPONSE 29

TxDOT provided Ms. Poole with a schematic of the proposed project.

COMMENT 30

Commenter: Regelio Cabrera

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Regelio Cabrera requests that a sanitary sewer be installed to manage water in the proposed project area.

RESPONSE 30

For more information on drainage and wastewater infrastructure in the proposed project area, please refer to **Response 6**.

COMMENT 31

Commenter: David Bellesperche

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

David Bellesperche is generally in support of the proposed improvements but would like to see barriers installed at intersections and traffic signals upgraded with mast arms, video detection, and LED luminars.

RESPONSE 31

Barriers are not provided at the intersections, because they are not warranted according to TxDOT standards. For more information, please refer to **Response 9**.

Proper clear zone distances have been evaluated throughout the proposed project area. Traffic signals would be replaced with the same quality material used for the existing signal structures. Span Wire would be used, and video detection (as well as LED luminars) would be proposed at the Carmen Avenue intersection.

COMMENT 32

Commenter: John Brooke

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

John Brooke states that there are errors on the schematics regarding property owners.

RESPONSE 32

Mr. Brooke was contacted and a message was left on his answering machine. TxDOT will continue to coordinate with him to address this issue once contact is established.

COMMENT 33

Commenter: Joe de la Fuente

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Joe de la Fuente lives west of Villanueva Street and is in support of proposed improvements. However, he would like a turn lane extended to the Villanueva Street/US 281 intersection and is willing to gift land in order to make room for this lane. He also requests that a flashing beacon be installed at this intersection. In addition to these requests, he also thinks that sidewalks and bicycle lanes are needed along US 281 and would like for the City of Brownsville to coordinate with TxDOT to provide these accommodations. Finally, he indicates that curb-and-gutter drainage is needed in the proposed project area.

RESPONSE 33

Surveys are currently being conducted to determine if a turn lane at Villanueva Street can be incorporated into the proposed project design.

For information on signalized intersections, please refer to **Response 2**.

For information on pedestrian/bicycle accommodations, please refer to **Response 19**.

For information on drainage plans in the proposed project area, please refer to **Response 7**.

COMMENT 34

Commenter: Mark Bernard

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Mark Bernard is the owner of the River Bend Resort property in front of Veterans Memorial Early College High School. He is thinking of subdividing his land on the south side of US 281 and is interested in keeping the area as environmentally friendly as possible.

RESPONSE 34

A meeting with Mr. Bernard has been set up, and coordination regarding these issues has been initiated.

COMMENT 35

Commenter: Cristina Ortiz

Received: Within the comment period (April 1–April 13, 2015)

Cristina Ortiz's mother lives in the project area. She has concerns about her mother's property which currently has problems with utilities and easements. She is also concerned about potential safety hazards in her mother's yard; specifically, the risk of cars veering onto the property. In the interest of mitigating this risk, she requests that a metal beam guard fence be installed in the immediate vicinity.

RESPONSE 35

Metal beam guard fences cannot be installed in this vicinity due to the necessity to maintain proper clear zone distances in the area. Furthermore, guard fences cannot be accommodated in the area of concern due to continuous driveway entrances.

TxDOT recommends contacting the Brownsville Public Utilities Board (PUB) directly to address utility line concerns.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The table below provides a brief summary of the issues cited in the comments received during and after the public meeting. Each reference to a particular issue is included in the table; therefore, comments that mention multiple issues may be included in the table more than once.

Issue	Count
Concern over entering and exiting Veterans Memorial Early College High School and safety of school buses	6
Request for a left-turn lane at Gastin Drive/Halo Drive (Gem Estates area)	5
Request for a signalized intersection at the entrance to San Pedro	4
Request for the installation/upgrade of street lights along US 281	4
Concern over safety at the entrance to the River Bend Resort, including the request for a right-turn lane	3
Request for an additional turn lane(s) at Alton Gloor Boulevard	3
Concern over removal of mature palm trees lining the River Bend Resort property	2
Concern over signal timings along the corridor	2
Request for pedestrian/bicycle accommodations along corridor	2
Request to improve drainage at the entrance to San Pedro	2
Request for the installation of guard rails in various locations	2
Concern over the potential for increased truck traffic	1
Concern over the speed limit along this portion of US 281	2
Concern over drainage issues near Resaca de la Palma	1
Request for turn lanes at Villanueva Street	1
Request for the installation of a sanitary sewer	1
Request to upgrade existing traffic signals	1

Overall, the response to the proposed project at the public meeting and during the comment period (April 1 to April 13, 2015) was positive; none of the comments received expressed an objection to the proposed project as a whole. The most commonly cited issues include safety concerns over traffic entering and exiting the various cross-streets and neighborhoods along the US 281 corridor, as well as the requests to integrate design elements such as pedestrian/bicyclist infrastructure, street lights and improved drainage into the scope of proposed improvements. For incorporation of a new traffic signal to be justified, the location must meet the specifications outlined in the *Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD)* (43 TAC §25.1). In several areas along the project corridor, such as the Gem Estates and River Bend Resort communities, turn lanes and coordination with property owners are under consideration. Several of the comments, such as requests for street lighting and sidewalk infrastructure, were indicated by TxDOT as falling outside of the scope of the proposed project. However, the construction of continuous shoulders in the proposed project area would serve to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians travelling along this stretch of US 281.

The information provided in this document and its appendices satisfies the requirements of 43 TAC Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter E, §2.109. The statutory provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 have been considered in determining the economic, social and environmental effects. No significant social, economic, or environmental impacts associated with this project would occur. The project would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the City of Brownsville, Cameron County, and the Brownsville MPO.

An opportunity for a public hearing will be provided for the proposed project.

.

APPENDIX A

FIGURES

US 281
From FM 3248 to FM 1421
CSJ: 0220-04-035

PROJECT LOCATION



- Key to Features**
- Existing ROW
 - Proposed ROW
 - ~ Rivers
 - Resaca de la Palma State Park
 - Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

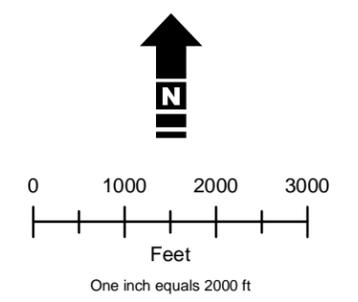


FIGURE 1



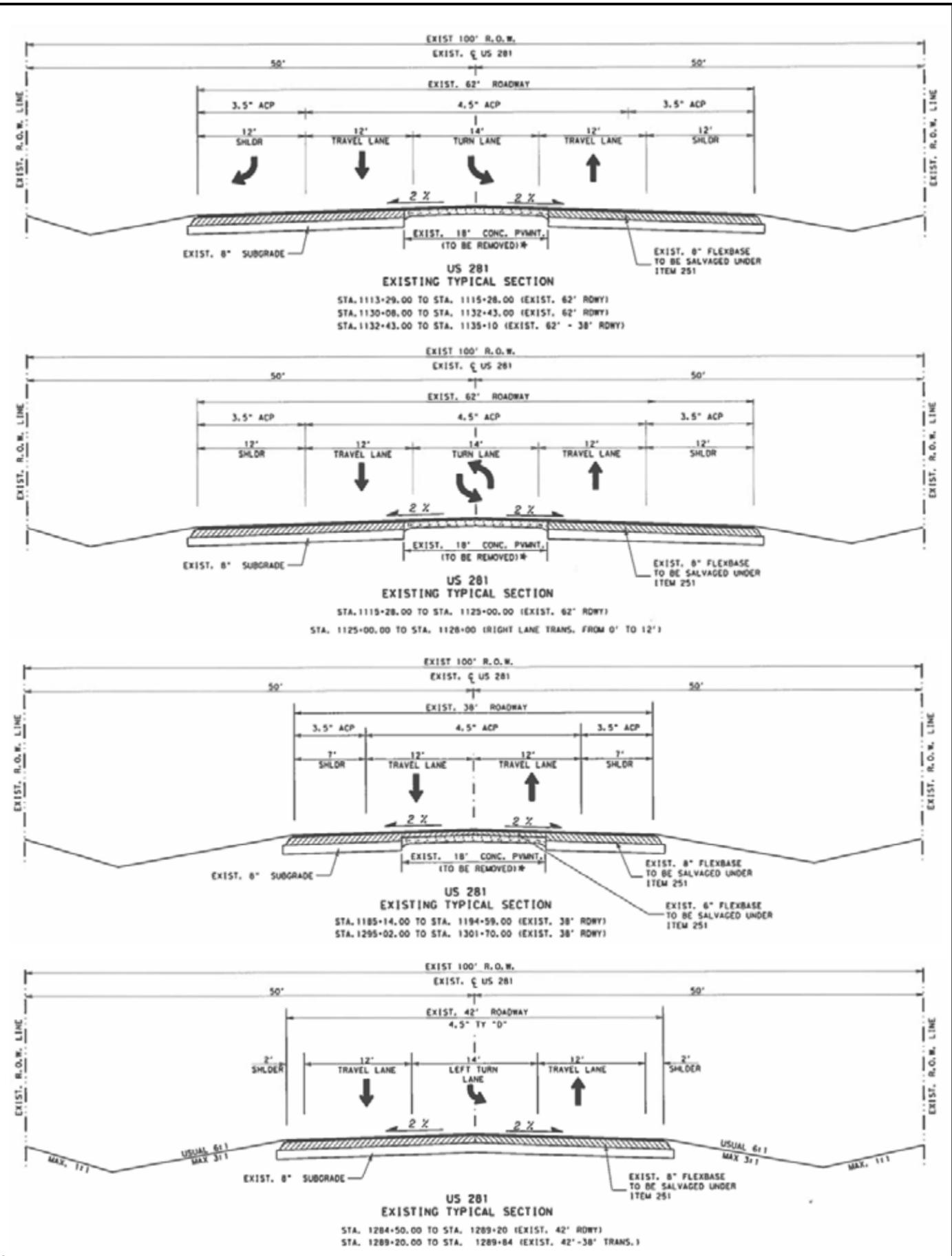
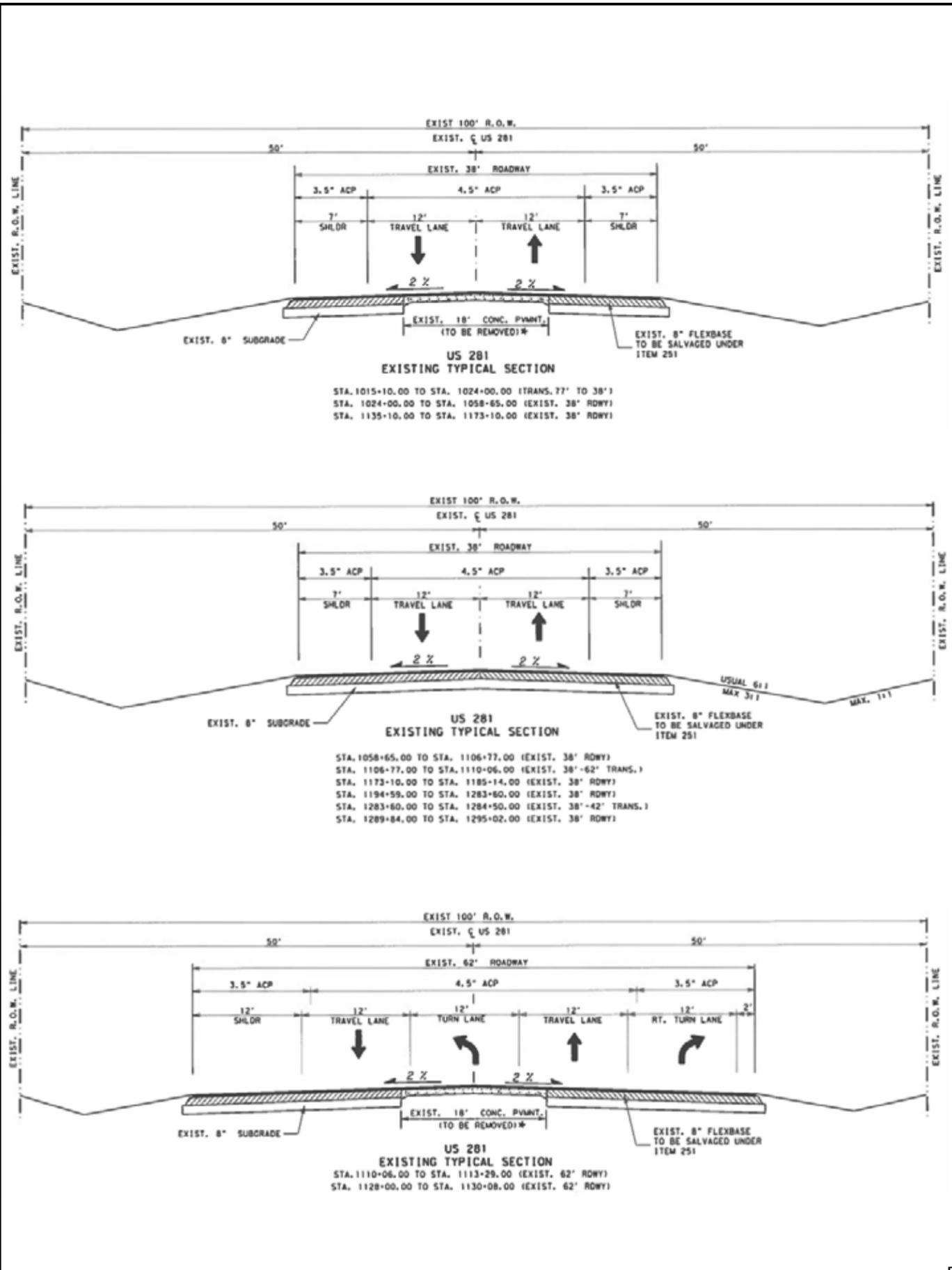
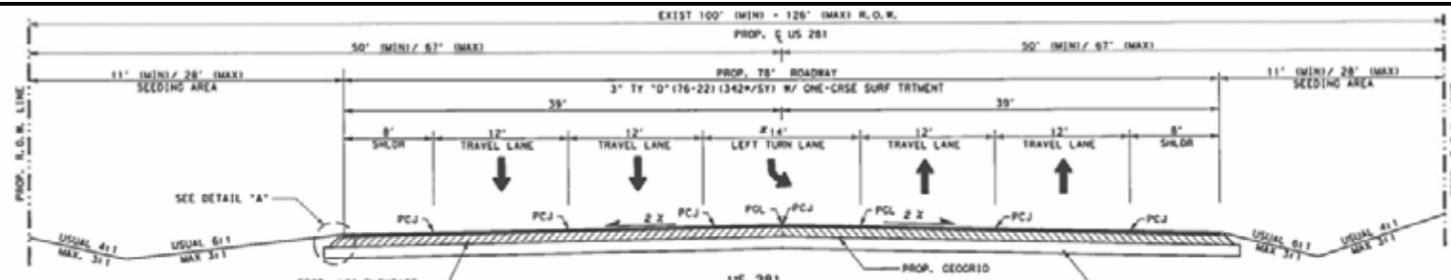
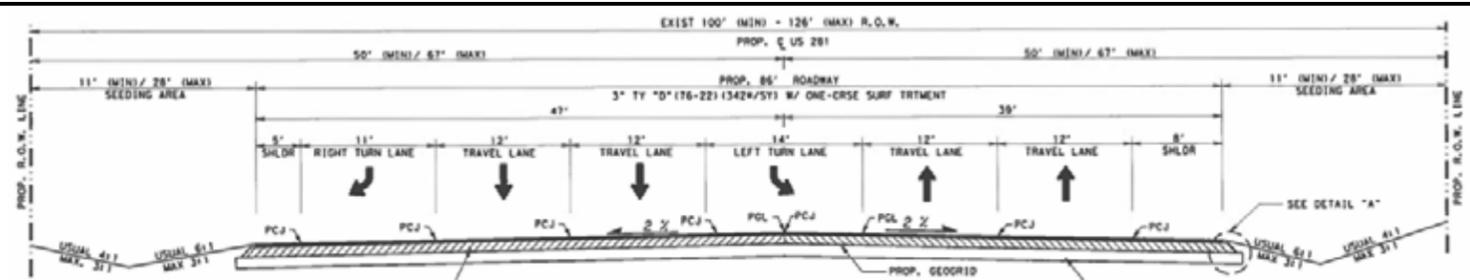


Figure 2
 Existing typical Section
 US 281 - From FM 3248 to FM 1421
 CSJ# 0220-04-035



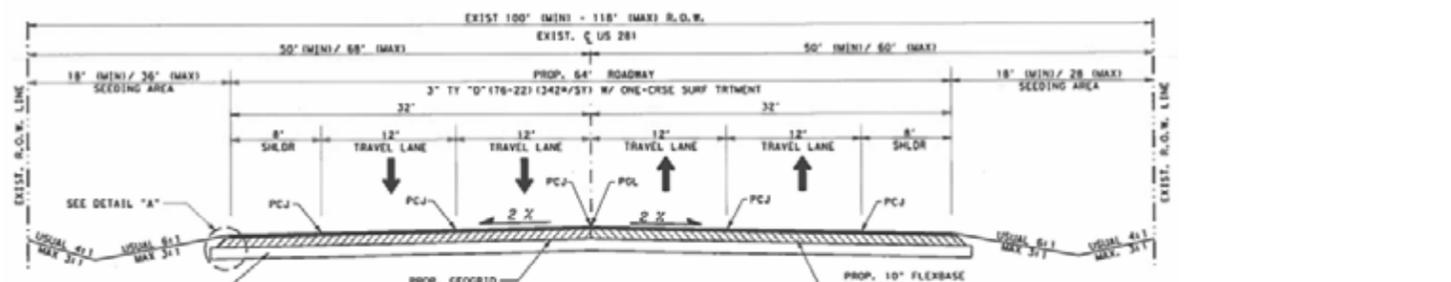
**US 281
PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION**

STA. 1015+10 TO STA. 1018+55 (78' - 64' R/WY TRANSITION)
 STA. 1106+34 TO STA. 1107+34 (78' - 86' R/WY TRANSITION)
 STA. 1119+39 TO STA. 1123+00 (78' R/WY) (K CONTINUOUS TWO-WAY LEFT TURN LANE)
 STA. 1123+00 TO STA. 1124+00 (78' - 86' R/WY TRANSITION)
 STA. 1130+46 TO STA. 1135+12 (78' R/WY)
 STA. 1135+12 TO STA. 1136+30 (78' R/WY W/ CENTER CORE TRANSITION)
 STA. 1136+30 TO STA. 1138+40 (78' - 64' R/WY TRANSITION)
 STA. 1199+91 TO STA. 1206+00 (78' R/WY)
 STA. 1206+00 TO STA. 1208+11 (78' - 64' R/WY TRANSITION)



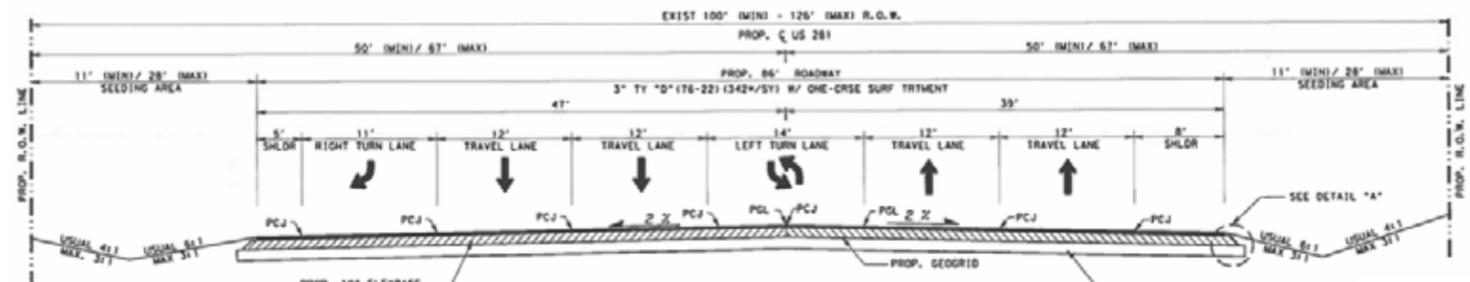
**US 281
PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION**

STA. 1113+40 TO STA. 1115+35 (86' R/WY)
 STA. 1199+21 TO STA. 1199+91 (86' - 78' R/WY TRANSITION)



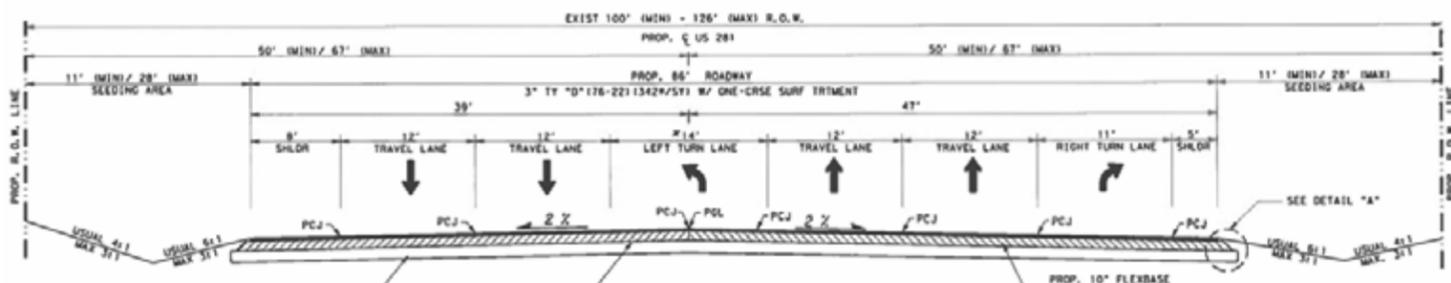
**US 281
PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION**

STA. 1018+50 TO STA. 1104+24 (64' R/WY)
 STA. 1104+24 TO STA. 1106+34 (64' - 78' R/WY TRANSITION)
 STA. 1138+40 TO STA. 1193+11 (64' R/WY)
 STA. 1193+11 TO STA. 1194+11 (64' - 72' R/WY TRANSITION)
 STA. 1208+11 TO STA. 1280+00 (64' R/WY)
 STA. 1280+00 TO STA. 1281+00 (64' - 76' R/WY TRANSITION)
 STA. 1297+50 TO STA. 1301+70 (64' R/WY)



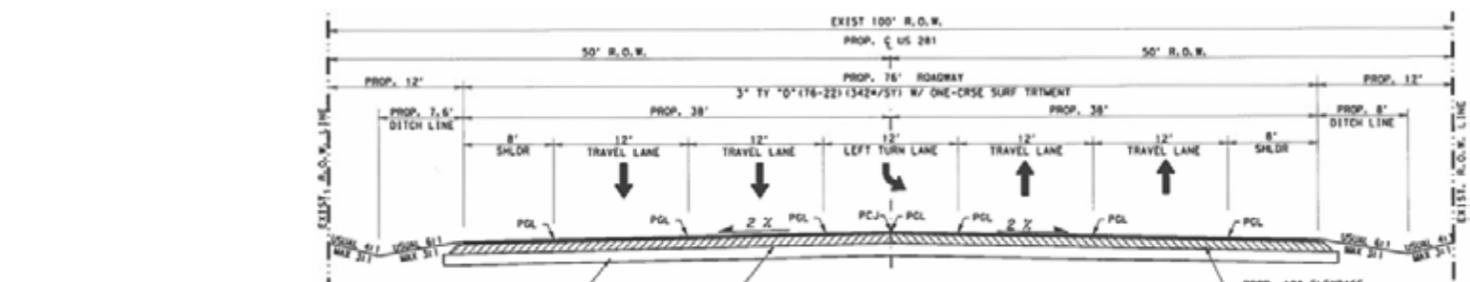
**US 281
PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION**

STA. 1118+35 TO STA. 1118+39 (86' R/WY)
 STA. 1118+39 TO STA. 1119+39 (86' - 78' R/WY TRANSITION)



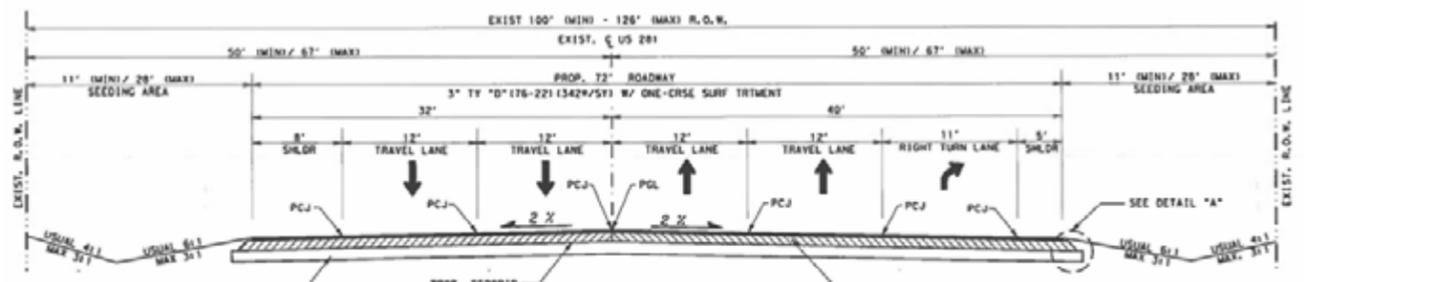
**US 281
PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION**

STA. 1107+34 TO STA. 1112+40 (86' R/WY)
 STA. 1112+40 TO STA. 1113+40 (86' R/WY - SHIFT)
 STA. 1124+00 TO STA. 1127+09 (86' R/WY) (K CONTINUOUS TWO-WAY LEFT TURN LANE)
 STA. 1127+09 TO STA. 1129+10 (86' R/WY)
 STA. 1129+10 TO STA. 1130+46 (86' - 78' R/WY TRANSITION)
 STA. 1199+21 TO STA. 1199+21 (86' R/WY W/CORE LANE)



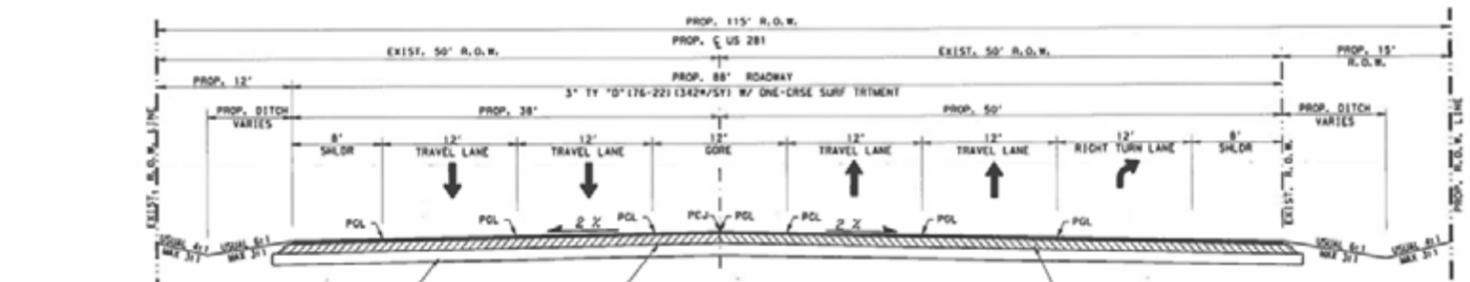
**US 281
PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION**

STA. 1281+00 TO STA. 1284+50 (78' - 86' R/WY TRANSITION/
 CORE TRANSITION FROM 0' TO 12')
 STA. 1287+20 TO STA. 1292+30 (78' R/WY)
 STA. 1292+30 TO STA. 1293+30 (126' CORE TRANSITION)
 STA. 1293+30 TO STA. 1297+50 (78' - 64' TRANSITION)



**US 281
PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION**

STA. 1194+11 TO STA. 1196+11 (72' R/WY)
 STA. 1196+11 TO STA. 1198+21 (72' - 86' R/WY TRANSITION/ CORE TRANS. FROM 0' TO 14')

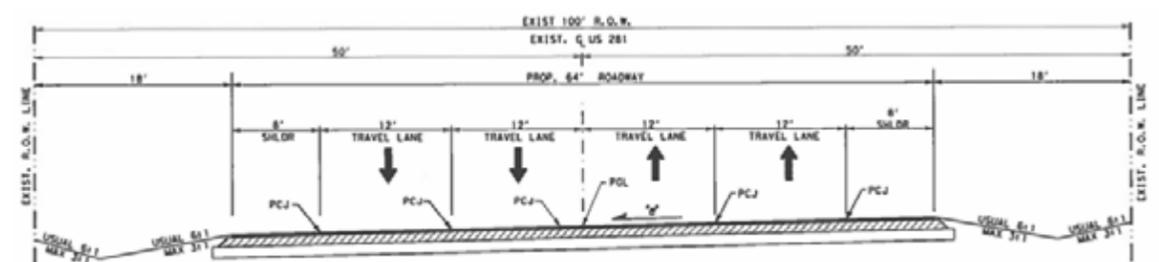


**US 281
PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION**

STA. 1284+50 TO STA. 1286+00 (88' R/WY)
 STA. 1286+00 TO STA. 1287+20 (88' - 76' TRANSITION)

Figure 3

Proposed Typical Section
 US 281 - From FM 3248 to FM 1421
 CSJ# 0220-04-035



**US 281
PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION**

APPENDIX B

NOTIFICATION LETTERS AND NEWSPAPER/WEBSITE NOTICES



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
U.S. 281 MILITARY HIGHWAY
FROM FM 3248 (ALTON GLOOR BLVD.) TO FM 1421

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will hold a public meeting regarding the proposed widening of U.S. 281 (Military Highway) from FM 3248 (Alton Gloor Blvd.) to FM 1421 in Cameron County, Texas. The meeting details are as follow:

Wednesday, April 1, 2015
Veterans Memorial High School Auditorium
4550 U.S. Military Hwy 281
Brownsville, TX 78520
Open House: 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Presentation and Public Comment: 6:00 P.M.

The purpose of the public meeting is to allow the public the opportunity to view and comment on the proposed improvements to U.S. 281 (Military Highway). The proposed project would widen U.S. 281 from two to four 12-foot lanes with 8-foot shoulders and include left & right-turn lanes at major intersections. Drainage would be handled with roadside ditches. Pavement reconstruction, utility improvements, and signalization improvements are also included in the project. The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce congestion and enhance safety by accommodating traffic volumes that are expected to increase in the vicinity.

The proposed project would be done typically within the existing 100 feet wide Right-of-Way (ROW), but it would require approximately 2.51 acres of additional roadway ROW, primarily at intersections and specific locations along the project. It is anticipated that the proposed project would not require any business or residential relocations. Relocation Assistance is available through TxDOT's relocation assistance program. Right-of-way acquisition and the relocation process would be conducted according to the Title II and Title III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. Information about the benefits, services and ROW acquisition schedule can be obtained at the district office located at 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, TX. 78577

Location maps, geometric design, and other information concerning this project will be available at the public meeting. This information will also be available for public inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. at the TxDOT Pharr District Office located at 600 West Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577.

All interested citizens are invited to attend this public meeting to provide input regarding the proposed project. Verbal and/ or written comments may be presented at the public meeting. Written comments may be submitted up to Friday April 10, 2015 either in person or by mail to TxDOT, Attn: Pharr District Engineer, 600 West Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577. Comments can also be received by fax at (956) 702-6110 or email to Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov. For additional information on the project, please call Edoardo Espinoza, P.E., Project Manager with TxDOT at (956) 702-6210.

The public meeting will be conducted in English with Spanish translation services also available. Persons interested in attending the meeting who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact Norma Robledo with TxDOT at (956) 702-6161. Requests should be made at least four days prior to the public meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT.



AVISO DE REUNION PÚBLICA U.S. 281 MILITARY HIGHWAY DE FM 3248 (ALTON GLOOR BLVD.) A FM 1421

El Departamento de Transporte del Estado de Texas (TxDOT) llevara a cabo una REUNION PÚBLICA en relación con los mejoramientos propuestos de la Carretera U.S. 281 (Military Highway) desde FM 3248 (Alton Gloor Blvd.) hasta FM 1421 en el condado de Cameron, Texas. Los detalles de la reunión son los siguientes:

**Miércoles 1 de Abril del 2015
Veterans Memorial High School Auditorio
4550 U.S. Military Hwy 281
Brownsville, TX 78520
Exhibición: 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Presentación y comentario público: 6:00 P.M.**

Esta reunión dará una oportunidad al público para conocer el proyecto y proveer comentarios sobre las propuestas de mejora de U.S. 281 (Military Highway). El proyecto propuesto ampliara la carretera U.S. 281 de dos a cuatro carriles de 12 pies de ancho con acotamientos de 8 pies e incluirá carriles con dirección izquierdo y derecho en intersecciones mayores. El drenaje pluvial será transmitido por zanjas paralelas a la carretera. Reconstrucción de pavimento, mejoramientos de utilidades, y mejoramientos en señalización están incluidos en el proyecto. El propósito del proyecto propuesto es reducir congestión y realzar la seguridad tomando en cuenta el crecimiento en volúmenes de tráfico que se esperan en la región.

Los mejoramientos propuestos se llevaran a cabo dentro de los 100 pies de derecho-de-vía existentes, pero potencialmente requerirán la adquisición de aproximadamente 2.51 acres adicionales de derecho-de-vía de carretera, primordialmente en intersecciones y locaciones específicas en el proyecto. Desplazamiento de individuos, familias, ranchos u organizaciones sin beneficio no están anticipados. Asistencia de Reubicación está disponible a través del programa Asistencia de Reubicación de TxDOT. Adquisición de derecho-de-vía y el proceso de reubicación seria conducida de acuerdo con el Título II y Título III del Acto de Pólizas de 1970 de Asistencia de Reubicación Uniforme y Adquisición de Propiedades Reales. Información de los beneficios, servicios y calendario de la adquisición de derecho-de-vía podrán ser obtenidos en la oficina del distrito localizada en 600 W. Interstate, Pharr, Texas 78577.

Mapas con localización, diseño geométrico, e información referente a este proyecto estarán disponibles durante la reunión pública. Esta información también estará disponible para inspección del público de lunes a viernes durante el horario de 8:00 A.M. a 5:00 P.M. en las oficinas de TxDOT Distrito de Pharr localizadas en 600 West Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577.

Todas las personas interesadas están invitadas en asistir a la reunión pública para proveer comentarios relacionados al proyecto. Comentarios verbales y escritos se podrán presentar en la reunión pública. Se solicita al público enviar sus comentarios en persona o por correo antes del día viernes 10 de abril del 2015. Comentarios escritos deberán ser dirigidos a TxDOT, Attn: Ingeniero del Distrito de Pharr, a la siguiente dirección: 600 West Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577. Comentarios también pueden ser enviados vía fax al (956) 702-6110 o por correo electrónico a Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov. Para información adicional, llame al gerente del proyecto Edoardo Espinoza, P.E., de TxDOT, al número (956) 702-6210.

La reunión pública será conducida en Ingles, pero servicios de traducción en español estarán disponibles. Personas interesadas en asistir la reunión con necesidades especiales por favor de comunicarse con Norma Robledo al número (956) 702-6161 por lo menos cuatro días antes de la reunión pública. Se hará todo esfuerzo razonable para acomodar estos servicios.

La revisión ambiental, consultas y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes Ambientales Federales para este proyecto se están o han sido llevadas a cabo por TxDOT conforme con 23 U.S.C. 327 y un Memorándum de Entendimiento con fecha del 16 de Diciembre del 2014 y ejecutado por la Administración Federal de Carreteras y TxDOT.

1-866-572-SELL

Domingo 15 de marzo de 2015

1-866-572-SELL

104 Entretenimiento **203** Aire Acondicionado **203** Aire Acondicionado **203** Aire Acondicionado **212** Servicio Computación **218** Reparaciones Casa **305** Mascotas y Suministros **501** Empleos **501** Empleos **501** Empleos

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107 Subastas **107** Subastas

BOND & BOND AUCTIONEERS & REALTY
PUBLIC AUCTION

CITY OF MCALLEN SEIZED VEHICLES
MCALLEN I.S.D. SURPLUS VEHICLES
**** ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS ****
CARS, TRUCKS, TRAILERS, MOTORCYCLES, BOATS, FORKLIFTS, LOADERS, EQPT, TIRES, ETC.
DATE: SAT. MARCH 21ST OPEN: 8AM AUCTION: 10AM
LOC: 2301 N. Cesar Chavez Rd., San Juan, Tx.
For Photos & Updates See **BONDAUCTIONEERS.COM**
\$200.00 CASH DEPOSIT UPON REGISTRATION.
NO EXCEPTIONS!

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2008 Silverado S. Cab	2003 Honda Motorcycle	2000 Cherokee
2007 Pontiac G2 Matiz	2003 Accord	1999 S-10 Pu
2007 Malibu	2002 Toyota Tacoma	2003 Ranger
2006 Corolla	2002 Tracker	2003 Tundra
2005 Colorado	2002 Mountaineer	2002 Trail Blazer
2005 F-150 Pu Xcab	2002 Sonata	2002 Avalanche
2005 Malibu	2001 Tahoe	2009 F-150 Pu
2004 Malibu	2001 Chevy Silverado Pu	2007 GMC Pu
2004 Avalanche	2001 Suburban	

MCALLEN ISD: 1996 Ford Pu, 1994 Chev Pu, 1992 GMC Pu
OTHER: 05 F-150 4X4 Pu, 05 Crown Vic, 01 Yukon, 98 Expedition, 96 Ford Pu, 94 Chev Pu, 92 GMC Pu, Nissan Stake Bed, Dst. Light Tower, 2 Axle Trailers
TERMS: Cash, Visa, MC, Discover, Debit & Checks w/Telexcheck Approval. 10% Buyers Premium. All Items Sold "AS IS" - WHERE IS" w/NO Guarantee/Warranties. Announcements At Sale Supersede All Prior Adv. Some Inv. Sub. To Change. NO Children!
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101 Notificaciones Legales **101** Notificaciones Legales **101** Notificaciones Legales **101** Notificaciones Legales

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16 SEER CENTRAL A/C UNITS REPLACEMENT
2 Ton-\$2,875
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1-14 tons, #1 Caliche, fill dirt, gravel, sand, top soil, etc. Competitive Rates Call: 956-605-8000

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221 Jardineria
LAWN Problems? Yellow or Brown Spots, Bald Spots, or Weeds, Call 956-750-8004 Dr. John's Lawn RX. Info: TX30402 to 56654

225 Pintura y Papel
Factory Price Coatings. Roofer? Contractor? Owner? Save on coatings, paints and more, 10 yr. warranty coating \$65. Call 956-579-2321.

229 Plomeros
AAA Valley Plumbing & Rooter Services. Lic. #M-10819 Valleywide Services. Call (956) 467-9900 or (956) 583-4272. aaavalleyplbg@aol.com

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FREE Kittens to good home. (1) female, with short hair, 1 male, long hair. Both 6 wks & white (956) 532-7544.

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Jack Russell Terrier Shorty Puppies M&F EIRTC reg., Deceased, shots, wormed \$250-\$350. Call Jim (956) 496-9921. Info: TX30563 to 56654

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501 Empleos
FREE Kittens to good home. (1) female, with short hair, 1 male, long hair. Both 6 wks & white (956) 532-7544.

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Jack Russell Terrier Shorty Puppies M&F EIRTC reg., Deceased, shots, wormed \$250-\$350. Call Jim (956) 496-9921. Info: TX30563 to 56654

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Evangelización de sanación y misericordia

El anuncio del Papa Francisco este

pasado viernes 13 de Marzo desde la basílica de San Pedro que este año será un año santo extraordinario dedicando un jubileo de la Misericordia ha sorprendido gratamente a muchos, pues aunque la Misericordia, al igual que la Providencia, son admoniciones antiguas de la grandeza de Dios nuestro Señor, son un poco abstractas, pues nuestra limitada mente humana no alcanza del todo a comprender el concepto de lo infinito que es el amor de Dios.

En el año 2000, el Papa Juan Pablo II, instituyó la fiesta de la Divina Misericordia con estas palabras: "En todo el mundo, el segundo Domingo de Pascua recibirá el nombre de Domingo de la Divina Misericordia. Una invitación perenne para el mundo cristiano a afrontar, con confianza en la benevolencia divina, las dificultades y las pruebas que esperan al género humano en los años venideros", al celebrarse justo una semana después del domingo de resurrección, se indica la estrecha relación que existe entre el misterio pascual de la Salvación y la fiesta de la Misericordia.

La Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de Cristo son, en efecto, la más grande manifestación de la Divina Misericordia de Dios Padre hacia los hombres, especialmente hacia los pecadores.

La fiesta de la Misericordia ha de ser no sólo un día de particular veneración de Dios en este misterio, sino sobre todo un día de gracia para todos los hombres,



un día de reconciliación con Dios y con sus hermanos por medio del sacramento de la penitencia, he ahí la importancia del

anuncio de Papa Francisco, ahora no solo tendremos un día para reconciliarnos con Dios y apelar a su infinita misericordia, tendremos todo un año de Jubileo que comenzara con la apertura de la Puerta Santa en la Basílica Vaticana el día 8 de diciembre, día solemne de la Inmaculada Concepción y terminara hasta el 20 de noviembre del 2016 con la solemnidad de Cristo Rey del Universo.

En mis décadas de trabajo dedicado a la evangelización, especialmente en los servicios de sanación, siempre he dejado claro que el estar completamente sano involucra lo físico, lo emocional y lo espiritual, incluso ahora los médicos hacen más hincapié en el estado anímico de sus pacientes al tratar toda clase de dolencias y padecimientos, pues es innegable el poder de nuestra mente sobre el resto del cuerpo.

La medicina convencional diagnostica y trata con medicamentos a nuestro organismo para restablecerlo en sus funciones, pero mucha gente piensa que la medicina ignora lo que verdaderamente los tiene mal, por lo que buscan en los diversos sistemas de sanación alternativa una cura total. La medicina alternativa comprende un amplio rango de prácticas, como son: la medicina naturista, sanación por medio de la fe,

meditación trascendental, ciencia cristiana, iridiología, curaciones psíquicas, medicina tradicional de los nativos americanos, y hasta ocultismo.

Es el sistema de creencias de cada persona lo que determina que se debe hacer para curarse, se entiende que la sanación es cuestión de Fe. Las enfermedades físicas, por ejemplo el cáncer, la artritis, padecer de los riñones o el hígado, etc., se relacionan directamente con las enfermedades emocionales provocadas por las emociones negativas, por ejemplo envidias, celos, rencores, enojo, miedo, ansiedad, etc. Cuando no estamos bien espiritualmente es cuando sentimos que estamos alejados de Dios.

Además del perdón que nos libera del peso de la culpa, ahora tendremos presente la grandeza de la misericordia para sentirnos amados, perdonados y totalmente reconciliados con Dios, listos a recibir del Espíritu Santo su poder para sanar nuestro cuerpo y nuestra alma.

...Y recuerda que Dios te ama y yo también.

Mons. Juan Nicolau, Ph.D., STL
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RECUESTO

usuarios de drogas en Estados Unidos, como lo señalé en alguna columna anterior, es un mercado de dimensiones económicas tan grandes que resultan inimaginables y por el cual van a pelear, con todos los métodos posibles incluyendo los más horrosos, los narcotraficantes. Pero ellos no son los culpables de la existencia de ese mercado. La culpable, si no de su existencia si de su tamaño y permanencia, es la sociedad de Estados Unidos; y no es fácil entender por qué el gobierno gringo no lo combate. Porque por más que digan, no lo combaten. Sólo hacen como que lo hacen.

Washington hace más, mucho más, en entorpecer a gobiernos no afines como Venezuela, Ecuador y Bolivia, que no convienen a sus intereses económicos y sus grandes empresas trasnacionales, que a colaborar con buenas intenciones y medidas acertadas con los gobiernos del sur en el combate al narco.

Y en el terreno interno, el gobierno de Estados

Unidos realiza campañas de prevención del uso y abuso de drogas de manera tímida, como si fuera la única y mejor manera de combatir el problema. Pero le dejan a México la parte dura, cara y sangrienta de ese combate. Su lucha contra en tráfico es sólo institucional, "para cumplir", y sin llegar a medidas lógicas y necesarias.

En todas las fronteras con México, desde California hasta la Isla del Padre, existe incesante actividad del narco, pero es de tráfico y comercio. La prueba está en que cada año se descubren túneles utilizados para el tráfico, que están contruidos con técnicas y tecnología muy avanzada para cumplir adecuadamente con su finalidad: el ilícito trasiego. Pocas veces esa actividad es de crimen y lucha entre narcotraficantes.

Pero lo recientemente sucedido en la Isla del Padre puede ser el aviso de que ese error del gobierno de Estados Unidos está a punto de producir una variante en la actividad de los delincuentes que pudiera

resultar muy cara en términos de tranquilidad social y aumento de la actividad criminal. No soy un experto y sólo "toco de oído", pero ese oído me dice que las cosas apuntan a un empeoramiento, especialmente en el área fronteriza -y Brownsville es el comienzo de ella-, y como ha sucedido en todo el territorio mexicano los principales afectados resultarán ser los habitantes inocentes y totalmente ajenos a las actividades criminales y a los errores y negligencias oficiales.

Pero Washington y los gobiernos estatales están más preocupados en combatir a los indocumentados que a los criminales y para prueba hagamos esto: averigüemos cuánto dinero se ha invertido en "asegurar la frontera" y cuánto en disminuir internamente el problema del uso y abuso de drogas.

Luis Manuel Ortiz es periodista independiente. Radica en Brownsville, Texas, y es miembro del Salón de la Fama de la Arizona Newspapers Association. Email: lmortiz27@outlook.com

CONTROL

Grande y departamentos del sheriff enfrentarían los mismos desafíos.

Otra legislación de mano dura prohibiría a funcionarios locales la promulgación de tales controles como

prohibiciones de bolsas de plástico y prohibiciones de armas de fuego en colegios y otros lugares públicos. Podríamos compartir el desagrado de los legisladores para algunos de esos controles, pero reconocemos que

deberían decidirse a nivel local.

Los estadounidenses debemos mantener una voz en cómo somos gobernados. Perder ese derecho de nuestro estado en lugar del gobierno federal no lo hace más agradable al paladar.

CARTAS

comprobar esas formas de firma que todos los candidatos deben cumplir con el fin de calificar para un lugar en la boleta de la

ciudad.

Lo que vivimos y aprendimos es que si crees en algo y te dicen: "No, no, no puede suceder", todos deben saber que sí, por supuesto

que puede suceder. Puede hacerse realidad si usted realmente lo cree y pone su esfuerzo en ello.

Robert "Bob" Sánchez
Brownsville

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MENSAJE DIRIGIDO HACIA PADRES Y ESTUDIANTES

Los exámenes del estado, denominados EOC serán administrados durante los días 30 de marzo-al 1o. De abril del 2015. La asistencia durante estos días es de suma importancia así como el de reportarse a tiempo. Cada uno de estos exámenes esta diseñado para administrarse en cinco horas. Favor de enfatizar la importancia de prepararse descansando, con una dieta apropiada y sobre todo manteniendo una actitud positiva para que nuestros estudiantes realizen su mejor esfuerzo.

LUNES 30 DE MARZO

Inglés I

MIÉRCOLES 1 DE ABRIL

Inglés II

EXAMENES DE REPETICION

Todos los estudiantes que no obtuvieron el puntaje establecido por TEA para cada una de las áreas de EOC serán inscritos para re-tomar los exámenes. Todos los estudiantes recibirán una notificación de cada una de las escuelas.

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No se permitirá el uso de celulares o aparatos electrónicos en ninguno de los planteles de BISD durante los exámenes estatales. De acuerdo con El Código de Educación de Texas, "Cualquier irregularidad en la seguridad de los exámenes o integridad confidencialde los mismos, puede resultar en la invalidación de los resultados de los estudiantes."



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Texas Department of Transportation

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REUNIÓN PÚBLICA

US 281 (MILITARY HIGHWAY)

miércoles, 1 de abril de 2015

Exhibición de planos: 5-6 p.m.
Presentación y Comentarios: 6 p.m.

Auditorio de la escuela Veterans Memorial Early College High School
4550 US Military Highway 281
Brownsville, TX 78520

El Departamento de Transporte de Texas lo invita a una reunión pública en referencia a la ampliación de US 281 de dos a cuatro carriles de FM 3248 (Alton Gloor Blvd) hasta la FM 1421 en el Condado Cameron. El periodo de exhibición brinda oportunidad para aprender y hacer preguntas del proyecto con personal de TxDOT. Una presentación formal y periodo de comentarios empieza a las 6 p.m. Para obtener información adicional acerca de este proyecto, llamar a Octavio Saenz, Oficial de Información Pública del Distrito Pharr, al 956-702-6130 o al correo electrónico Octavio.Saenz@txdot.gov. Servicio de traducción en español estará disponible. Si necesita acomodaciones especiales llame a Norma Robledo al 956-702-6161 o al correo electrónico Norma.Robledo@txdot.gov por lo menos 5 días antes de la reunión.

La revisión ambiental, consultas y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes ambientales federales aplicables para este proyecto están siendo o han sido, llevado a cabo por TxDOT - en virtud de 23 USC 327 y un Memorando de Entendimiento fechado el 16 de diciembre del 2014, y ejecutado por la FHWA y el TxDOT.



We Need Your Feedback!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING US 281 (Military Highway)

**Wednesday,
April 1, 2015**

Open House: 5-6 p.m.
Presentation and
Public Comments: 6 p.m.

**Veterans Memorial
Early College High
School Auditorium**
4550 US Military Highway 281
Brownsville, TX 78520

The Texas Department of Transportation is hosting a public meeting to discuss the proposed widening of US 281 from two to four lanes between FM 3248 (Alton Gloor Blvd.) and FM 1421 in Cameron County. The open house period provides an opportunity for citizens to learn about the proposed project, talk with project staff, and ask questions. A formal presentation and public comment period begins at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Octavio Saenz, Pharr District Public Information Officer, by telephone at 956-702-6102 or by email at Octavio.Saenz@tdot.gov. Spanish translation services will be available. If you need special accommodations, call Norma Robledo by telephone at 956-702-6161 or by email at Norma.Robledo@tdot.gov at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

March 27, 2015

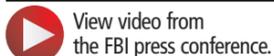
The Brownsville Herald

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FBI: Autopsy report days away in hanging of Mississippi man

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MYBROWNSVILLEHERALD.COM



PORT GIBSON, Miss. — The body of a black man found hanging in a tree in Mississippi has been sent from a state crime lab to a funeral home, but the FBI said it will be days before autopsy results are complete. Until then, investigators are holding off on saying whether Otis Byrd was killed or took his own life, and they're urging people to be patient.

"The community deserves answers. Specifically, the family deserves answers," Don Alway, special agent in charge of the FBI office in Jackson, told a crowd Friday outside the Claiborne County Courthouse in Port Gibson. He said preliminary information about the cause of death is expected next week.

"We're doing everything in our power to be transparent, to talk about what's going on so far," Alway said. "But we want to reiterate that individual, single pieces of information and bits of rumors, we're going to hold off on speaking to those until we can collectively come to a conclusion and get you the truth that everybody deserves."

Early Saturday, the FBI issued a statement saying that agents are in the process of tracking down relatives and acquaintances of Byrd, both in and out of state.

The county coroner confirmed that the man found hanging from a white sheet Thursday was Byrd, a 54-year-old ex-convict who was reported missing by his family more than two weeks ago. Byrd lived just 200 yards from the spot where his body was found, in woods behind his house.

Alway said investigators are interviewing Byrd's family and friends and searching his rental home and a storage unit for clues.

"We are trying to paint a picture of Byrd's life. We are trying to find out what was going on with him personally and professionally," he said.

Claiborne County Sheriff Marvin Lucas Sr. told The Associated Press earlier Friday that Byrd did not appear to have stepped off of anything in the area where he was found hanging by a sheet from a tree limb about 12 feet high. His feet were dangling about 2 feet off the ground, and his hands were not bound, Lucas said.

"Life matters," Lucas told the crowd at the courthouse where he appeared with Alway. "I commit to you, as the sheriff of Claiborne County, that I will not allow the shadows of the past to cast a shadow on the future."

Byrd's body was released on Friday to a Port Gibson funeral home, said Mississippi Department of Public Safety spokesman Warren Strain. An employee at Rollins Funeral Home said funeral arrangements will be made early next week.

Byrd worked on offshore oil rigs and enjoyed gambling in casinos in his off time after getting out of prison, where he served 26 years for fatally shooting a woman while robbing \$101 from her convenience store in 1980.

He wasn't the type to kill himself, friends and family said.

Supreme Court considers impact of disability law on law enforcement

BY TAMI ABDOLLAH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The police shooting in Georgia earlier this month of a naked, unarmed man with bipolar disorder spotlights the growing number of violent confrontations between police and the mentally ill — an issue that goes before the Supreme Court this coming week.

At least half the people police kill each year have mental health problems, according to a 2013 report from the Treatment Advocacy Center and the National Sheriffs' Association. On Monday, the nation's highest court will consider how police must comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act when dealing with armed or violent people who have psychiatric problems or other disabilities.

The case involves a 2008 incident in San Francisco in which police responded to a call from a group home for the mentally ill. A resident who suffers from schizophrenia, Teresa Sheehan, threatened to kill her social worker with a knife and locked herself in her room. The social worker asked the police to help restrain Sheehan and get her to a hospital where she could be treated.

The incident ended with officers forcing their way into Sheehan's room and shooting after she charged them with the knife. She survived and filed a lawsuit, claiming police had a duty under the ADA to consider her mental illness and take more steps to avoid a violent confrontation.



DAVID GOLDMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this March 11 file photo, a police officer stands watch while standing at an intersection during a protest against the shooting death of Anthony Hill by a police officer, in Decatur, Ga. The police shooting in Georgia earlier this month of a naked, unarmed black man with bipolar disorder spotlights the growing number of violent confrontations between police and the mentally ill — an issue that goes before the Supreme Court this week.

The ADA generally requires public officials to make "reasonable accommodations" to avoid discriminating against people with disabilities. But lower courts have split on how the law should apply to police conduct when public safety is at risk.

San Francisco officials argue the law does not require police to make accommodations for an armed and violent suspect who is mentally ill.

"When mental illness manifests in unpredictable, violent behavior as it did in this case, officers must make split-second decisions that protect the public and themselves from harm," the city said in legal papers.

The Georgia incident on March 9 was the latest high-profile police

killing of a mentally unstable suspect. Anthony Hill, a U.S. Air Force veteran had stopped taking medication for bipolar disorder. An officer, responding to calls about a naked man acting erratically outside an apartment complex, fatally shot Hill when police say Hill ran toward him and didn't heed orders to stop.

Other shootings have prompted federal investigations. Between 2012 and 2014, the Justice Department found that police departments in Cleveland; Portland, Oregon; and Albuquerque, New Mexico, used excessive force against the mentally ill. Those police departments were required to improve training, protocols and policies for dealing with

mentally ill suspects. Law enforcement groups are keeping a close eye on the Supreme Court case, which they say could undermine police tactics, place officers and bystanders at risk, force departments to spend thousands in new training and open them to additional liability.

The ADA was designed to regulate institutional policies, not an individual officer's behavior, said Darrel W. Stephens, executive director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, which filed a brief supporting San Francisco.

Stephens said that while departments around the country receive training to de-escalate and avoid using force in a situation with an unstable person, it's not always possible to do so.

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Texas Department of Transportation

We Need Your Feedback!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
US 281 (Military Highway)

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Open House: 5-6 p.m.
Presentation and Public Comments: 6 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Early College High School Auditorium
4550 US Military Highway 281
Brownsville, TX 78520

The Texas Department of Transportation is hosting a public meeting to discuss the proposed widening of US 281 from two to four lanes between FM 3248 (Alton Gloor Blvd.) and FM 1421 in Cameron County. The open house period provides an opportunity for citizens to learn about the proposed project, talk with project staff, and ask questions. A formal presentation and public comment period begins at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Octavio Saenz, Pharr District Public Information Officer, by telephone at 956-702-6102 or by email at Octavio.Saenz@txdot.gov. Spanish translation services will be available. If you need special accommodations, call Norma Robledo by telephone at 956-702-6161 or by email at Norma.Robledo@txdot.gov at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.



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Notice of Public Hearings

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons, that: The City of Brownsville, Texas, has been requested (and/or proposes) to adopt the following ordinances and proposed subdivisions:

Ord. No. 235-2015-007-S: To allow Duplex in a Dwelling "A" (DA) for Lot 5 and 6 of Block 2 of Garden Park Subdivision located at 444 Water Street, Brownsville, Texas 78520.

- **Zoning Commission on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.**
- **City Commission on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.**

Final Plat(s):

Bent Tree Subdivision Section VIII: Being 36.145 acres out of Lot 52, Block 13 of The San Pedro Carricitos Grant located near FM 1732 and Bent Tree Avenue.

Simmons Crossing: Being 32.288 acres, comprised of Lot 9, Block C, of Brownsville Land and Improvement Company Subdivision located near Morrison Road and Sterling Street.

- **Planning Commission on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.**

All such persons shall have the right to appear and be heard in the commission chambers on the second floor of the **City Hall** at 1001 E. Elizabeth ST. (Old Federal Courthouse) in said City at the following times by and before said City's: Copies of the subdivision applications are available for public inspection in the Planning and CD Department's office. **For further information please call 548-6150.** Of all said matters and things, all persons interested in the things and matters herein mentioned will take notice.

/s/ Noe D. Puga, Zoning & Plat Administrator **(Para una explicación, favor de llamar al 548-6150.)**

3/15/2015

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

U.S. 281 MILITARY HIGHWAY

FROM FM 3248 (ALTON GLOOR BLVD.) TO FM 1421

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will hold a public meeting regarding the proposed widening of U.S. 281 (Military Highway) from FM 3248 (Alton Gloor Blvd.) to FM 1421 in Cameron County, Texas. The meeting details are as follow:

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Veterans Memorial Early College High School Auditorium
4550 U.S. Military Hwy 281
Brownsville, TX 78520

Open House: 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Presentation and Public Comment: 6:00 P.M.

The purpose of the public meeting is to allow the public the opportunity to view and comment on the proposed improvements to U.S. 281 (Military Highway). The proposed project would widen U.S. 281 from two to four 12-foot lanes with 8-foot shoulders and include left & right-turn lanes at major intersections. Drainage would be handled with roadside ditches. Pavement reconstruction, utility improvements, and signalization improvements are also included in the project. The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce congestion and enhance safety by accommodating traffic volumes that are expected to increase in the vicinity.

The proposed project would be done typically within the existing 100 feet wide Right-of-Way (ROW), but it would require approximately 2.51 acres of additional roadway ROW, primarily at intersections and specific locations along the project. It is anticipated that the proposed project would not require any business or residential relocations. Relocation Assistance is available through TxDOT's relocation assistance program. Right-of-way acquisition and the relocation process would be conducted according to the Title II and Title III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. Information about the benefits, services and ROW acquisition schedule can be obtained at the district office located at 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, TX. 78577

Location maps, geometric design, and other information concerning this project will be available at the public meeting. This information will also be available for public inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. at the TxDOT Pharr District Office located at 600 West Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577.

All interested citizens are invited to attend this public meeting to provide input regarding the proposed project. Verbal and/ or written comments may be presented at the public meeting. Written comments may be submitted up to Friday April 10, 2015 either in person or by mail to TxDOT, Attn: Pharr District Engineer, 600 West Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577. Comments can also be received by fax at (956) 702-6110 or email to Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov. For additional information on the project, please call Edoardo Espinoza, P.E., Project Manager with TxDOT at (956) 702-6210.

The public meeting will be conducted in English with Spanish translation services also available. Persons interested in attending the meeting who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact Norma Robledo with TxDOT at (956) 702-6161. Requests should be made at least four days prior to the public meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT.

305 Pets & Supplies	411 Sporting Goods
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SAXET GUN SHOW
Sat., March 21 9am-6pm
Sun., March 22 9am-5pm
McAllen Convention Center
700 Convention Center Blvd.
McAllen, TX
\$\$\$WHOLESALE PRICES TO THE PUBLIC \$\$\$
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Harlingen, TX 78550
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- Valid CDL A or B
- At least one year driving experience
- Clear driving record & criminal history

If interested, apply in person:
3600 Chemical Rd., Brownsville, TX, 78521
30450 FM 801, San Benito, TX, 78586
3710 S. Expwy 281, Edinburg, TX, 78542
819 North Abram Rd., Alton, TX, 78572
EEO/M/F/D/V

The Herald

Retail Store/Vending Machine Route Available

Independent Contractor

Needed to distribute in Brownsville area. Must have reliable transportation for early morning delivery hours.

Start your own business with newspaper sales!

Apply at: The Brownsville Herald
1135 E. Van Buren St.
Brownsville, Texas
956-982-6688

NOTICE TRUTH IN LENDING ACT

All ads that offer financial options for buying real estate as well as motor vehicles must comply with the Federal Truth in Lending Regulations. The act requires that ads must fully disclose the terms of a loan (down payment, monthly payment, number of payments and the annual percentage rate).

Valleywide Classifieds urges its readers to notify us if we, inadvertently publish an ad(s) that is not in compliance with the Truth in Lending Act.

Valleywide Classified Management
1-866-572-(SELL)7355

NOTICE

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Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Brownville South Padre Island International Airport New Passenger Terminal Project

Notice to Public of Floodplain Involvement Executive Order 11988

The City of Brownsville and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announce that a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines implementing NEPA to analyze the potential environmental impacts of constructing a new terminal and parking, terminal apron and roadway improvements for Brownville South Padre Island International Airport (BRO). The federal regulatory agency with jurisdiction over civil aviation is the FAA, which must review and approve all proposed facilities and development on airport property to ensure compatibility with safe airport operations. The Proposed Action includes the following primary components:

- New 55,000 square foot passenger terminal with four gates and separate Federal Inspection Service/Customs and Border Patrol areas
- Expanded terminal apron
- Relocated and expanded terminal parking for 400-600 vehicles
- Closure of Amelia Earhart Drive at the airport
- New terminal access road from Billy Mitchell Boulevard
- Construction of new south service access road

This Draft EA describes the likely environmental, social and economic impacts of the Brownville South Padre Island International Airport New Terminal Project. The project would take place entirely within BRO boundaries. Per Executive Order 11988, public notice is given that the demolition of the existing terminal and expansion of the terminal apron would occur within a regulated floodplain. The new terminal building will be outside of the regulated floodplain. The Draft EA will be available for a 30-day public comment period from March 17, 2015 through April 16, 2015. The Draft EA is available online at <http://www.flybrownsville.com>. It is also available for review at the following locations:

- Brownville South Padre Island International Airport, 700 Amelia Earhart Dr., Brownsville, TX 78521 – Office of Airport Director
- City of Brownsville – City Hall, 1001 E. Elizabeth St, Brownsville, TX 78520 Office of the City Secretary.
- Cameron County Courthouse – 964 E. Harrison Street, Brownsville, TX 78520 – Office of County Clerk
- City of Brownsville Public Library – 2600 Central Blvd, Brownsville, TX 78520

To receive a CD of the Draft EA and all appendices by mail, please call the airport at 956-542-4373 and one will be mailed to you. Paper copies may be requested and the cost would be \$20.00.

Written public comments on the Draft EA should be submitted to: Mr. Larry Brown, Airport Director, Brownville South Padre Island International Airport, 700 Amelia Earhart Dr, Brownsville, TX 78521, or by email at labrown@cob.us. All mailed comments must be postmarked by **April 16, 2015**. All comments submitted via email must be received by **5:00 p.m. on April 16, 2015**.

BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PURCHASING DEPARTMENT INVITATION

BID/CSP/RFQ (Bid/Competitive Sealed Proposal/Request for Qualification)

Description	Number	Submission	Opening
Property, Flood, Windstorm, Hail, Boiler & Machinery Insurance	CSP 15-111	4/14/2015 10:00pm	4/14/2015 10:30am

Senior Buyer: Delia Gonzalez

Sealed bids/proposals will be received/opened by the BISD at the office of Mrs. Rosario Peña, Administrator of Purchasing 1900 E. Price Rd, 1st Floor, RM 107, Brownsville, TX 78521-2417, (956) 548-8361. Bidders/Proposers are invited to attend openings on the dates specified, however presence is not mandatory. If you have any questions please contact the assigned Senior Buyer, as listed above. You may download Specifications from purchasing website: www.bisd.us/purchasing.

3/11, 3/15, 3/18/2015



1-866-572-SELL SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2015 1-866-572-SELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS 101 - 114	DIAL-A-SERVICE 201 - 226	AGRICULTURE 301 - 310	GENERAL MERCHANDISE 401 - 420	EMPLOYMENT / SERVICES 501 - 508	REAL ESTATE RENTALS 601 - 621	REAL ESTATE SALES 701 - 733	FINANCIAL 801 - 807	REC & TRANS 901 - 1011
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TO PLACE AN AD

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or
Fax: 956-683-4201
Email: ads@valleyclassifieds.com
Classified ads on the Web:
www.valleyclassifieds.com

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Prepay conveniently with VISA, MC, Discover, AMEX, or mail your check to: Valleywide Classifieds, P.O. Box 3267, McAllen, Texas 78502

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Monday publication:
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Tuesday publication:
Monday 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday publications:
Day prior 2:30 p.m.
Saturday publication:
Thursday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday publication:
Friday 9 a.m.

Same deadlines for cancellations

WHERE WE ARE LOCATED

The Monitor 1400 E. Nolana Loop, McAllen, TX 78504	The Brownsville Herald 1135 E. Van Buren, Brownsville, TX 78520
Valley Morning Star 1310 S. Commerce, Harlingen, TX 78550	Mid-Valley Town Crier 401 S. Iowa Ave, Weslaco, TX 78596

Business hours:
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Notice of Public Hearings

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons, that: The City of Brownsville, Texas, has been requested (and/or proposes) to adopt the following ordinances and proposed subdivisions:

Ord. No. 235-2015-007-S: To allow Duplex in a Dwelling "A" (DA) for Lot 5 and 6 of Block 2 of Garden Park Subdivision located at 444 Water Street, Brownsville, Texas 78520.

- Zoning Commission on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.
- City Commission on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

Final Plat(s):

Bent Tree Subdivision Section VIII: Being 36.145 acres out of Lot 52, Block 13 of The San Pedro Carricitos Grant located near FM 1732 and Bent Tree Avenue.

Simmons Crossing: Being 32.288 acres, comprised of Lot 9, Block C, of Brownsville Land and Improvement Company Subdivision located near Morrison Road and Sterling Street.

- Planning Commission on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.

All such persons shall have the right to appear and be heard in the commission chambers on the second floor of the **City Hall** at 1001 E. Elizabeth ST. (Old Federal Courthouse) in said City at the following times by and before said City's: Copies of the subdivision applications are available for public inspection in the Planning and CD Department's office. **For further information please call 548-6150.** Of all said matters and things, all persons interested in the things and matters herein mentioned will take notice.

/s/ Noe D. Puga, Zoning & Plat Administrator (Para una explicación, favor de llamar al 548-6150.)

3/15/2015

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
U.S. 281 MILITARY HIGHWAY
FROM FM 3248 (ALTON GLOOR BLVD.) TO FM 1421

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will hold a public meeting regarding the proposed widening of U.S. 281 (Military Highway) from FM 3248 (Alton Gloor Blvd.) to FM 1421 in Cameron County, Texas. The meeting details are as follow:

Wednesday, April 1, 2015
Veterans Memorial Early College High School Auditorium
4550 U.S. Military Hwy 281
Brownsville, TX 78520
Open House: 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Presentation and Public Comment: 6:00 P.M.

The purpose of the public meeting is to allow the public the opportunity to view and comment on the proposed improvements to U.S. 281 (Military Highway). The proposed project would widen U.S. 281 from two to four 12-foot lanes with 8-foot shoulders and include left & right-turn lanes at major intersections. Drainage would be handled with roadside ditches. Pavement reconstruction, utility improvements, and signalization improvements are also included in the project. The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce congestion and enhance safety by accommodating traffic volumes that are expected to increase in the vicinity.

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Sun., March 22 9am-5pm
McAllen Convention Center
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McAllen, TX
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*BUY*SELL*TRADE*
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1-866-572-SELL

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• Concrete formers/finishers
• General Laborers
For Earthwork, Road, and Underground Utility Construction.
FOREMAN APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE VALID REFERENCES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION.

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EEO/M/F/D/V

The Herald

Retail Store/Vending Machine
Route Available

Independent Contractor

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•••••
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BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PURCHASING DEPARTMENT INVITATION

BID/CSP/RFQ (Bid/Competitive Sealed Proposal/Request for Qualification)

Description	Number	Submission	Opening
Property, Flood, Windstorm, Hail, Boiler & Machinery Insurance	CSP 15-111	4/14/2015 10:00pm	4/14/2015 10:30am

Senior Buyer: Delia Gonzalez

Sealed bids/proposals will be received/opened by the BISD at the office of Mrs. Rosario Peña, Administrator of Purchasing 1900 E. Price Rd, 1st Floor, RM 107, Brownsville, TX 78521-2417, (956) 548-8361. Bidders/Proposers are invited to attend openings on the dates specified, however presence is not mandatory. If you have any questions please contact the assigned Senior Buyer, as listed above. You may download Specifications from purchasing website: www.bisd.us/purchasing.

3/11, 3/15, 3/18/2015

Public Meeting - US 281 Military Highway

[Home](#) > [Inside TxDOT](#) > [Get Involved](#) > [Hearings & Meetings](#) > [Schedule](#)

Where:	Veterans Memorial Early College High School Auditorium 4550 US Military Highway 281 Brownsville, TX 78520	When:	Wednesday, April 1, 2015 Open House: 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Presentation and Public Comments: 6 p.m.
Purpose:	TxDOT invites you to a public meeting for proposed improvements to US 281 Military Highway between FM 3248 (Alton Gloor Boulevard) and FM 1421. Project staff will be on hand to answer questions and provide information. A presentation and public comment period will begin at 6 p.m.		
Description:	<p>TxDOT is proposing widening US 281 between FM 3248 and FM 1421 to four lanes. The proposed improvements include constructing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two additional lanes for a total of four lanes• A continuous center turn lane• Right turn lanes at some intersections• Outside shoulders <p>The purpose of the proposed project is to enhance safety and improve mobility by constructing additional lanes including center and right turn lanes. The proposed project will also improve drainage and provide additional lane capacity during emergency evacuations.</p> <p>The environmental review, consultation and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated Dec. 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.</p>		
Contact:	TxDOT Pharr District Public Information Officer 600 W. I-2 Pharr, TX 78577-1231 (956) 702-6102 Email		

APPENDIX C

**LIST OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND
AFFECTED PROPERTY OWNERS**

Public Officials State Database

Title	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Company Name	Address Line 1	Second Address	City	State	ZIP Code	Job Title 1	Salutation
The Honorable	John	Cornyn		United States Senate	222 E. Van Buren, Suite 404		Harlingen	Texas	78550	U.S. Senator	Senator
The Honorable	Ted	Cruz		United States Senate	3133 General Hudnell Dr., Suite #120		San Antonio	Texas	78226	U.S. Senator	Senator
The Honorable	Filemon	Vela		Congressional District 34	333 Ebony Avenue		Brownsville	Texas	78520	U.S. Congressman	Congressman
The Honorable	Eddie	Lucio	Jr.	Texas State Senate, District 27	7 North Park Plaza		Brownsville	Texas	78521	State Senator	Senator
The Honorable	Eddie	Lucio	III	Texas House of Representataives, District 38	1805 Ruben Torres Blvd., Suite B-27		Brownsville	Texas	78521	State Representative	Representative
Mr.	Pete	Sepulveda		Cameron County Judge	100 E. Monroes St.	Dancy Building Second Floor	Brownsville	Texas	78520		Judge
Mr.	Pete	Sepulveda	Jr.	Cameron County RMA Executive Director	1100 E. Monroe St. STE 256		Brownsville	Texas	78520		Mr.
The Honorable	Tony	Martinez		Mayor of Brownsville	1001 E. Elizabeth Street		Brownsville	Texas	78520		Mayor
The Honorable	Rose M.Z.	Gowen		Member, Brownsville City Council	1001 E. Elizabeth Street		Brownsville	Texas	78520		Commissioner
The Honorable	Ricardo	Longoria	Jr.	Member, Brownsville City Council	1001 E. Elizabeth Street		Brownsville	Texas	78520		Commissioner
The Honorable	Jessica	Tereau-Kalifa		Member, Brownsville City Council	1001 E. Elizabeth Street		Brownsville	Texas	78520		Commissioner
The Honorable	Deborah	Portillo		Member, Brownsville City Council	1001 E. Elizabeth Street		Brownsville	Texas	78520		Commissioner
The Honorable	John	Villarreal		Member, Brownsville City Council	1001 E. Elizabeth Street		Brownsville	Texas	78520		Commissioner
Mr.	Charlie	Cabler		Brownsville City Manager	1001 E. Elizabeth Street		Brownsville	Texas	78520		Mr.
Mr.	Pete	Gonzalez		Brownsville Deputy City Manager	1001 E. Elizabeth Street		Brownsville	Texas	78520		Mr.
Ms.	Stephanie	Reyes		Brownsville Assistant City Manager	1001 E. Elizabeth Street		Brownsville	Texas	78520		Ms.
Ms.	Ruth	Osuna		Brownsville Assistant City Manager	1001 E. Elizabeth Street		Brownsville	Texas	78520		Ms.
Mr.	Jose	Rodriguez	III	Texas Department of Public Safety	2525 N. International Blvd.		Weslaco	Texas	78596	Regional Commander	Commander
Dr.	Esperanza	Zendejas		Brownsville Independent School District	1900 Price Road #307		Brownsville	Texas	78521	Interim Superintendent	Dr.
Ms.	Mary	Solis		Veterans Memorial Early College High School	4550 U.S. Military Hwy 281		Brownsville	Texas	78520	Principal	Ms.
Mr.	Mark	Lund		Brownsville MPO	P.O. Box 911		Brownsville	Texas	78520	Director	Mr.

List of Affected Property Owners

Name	Middle	Address	City+State
RIVER BEND RESORT INC		4541 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX 78520-3927
RIO BRAVO PROPERTIES INC		4541 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX 78520-3927
VALLEY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT #2		100 Adkins St	Rancho Viejo, TX 78575-9500
BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT		1900 E Price Rd	Brownsville, TX 78521-2495
UNION DESIGN DEVELOPERS LP		4314 S Conway Ave	Mission, TX 78572-1523
AMELIA V DE LEON		1905 W Madison St	Brownsville, TX 78520-6607
JORGE ARGUELLO		6570 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX 78520-9532
RIO GRANDE PALMS WATER DISTRICT		27715 Highway 100	San Benito, TX 78586
FLORES TEOFIL H JR & CATARINA G		6421 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX 78520-3910
FLORES TEOFIL NORBERTO		6861 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX 78520-9532
LOZANO CARLOS ET AL		310 E Dallas Ave.	McAllen, TX 78501
RAUL A CAVAZOS FARM INC		1403 Grey Flint Cove	San Antonio, TX 78258-4405
SLADEK PAUL L		PO Box 506	National City, CA, 91951-0506
LEE TAE SUN & SHEENA		54 Pizarro Ave.	Rancho Viejo, TX, 78575
ROSENBAUM EDELMIRO		8375 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9543
BERLANGA MARTIN		8365 US Military Hwy 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520
CHAVEZ ARTURO & CONSUELO D		8359 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9543
MORENO CATARINO & IRENE O		8335 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9543
TAPIA FEDERICO		1251 Iris St	Amarillo, TX, 79107-8022
TAPIA JUAN ALFREDO & MARIA DE JESUS		8255 US 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
MEZA JESUS G & MARIA ISABEL		8245 US Highway Military 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3865
MARTINEZ JUAN BALLI		663 Santa Cruz St	Brownsville, TX, 78521-4561
GUAJARDO ISRAEL JR		4656 Central Circle	Brownsville, TX, 78521-5551
LOPEZ JOSE LUIS		4041 Westland Dr.	Brownsville, TX, 78521-3661
RODRIGUEZ FIDEL & RODRIGUEZ VIRGINIA		1330 Calle Planeta	Brownsville, TX, 78520-4045
MENDOZA ROBERTO JR		4656 Central Cir	Brownsville, TX, 78521-5551
ESPARZA MARIA ELENA		4084 SIERRA MADRE	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
SOSA JUAN ALBERTO & ADRIANA		PO BOX 6058	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78523-6058
CARBAJAL AMADOR H		7501 S HALO AVE	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
DIAZ ANTONIO M JR MD		864 CENTRAL BLVD, SUITE 100	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-7539
RAMIREZ GLORIA REY		7149 US MILITARY HWY 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
SALAZAR MICHELE & REYNALDO		7147 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3951
FUENTES GLORIA D SOTELO		3104 E 26th St	Brownsville, TX, 78521-1316
LOZANO MARIA DEL CARMEN B		211 W TANDY RD	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9423
CORONADO DAVID T & GUADALUPE A		6906 Abel Longoria	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9616
RANGEL JOSE & JOSEFINA		2674 CLOVER DR	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78521
SALINAS LILA MICHELLE		6851 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9532
BARREDA PARK LP		PO Box 2280	South Padre Island, TX, 78597-2280
DYNAMIC REALTY INVESTMENTS LLC		PO Box 6309	Brownsville, TX, 78523-6309
CEMENTERIO DEL CARMEN ASSOC		RR 8 BOX 880	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9523
CEBALLOS OSCAR ET UX		6401 US MILITARY HWY 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
DE LEON ERNESTO & LUCIANO ORTIZ CANTU ET AL		224 Jade Dr.	Brownsville, TX, 78520-7716
MCMD LIMITED PARTNERSHIP		187 RESACA BEND	RANCHO VIEJO, TX, 78575
CARPENTER JAMES S & BONNIE J		2055 County Road 2	Brewster, KS, 67732-8613
LONGORIA PROPERTIES LTD		PO BOX 3440	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78523
DE LA FUENTE JOE		1681 E Los Ebanos Blvd, STE100	Brownsville, TX, 78520-8542
TORRES VALENTIN DE LEON		2880 Old Military Rd	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3903
NELSON ARTHUR G III & GUADALUPE G NELSON		2900 OLD MILITARY RD	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
GARZA ALBERTO R ET UX		3000 Old Military Rd	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3954
AGUIRRE SYLVIA RAMIREZ		2963 MILITARY HWY 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
CLEAR CHANNEL BROADCASTING INC	ATTN: MARKET CONTROLLERS/BUS MGR	901 E PIKE BLVD	WESLACO, TX, 78596
GARCIA ADELAIDA		2715 US MILITARY HWY 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
MARTINEZ PILAR C		504 FLORENCE LN	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78526

Ltr Returned undable to forward 5-18-15

ltr returned unable to forward 3-26-15

List of Affected Property Owners

Name	Middle	Address	City+State
SOUTHWEST HOMES & DESIGN LLC		2471 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3953
MARSER CORP		7941 Southmost Rd	Brownsville, TX, 78521-9116
ZUNIGA PETRA LYDIA MOLINA		2455 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3953
SANCHEZ VICTOR LUGO		146 Lincoln Cir	Richmond Hill, GA, 31324-6109
GARCIA ELMA GARZA		1112 W Elizabeth St	Brownsville, TX, 78520-6418
GARZA TEODORO & RAQUEL		2431 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3953
CAMPOS MARIO RENE & MARIA T M		6892 Laguna Madre Dr.	Brownsville, TX, 78526-6941
GARCIA GUADALUPE		2417 MILITARY RD	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9500
CANTU EVANGELINA		2407 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3953
ARGUELLES ANTONIO JR ET UX		2397 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3928
MEDINA BEN JR		RR 8 BOX 678	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9515
MEDINA BENANCIO & TRINIDAD		2377 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3928
DUPRE CAROLINA MEDINA ET AL		2367 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3928
LOA UDELIA ENRIQUEZ		5321 Lomita Dr.	Mercedes, TX, 78570-5910
PEREZ DONACIANO F ET AL		2357 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3928
VEGA NICEFORO		2337 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3928
RODRIGUEZ JUANA H & RODRIGUEZ ABEL JR		201 DIX DR.	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
SALINAS MARIA GUADALUPE		2317 US MILITARY HWY 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
JOHNSON LEAH MARIE		2317 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3928
MEJIA CRISELA FLORES ET AL		1708 Northwood Dr.	Brownsville, TX, 78520-8592
FLORES EVA DELGADO		2321 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3928
FLORES GUADALUPE		2315 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3928
RAMOS ARCADIO FRANCISCO		2237 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3957
DIAZ DALIA		1484 Acacia Lake Dr.	Brownsville, TX, 78521-4915
TORRES SANTIAGO ET UX C/O VALENCIANA MARIA ISABEL		2197 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3932
FLORES RICARDO & SYLVIA INEZ		PO BOX 4232	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
AMADOR EMELINA MARTIN		2195 US MILITARY HWY 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9804
FULLERTON ROSARIO		2185 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3932
ANDRADE JUAN JR		2984 ALTON GLOOR BLVD	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78521
ANDRADE JUAN JR		1727 Royal Oak St	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9261
MORALES FEDERICO ET UX		RR 8 BOX 683-L	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9804
RECIO MARIA DOLORES		RR 8 BOX 684M	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9516
MORALES JOSE FEDERICO		2113 MILITARY HIGHWAY 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
GARZA SABAS JR ESTATE OF MARIA C SABAS IND EXECUTRIX		2135 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3932
KELLER REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS INC		PO BOX 2555	MCALLEN, TX, 78502
INTERNATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE		PO BOX 1831	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78522-1831
CRUZ CRISELDA		2174 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
SALAS CELIA ARTEAGA		2164 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78521
TIJERINA JUAN J BALLESTEROS		2154 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
DE LA CRUZ FATIMA		7544 Utah Rd	Brownsville, TX, 78521-7305
FLORES YADIRA NAYELI GUDINO		4677 San Antonio Rd	Brownsville, TX, 78521-5643
CHAVEZ MARIA DE LA CRUZ		18 S Coria St	Brownsville, TX, 78520-7508
VILLARREAL FELIPE G & SAN JUANITA		2114 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78521
OLIVO JUAN R		2104 El Cielo	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9482
LUNA SABINO & ROSALIA		2094 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
KAUFFMAN JOHN A & MARLA L		2084 EL CIELO	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78521
SORIA CARMEN		2074 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
MARTINEZ ALFREDO JR		2054 El Cielo	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9485
OSORIO MANUEL & EVA OSORIO		154 Calle Duquesa	Brownsville, TX, 78520-4802
GARCIA MARIA GUADALUPE		2034 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
RIOS HILDA		2024 El Cielo	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9485
RAMIREZ FRANCISCO J & NORA E		2014 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
SANCHEZ MARIA DEL PILAR		2004 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520

ltr returned unable to forward 3-26-15

ltr returned unable to forward 3-26-15

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List of Affected Property Owners

Name	Middle	Address	City+State
GONZALEZ MARIO ALBERTO & AMELIA		1994 EL CIELO	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
CONSTANTINO FERNANDO, CONSTANTINO, LUCIA		1984 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
GARCIA GEORGE & SULAMITA SARAI		1974 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
GARCIA JOSE A & NORA E		1964 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9484
RODRIGUEZ ELISA	C/O RE/MAX SUN VALLEY REALTORS	223 Resaca Bend	Olmito, TX, 78575-9408
IBARRA ROSA ELIA		1944 EL CIELO ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		PO BOX 1306	ALBUQUERQUE, NM, 87103-1306
GALINDO CARLOS R ET UX		RR 8 BOX 673-E	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9804
TOBAR JESUS J & MA GUADALUPE		2924 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3886
TOVAR MARIA C		2964 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3886
SALDIVAR CONRADO R		2901 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3993
HERNANDEZ JOSE EST OF	C/O HERNANDEZ JUAN G	5160 FM 1732	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3974
DE LEON ZULEMA P	C/O FELIPA A DE LEON RUIZ	2810 Old Military Rd	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3903
CABRERA ROGELIO		35615 GROVE PARK RD	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
HARRIS MODESTA T		6340 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3947
TREVINO LAURA G		243 Palm Blvd	Brownsville, TX, 78520-5429
MACIAS CARLOS A		6420 U S 281 MILITARY HWY	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
TREVINO RAUL JR ET AL		816 WALNUT CREEK DR	AUSTIN, TX, 78753
DECKER LINDA DIANE & BILL		6490 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9631
RODRIGUEZ JULIA C		7960 Old Military Rd	Brownsville, TX, 78520
PEREZ JOSE SERGIO & CARMEN S		6500 MILITARY HWY	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
CARDENAS IRMA		6510 US HIGHWAY 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9532
MASCORRO OSCAR GUADALUPE		2130 SUNSET LAKE DR	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9285
PENA RUDOLFO ET AL		6530 US HIGHWAY 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9532
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NATL ASSOC		1111 Polaris Pkwy	Columbus, OH, 43240-2050
BALLESTEROS JOSE EVERARDO		6550 HWY 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78526
GUERRERO RENE ET UX		RR 8 BOX 990	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9523
GOMEZ ANGELICA		7050 OLD MILITARY RD	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
POOLE WILLIAM G & PEGGY A		7064 OLD MILITARY ROAD	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
LARA MARIA IDALIA		6526 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9532
ALEMAN MARIA I & GARZA JAIME L		6526 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9532
LONGORIA ABEL C & LIDIA LUCIA S		25256 NELSON RD	SAN BENITO, TX, 78586
ZARATE HERLINDA		RR 8 BOX 880	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
TIJERINA ELODIA TANA		3719 Dove Park Ln	San Antonio, TX, 78253-5077
TIJERINA CELINA L		21009 7th Street Ct E	Lake Tapps, WA, 98391-5600
CAVAZOS PRAJEDES G		7555 OLD MILITARY RD	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
RODRIGUEZ LOURDES		7500 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9533
MONTEMAYOR RAMON GUSTAVO JR		7510 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9533
GONZALEZ CYNTHIA J AKA CYNTHIA J MONTEMAYOR & MIGUEL E GONZALEZ		7520 US MILITARY HWY 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
CERVANTES JUAN JOSE & IDALIA		844 MILITARY RD #B	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-4640
CRUZ ROGER & JULIA CRUZ		7540 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9533
RIVERA JOSE ALFREDO & LIZVETTE		6751 PINO VERDE	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78521
SMITH TIMMY R		7560 MILITARY HWY	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
GARZA ROGELIO & MARIA I		334 RIO VISTA	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78521
VALDEZ ASHLEY P		7580 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-9533
ALEJOS MARCOS A & ELIZABETH		632 Valle Alto Dr.	Los Fresnos, TX, 78566-3507
GARCIA LUCINDA ET AL		9211 Serene Creek Dr.	San Antonio, TX, 78230-4037
LEAL JUAN F & ROSITA R		8250 U S HWY 281	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520
FLORES LIONEL	C/O PAULA N FLORES	RR 8 BOX 815	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78520-9511
GUTIERREZ AMADOR		8420 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3925
CHAVEZ BEATRIZ		3165 E 24TH ST	BROWNSVILLE, TX, 78521-1301

ltr returned unable to forward 3-26-15

no longer owner it's now Gabriel Lopez/Stwerart Title Lisa Gonzalez has new property owner info 956-243-8637

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List of Affected Property Owners

Name	Middle	Address	City+State
GARCIA PEDRO		8971 Old Military Rd	Brownsville, TX, 78520-4041
GARCIA SERGIO VELA ET UX		8430 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3925
FRANCO PRISCILIANO		424 E Levee St Apt 3	Brownsville, TX, 78520-5377
MUNOZ MIGUEL & MUNOZ RUBEN		8480 US Highway 281	Brownsville, TX, 78520-3925

Ltr returned unable to forward 3-27-15

APPENDIX D
MEETING MATERIALS



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
U.S. 281 MILITARY HIGHWAY
FROM FM 3248 (ALTON GLOOR BLVD.) TO FM 1421

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will hold a public meeting regarding the proposed widening of U.S. 281 (Military Highway) from FM 3248 (Alton Gloor Blvd.) to FM 1421 in Cameron County, Texas. The meeting details are as follow:

Wednesday, April 1, 2015
Veterans Memorial High School Auditorium
4550 U.S. Military Hwy 281
Brownsville, TX 78520
Open House: 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Presentation and Public Comment: 6:00 P.M.

The purpose of the public meeting is to allow the public the opportunity to view and comment on the proposed improvements to U.S. 281 (Military Highway). The proposed project would widen U.S. 281 from two to four 12-foot lanes with 8-foot shoulders and include left & right-turn lanes at major intersections. Drainage would be handled with roadside ditches. Pavement reconstruction, utility improvements, and signalization improvements are also included in the project. The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce congestion and enhance safety by accommodating traffic volumes that are expected to increase in the vicinity.

The proposed project would be done typically within the existing 100 feet wide Right-of-Way (ROW), but it would require approximately 2.51 acres of additional roadway ROW, primarily at intersections and specific locations along the project. It is anticipated that the proposed project would not require any business or residential relocations. Relocation Assistance is available through TxDOT's relocation assistance program. Right-of-way acquisition and the relocation process would be conducted according to the Title II and Title III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. Information about the benefits, services and ROW acquisition schedule can be obtained at the district office located at 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, TX. 78577

Location maps, geometric design, and other information concerning this project will be available at the public meeting. This information will also be available for public inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. at the TxDOT Pharr District Office located at 600 West Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577.

All interested citizens are invited to attend this public meeting to provide input regarding the proposed project. Verbal and/ or written comments may be presented at the public meeting. Written comments may be submitted up to Friday April 10, 2015 either in person or by mail to TxDOT, Attn: Pharr District Engineer, 600 West Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577. Comments can also be received by fax at (956) 702-6110 or email to Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov. For additional information on the project, please call Edoardo Espinoza, P.E., Project Manager with TxDOT at (956) 702-6210.

The public meeting will be conducted in English with Spanish translation services also available. Persons interested in attending the meeting who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact Norma Robledo with TxDOT at (956) 702-6161. Requests should be made at least four days prior to the public meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT.



AVISO DE REUNION PÚBLICA U.S. 281 MILITARY HIGHWAY DE FM 3248 (ALTON GLOOR BLVD.) A FM 1421

El Departamento de Transporte del Estado de Texas (TxDOT) llevara a cabo una REUNION PÚBLICA en relación con los mejoramientos propuestos de la Carretera U.S. 281 (Military Highway) desde FM 3248 (Alton Gloor Blvd.) hasta FM 1421 en el condado de Cameron, Texas. Los detalles de la reunión son los siguientes:

Miércoles 1 de Abril del 2015
Veterans Memorial High School Auditorio
4550 U.S. Military Hwy 281
Brownsville, TX 78520
Exhibición: 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Presentación y comentario público: 6:00 P.M.

Esta reunión dará una oportunidad al público para conocer el proyecto y proveer comentarios sobre las propuestas de mejora de U.S. 281 (Military Highway). El proyecto propuesto ampliara la carretera U.S. 281 de dos a cuatro carriles de 12 pies de ancho con acotamientos de 8 pies e incluirá carriles con dirección izquierdo y derecho en intersecciones mayores. El drenaje pluvial será transmitido por zanjas paralelas a la carretera. Reconstrucción de pavimento, mejoramientos de utilidades, y mejoramientos en señalización están incluidos en el proyecto. El propósito del proyecto propuesto es reducir congestión y realzar la seguridad tomando en cuenta el crecimiento en volúmenes de tráfico que se esperan en la región.

Los mejoramientos propuestos se llevaran a cabo dentro de los 100 pies de derecho-de-vía existentes, pero potencialmente requerirán la adquisición de aproximadamente 2.51 acres adicionales de derecho-de-vía de carretera, primordialmente en intersecciones y locaciones específicas en el proyecto. Desplazamiento de individuos, familias, ranchos u organizaciones sin beneficio no están anticipados. Asistencia de Reubicación está disponible a través del programa Asistencia de Reubicación de TxDOT. Adquisición de derecho-de-vía y el proceso de reubicación seria conducida de acuerdo con el Título II y Título III del Acto de Pólizas de 1970 de Asistencia de Reubicación Uniforme y Adquisición de Propiedades Reales. Información de los beneficios, servicios y calendario de la adquisición de derecho-de-vía podrán ser obtenidos en la oficina del distrito localizada en 600 W. Interstate, Pharr, Texas 78577.

Mapas con localización, diseño geométrico, e información referente a este proyecto estarán disponibles durante la reunión pública. Esta información también estará disponible para inspección del público de lunes a viernes durante el horario de 8:00 A.M. a 5:00 P.M. en las oficinas de TxDOT Distrito de Pharr localizadas en 600 West Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577.

Todas las personas interesadas están invitadas en asistir a la reunión pública para proveer comentarios relacionados al proyecto. Comentarios verbales y escritos se podrán presentar en la reunión pública. Se solicita al público enviar sus comentarios en persona o por correo antes del día viernes 10 de abril del 2015. Comentarios escritos deberán ser dirigidos a TxDOT, Attn: Ingeniero del Distrito de Pharr, a la siguiente dirección: 600 West Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577. Comentarios también pueden ser enviados vía fax al (956) 702-6110 o por correo electrónico a Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov. Para información adicional, llame al gerente del proyecto Edoardo Espinoza, P.E., de TxDOT, al número (956) 702-6210.

La reunión pública será conducida en Ingles, pero servicios de traducción en español estarán disponibles. Personas interesadas en asistir la reunión con necesidades especiales por favor de comunicarse con Norma Robledo al número (956) 702-6161 por lo menos cuatro días antes de la reunión pública. Se hará todo esfuerzo razonable para acomodar estos servicios.

La revisión ambiental, consultas y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes Ambientales Federales para este proyecto se están o han sido llevadas a cabo por TxDOT conforme con 23 U.S.C. 327 y un Memorándum de Entendimiento con fecha del 16 de Diciembre del 2014 y ejecutado por la Administración Federal de Carreteras y TxDOT.



Sign In Sheet

US 281 Military Highway Project

Public Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Name/Nombre	Address/Dirección	Phone Number/ Teléfono	Email Address/ Correo Electrónico	Affiliation/ Afilación	How did you hear about the meeting? / ¿Cómo se enteró acerca de la reunión?	
Rogelio Cabrera					Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)
Le Roy & Alice Sta Henberg					Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)
John & Hazel COLEMAN				nd nt	Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)
Joe DeLaFuente					Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)



Sign In Sheet

US 281 Military Highway Project

Public Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Name/Nombre	Address/Dirección	Phone Number/ Teléfono	Email Address/ Correo Electrónico	Affiliation/ Afiliación	How did you hear about the meeting? / ¿Cómo se enteró acerca de la reunión?	
Betty Truman	131 F			BPO MPO	Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)
Mark Horowitz					Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify) Facebook	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)
CESAR GARCIA					Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)
ERNESTO DE LEON				WDR	Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)



Sign In Sheet

US 281 Military Highway Project

Public Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Name/Nombre	Address/Dirección	Phone Number/ Teléfono	Email Address/ Correo Electrónico	Affiliation/ Afiliación	How did you hear about the meeting? / ¿Cómo se enteró acerca de la reunión?	
Dr. Lee Garcia					Newspaper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
Joe Dela Fuente					Newspaper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
CARLOS LASTAN					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
Isabel Garza					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___



Sign In Sheet

US 281 Military Highway Project

Public Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Name/Nombre	Address/Dirección	Phone Number/ Teléfono	Email Address/ Correo Electrónico	Affiliation/ Afiliación	How did you hear about the meeting? / ¿Cómo se enteró acerca de la reunión?	
Antonio M. Do					Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)
Santiago Treviño					Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)
Ben Medina					Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)
ALVARO + BEATRIZ CHAVEZ					Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)



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Miguel Ortiz					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
A J Alvarez					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
Michael Sales					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
Louis Bolina				D	Newspaper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___



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Anna LeCero					Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)
Oscar de Tejeda Ceballos			r com		Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice ✓ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)
Felipa Ruiz					Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)
Esmeralda Bohling					Newspaper___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend___ Radio___ Community Flyer___ Mailed Notice___ Other (please specify)	Periódico___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio___ Folleto___ Correo___ Otro (favor especificar)



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Gloria D Sotelo Fuentes					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Otro (favor especificar)
Carlos & Araceli Palomino					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify)	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar)
Carmen Diaz					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar)
Zonia Cardenas					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar)



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Jylvia Suarez Antonio Suarez					Newspaper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road-side sign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
HAROLD EWALD ARNETTE EWALD	I R E				Newspaper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road-side sign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
A/ Sanso Vally					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
Lauren Heiny					Newspaper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___



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Benancio Medina					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
ROBERTA RUBIERA					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
Henry P. Osher					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
T. Norberto Flores					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___



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William G. & Peggy A. Poole					Newspaper__ Road-side sign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TV__ Friend__ Radio__ Community Flyer__ Mailed Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	Periódico__ Anuncio de Calle__ TV__ Amigo(-a)__ Radio__ Folleto__ Correo__ Otro (favor especificar)
David Garcia					Newspaper__ Road-side sign__ TV__ Friend__ Radio__ Community Flyer__ Mailed Notice__ Other (please specify)	Periódico__ Anuncio de Calle__ TV__ Amigo(-a)__ Radio__ Folleto__ Correo__ Otro (favor especificar)
Valentin Torres					Newspaper__ Road-side sign__ TV__ Friend__ Radio__ Community Flyer__ Mailed Notice__ Other (please specify)	Periódico__ Anuncio de Calle__ TV__ Amigo(-a)__ Radio__ Folleto__ Correo__ Otro (favor especificar)
ARTHUR NELSON					Newspaper__ Road-side sign__ TV__ Friend__ Radio__ Community Flyer__ Mailed Notice__ Other (please specify)	Periódico__ Anuncio de Calle__ TV__ Amigo(-a)__ Radio__ Folleto__ Correo__ Otro (favor especificar)



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Mike + Cindy Gonzalez					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar)
Pet Sepulveda					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar)
Richard Redings					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify)	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar)
Diane Harris					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify)	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar)



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Amador Cumbayá					Newspaper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road-side sign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Community Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	Periódico <input type="checkbox"/> Anuncio de Calle <input type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> Amigo(-a) <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Folleto <input type="checkbox"/> Correo <input type="checkbox"/> Otro (favor especificar) <input type="checkbox"/>
Raul Hozano					Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Road-side sign <input type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Community Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	Periódico <input type="checkbox"/> Anuncio de Calle <input type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> Amigo(-a) <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Folleto <input type="checkbox"/> Correo <input type="checkbox"/> Otro (favor especificar) <input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mrs. Rey Celia Torres					Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Road-side sign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Community Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	Periódico <input type="checkbox"/> Anuncio de Calle <input type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> Amigo(-a) <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Folleto <input type="checkbox"/> Correo <input type="checkbox"/> Otro (favor especificar) <input type="checkbox"/>
Julian MARTINEZ					Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Road-side sign <input type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Community Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	Periódico <input type="checkbox"/> Anuncio de Calle <input type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> Amigo(-a) <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Folleto <input type="checkbox"/> Correo <input type="checkbox"/> Otro (favor especificar) <input type="checkbox"/>



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Name/Nombre	Address/Dirección	Phone Number/ Teléfono	Email Address/ Correo Electrónico	Affiliation/ Afilación	How did you hear about the meeting? / ¿Cómo se enteró acerca de la reunión?	
Thomas Hoza					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
Marina L. Salinas					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___



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Jaime M Trevino					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
Jacqueline Trevino	}	}	}	}	Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
James Hunter	}	}	}	}	Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
Aradio Ramol					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___



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Michelle Salinas		214 2114	michelle.salinas@att.net		Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify)	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar)
SCOTT FRY					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify)	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar)
David Belleperche					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) <u>TxDOT Website</u>	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar)
JOSE BALLESTEROS					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify)	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar)



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MARGARET FRIEDMAN GOLDFINE					Newspaper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
Jeanne Joyce					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
Teof:lo Floe Catarina Floe Michael Floe					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign ___ TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) ___	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___
Corina Garcia					Newspaper ___ Road-side sign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TV ___ Friend ___ Radio ___ Community Flyer ___ Mailed Notice ___ Other (please specify) F.B.	Periódico ___ Anuncio de Calle ___ TV ___ Amigo(-a) ___ Radio ___ Folleto ___ Correo ___ Otro (favor especificar) ___

STAFF SIGN IN SHEET

TxDOT, Consultant, Vendor, etc.

NAME	REPRESENTING
Pete Alvarez	TxDOT
Juan Bosquer	TxDOT
Rob Juarez	TxDOT
Robert Santos	Danica
Gilbert De La Fuente	TxDOT
Robi Gelston	TxDOT
Carlos Lascurain	Sendero Reg.
ROBERT A. CASAREZ	TxDOT
Samantha Champion	Hicks & Co
Jason Buntz	Hicks & Company
JANE ELLEN CARTER	AMEE FOSTER WHEELER
Edd Paradise	TxDOT
JOSEPH LEAL	TxDOT
SANORA CHIPUEY	TxDOT
JESSE Esquivardo	TxDOT
Doise Miers	TxDOT
Andrs Espinoza	TxDOT
NORMA Rdsledo	TxDOT
Sergio Cantu	TxDOT

US 281 Military Highway
 TxDOT
 Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Veterans Memorial Early College
 High School

APPENDIX E
PRESENTATION



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



US 281 (MILITARY HIGHWAY)

PUBLIC MEETING



April 1, 2015



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

US 281

FROM: FM 3248 (ALTON GLOOR BLVD.)
TO: FM 1421

CAMERON COUNTY



- Public Meeting
- April 1, 2015
- Open House: 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Presentation and Public Comments: 6:00 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Early College High School
4550 US Military Highway 281
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Public Meeting Agenda

- **Welcome & Introductions**

Octavio Saenz – TxDOT Public Information Officer

- **Technical Overview**

Juan Bosquez, P.E. – TxDOT San Benito Area Engineer

- **Next Steps in Project Development**

Octavio Saenz – TxDOT Public Information Officer

- **Public Comment**

- **Adjournment**

3

Provide Your Comments

- Sign up to speak tonight
- Leave comments at registration table tonight
- Provide verbal comments to the Court Reporter (Translator)
- Mail or drop off comments:

Pharr District Engineer
TxDOT Pharr District
600 W. Interstate 2
Pharr, TX 78577

- Fax comments to (956) 702-6110
- Email comments to Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov
- Visit www.txdot.gov and search "US 281 Military Highway to view this presentation and provide comments"
- Monday, April 13, 2015 Comment Period Deadline

4

Provide Your Comments

- Sign up to speak tonight
- Leave comments at registration table tonight
- Provide verbal comments to the Court Reporter (Translator)
- Mail or drop off comments:

Pharr District Engineer
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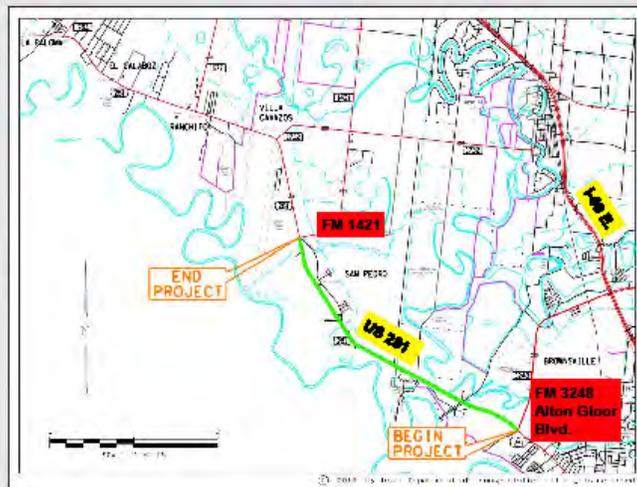
Project Area

Project Limits

US 281 Military Hwy.

- From: FM 3248 (Alton Gloor Blvd.)
To: FM 1421
- Total Length: 5.428 miles

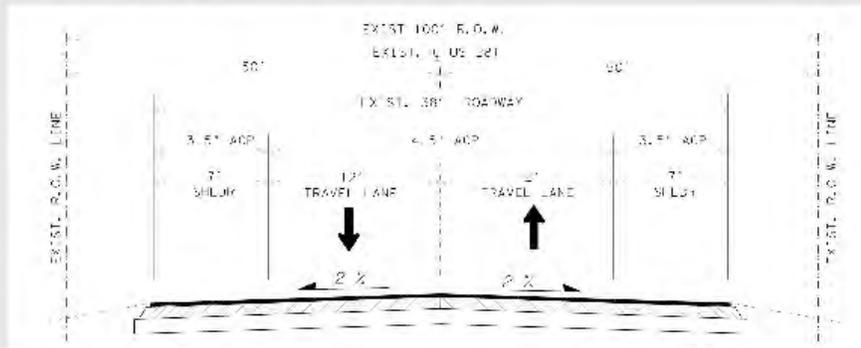
Legend:
 US 281 Reconstruction Limits



US281 Military Highway Existing Typical Section

Existing US 281 Military Highway

- Existing 38 ft. Roadway Width
- two - 12 ft. travel Lanes
- two - 7 ft. shoulders
- Existing 100 ft. Right-of-Way



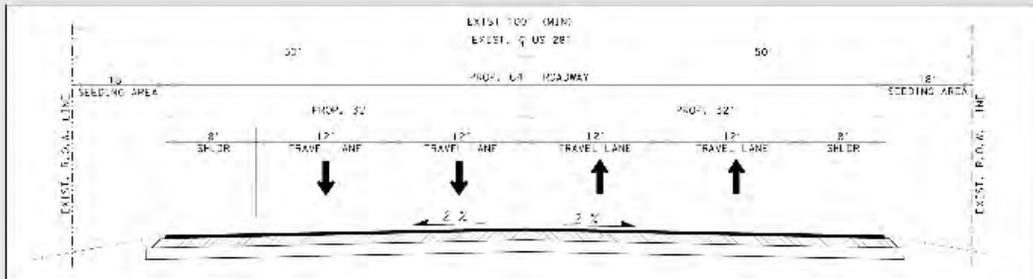
Project Need and Purpose

- **Project Need:**
 - Decreased Mobility, thru-traffic must stop and wait behind turning traffic
 - Potential safety concerns because of increased traffic on 2-lane roadway
- **Project Purpose:**
 - Improve safety and mobility by adding lanes
 - Improve traffic operations by adding left and right turn lanes

US 281 Military Highway Proposed Typical Section

Proposed US 281 Military Highway

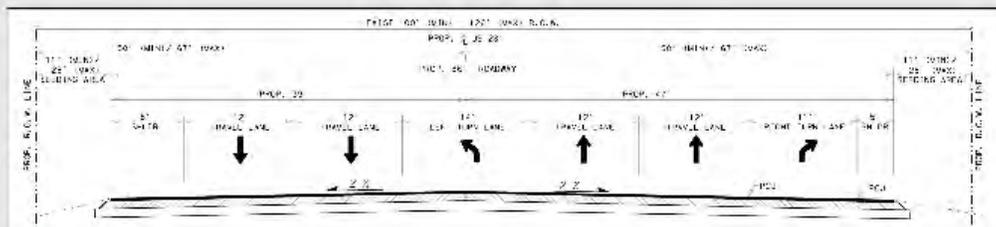
- Proposed 64 ft. Roadway Width
- Four – 12 ft. travel Lanes
- Two – 8 ft. shoulders
- Proposed within existing 100 ft. Right-of-Way



US 281 Military Highway Proposed Typical Section

Proposed US 281 Military Highway at Major Intersections

- Proposed 86 ft. Roadway Width
- four – 12 ft. travel Lanes
- 14 ft. Left-turn lane
- 11 ft. Right-turn lane
- 8 ft. Left shoulder/ 5 ft. Right Shoulder
- Proposed 100 ft. – 126 ft. Right-of-Way



Project Details

US 281 Military Highway

- Widen existing roadway from 38 ft. to 64 ft. width (62 ft. to 88 ft. width on major intersections)
- Add left and right turn lanes at Carmen Avenue, San Pedro Road, and FM 1421 Intersection
- Provide a minimum 5 ft. shoulder on each side throughout project
- Build new cross drainage structures and parallel roadside ditches for overall drainage improvements
- Adjust irrigation structures accordingly within project limits
- Provide new traffic and pedestrian signalization at major intersection
- Add Safety element to pavement surface for opposing traffic
- Total Reconstruction of roadway including resurfacing

11

Project Details

Right-of-Way Acquisition

- Approximately 2.5 acres of additional roadway Right-of-Way will be acquired
- Right-of-Way will primarily be acquired at intersections and specific locations along the project
- It is anticipated that the proposed project would not require any business or residential relocations.
- Right-of-Way acquisition is available through TxDOT's relocation assistance program.

Right-of-way acquisition and the relocation process would be conducted according to the Title II and Title III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. Information about the benefits, services and ROW acquisition schedule can be obtained at the district office located at 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, TX. 78577

12

Project Details

Environmental Overview

- Environmental assessment to be completed
- Environmental Impact Considerations:
 - Community impacts
 - Noise
 - Vegetation
 - Streams and Wetlands
 - Threatened and endangered species
 - Cultural Resources
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Air Quality

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT.

13

Operational Analysis

- Increased mobility and accessibility on overall US 281 corridor
- Safe accessibility to private and commercial drives
- Provide increased capacity for growing traffic volumes
- Provide passing lane throughout entire project limits

14

US 281 Military Highway Alternatives-No Build

- Two project alternatives evaluated
- Evaluation criteria considered factors including minimal impacts and project feasibility
- No-Build Alternative
 - Must be considered during environmental study
 - Would leave the existing roadway in its current configuration
 - Would not meet the purpose and need

15

Project Schedule & Funding

Project Schedule

Funded for Construction starting in 2015



Project Funding

- \$6.7M Coordinated Border Infrastructure
- \$6.9M Proposition 1 Congestion

- \$13.6M TOTAL FUNDING

* This project schedule and dates are preliminary and subject to change.

16

Public Comment Period



- Use the microphone
- State your name
- State your interest in the project
- Give your comments on the project

17

Provide Your Comments

- Sign up to speak tonight
- Leave comments at registration table tonight
- Mail or drop off comments:

Pharr District Engineer
TxDOT Pharr District
600 W. Interstate 2
Pharr, TX 78577
- Fax comments to (956) 702-6110
- Email comments to Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov
- Visit www.txdot.gov and search "US 281 Military Highway" to view this presentation and provide comments
- Monday, April 13, 2015 Comment Period Deadline

18

***Thank You for Your
Participation!***



APPENDIX F
TRANSCRIPT

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC MEETING

U.S. 281 (MILITARY HIGHWAY)

Veteran's Memorial Early College High School
4550 U.S. Military Highway 281
Brownsville, Texas

April 1, 2015

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the ^{1st} ~~24th~~ day of ^{April} ~~February~~,
2015, the following proceedings were held at the
Veteran's Memorial Early College High School,
4550 U.S. Military Highway 281, Brownsville, Cameron
County, Texas, before Donann Smith, Certified
Shorthand Reporter.

8WC
7/29/15

1 MR. SAENZ: Good afternoon. I would
2 like to introduce myself. I'm Octavio Saenz, the
3 public information officer for the Texas Department
4 of Transportation. I'll be conducting tonight's
5 public meeting on the proposed improvements for US
6 281 Military Highway here in Cameron County.

7 First of all, we always like to start
8 with a safety minute, and, of course, one of the
9 things that we are always talking about is work zone
10 awareness, and it's one of the things that's been
11 brought up during the last week. Of all the accidents
12 that occurred on the work zone in the state of Texas,
13 87 percent of them were not road workers. They were
14 actually members of the driving public, passengers,
15 motorists. So it's very important that if you have
16 loved ones, we have a lot of growth here in the Rio
17 Grande Valley, so we have a lot of work zones that not
18 only yourselves, but you tell your loved ones,
19 especially the teenagers, to just slow down and just
20 be attentive, because those are the two factors that
21 create the problems when it comes to accidents,
22 inattentiveness, and, of course, failure to control
23 speed.

24 So let's continue now. First of all, I
25 want to say thank you for all of you -- to all of you.

1 Citizen participation and input are very important
2 for the department, and it's also part of the planning
3 process, and, of course, I appreciate the time that
4 you're taking to be out here today, and, of course,
5 taking time out of your busy schedule.

6 A short reminder, before you leave
7 tonight, ladies and gentlemen, we would appreciate
8 you registering with the staff at the table that is
9 out right next to the door to my right. The reason
10 why we would like you to register is to help us keep
11 you updated on all the information regarding this
12 project. Of course, we also want to keep you posted
13 on all the planning and how everything is
14 progressing. Also, if you would like to leave --
15 provide comments during the public comment portion of
16 this meeting, we will have a comment portion at this
17 time. If you would like -- let us know. Some of you
18 registered. I have two people registered at this
19 moment, but, nevertheless, if you still feel like
20 there's something that you want to say, you will be
21 more than welcome to talk after these two individuals
22 speak their mind.

23 And now if you prefer, you're a little
24 shy, you prefer the comments to be written, well, then
25 also you can also fill out a comment form, which is

1 available at the sign-in table, and leave it with us
2 tonight in the comment box, or mail it back to us.
3 The mail-in instructions will be in the form.

4 Now at this time, I would like to
5 recognize local government officials who are present
6 tonight. We have Cameron County Judge Pete Sepulveda
7 with us. Judge.

8 At this time, as well, I would like to
9 ask you to look around this place. There's a lot of
10 staff members from TxDOT that are here to provide you
11 with assistance and information. You can identify
12 them by the name tag, and I encourage you to visit
13 with them. Can we also see a show of hands for all
14 TxDOT employees, please. So we're all over. We're
15 here to serve you.

16 As you came in, you were given an agenda
17 for tonight's meeting. In a few minutes, Mr. Juan
18 Bosquez, our San Benito area engineer, will provide a
19 technical overview of the entire project. Now after
20 his presentation, I will provide a summary of the next
21 steps involved in the project development. We will
22 then open up the meeting to receive your comments
23 before we adjourn for the night.

24 Now the purpose of this meeting is to
25 encourage and maintain effective communication with

1 the public, and also provide specific information as
2 it relates to the U.S. Military Highway project here
3 in Cameron County.

4 Right-of-way information, as well as
5 environmental information, is included in the
6 presentation tonight to inform you of the proposed
7 planning, and, of course, the intent of the work that
8 is to be done.

9 Now remember, your input, your comments
10 are extremely, extremely important. They are a
11 fundamental part of this process, and we encourage
12 you to make the comments on this project. As I said
13 earlier, your attendance at this meeting and
14 continued participation is appreciated. I do
15 encourage you to talk to some of the neighbors that
16 maybe are not here, talk to them and refer them to us,
17 so they can also make their comments and be included
18 in the process.

19 Now we want to receive your comments on
20 the project, and there are, again, several ways you
21 can do this. The meeting is being recorded, so please
22 reserve any comments until we reach the public
23 comment portion of the meeting so that the input can
24 be accurately recorded for the public record. Again,
25 if you prefer written comments, you can leave them at

ACTION REPORTING

1-800-884-1024 / 956-631-1024

1 the registration table. We also have a court reporter
2 here who is available so you can provide them with
3 your verbal comments. It's the lady in blue to my
4 left. A translator, again, is available here to the
5 right and can assist with your request. Again, you
6 can also mail, fax, or email your comments up to 10
7 calendar days after tonight's public meeting.
8 Comments can also be provided by accessing our
9 website, www.txdot.gov and putting in the search bar
10 US 281 Military Highway, and the project page will pop
11 up. The 10 day comment period will end on Monday,
12 April the 13th, it's an important date, and the
13 contact information that you see on the screen to my
14 back will be included in your meeting packets.

15 Now after tonight, you can also view
16 these presentation materials at the TxDOT Pharr
17 District Office, located at 600 West Interstate 2, in
18 Pharr. But in case you don't want to drive that far,
19 you can also go to the website. The internet will
20 also have all of these presentations and all of these
21 materials for you, and, again, they'll be under
22 txdot.gov.

23 Okay. Let's talk about the project.
24 The project is located here in Brownsville, Cameron
25 County. TxDOT, in cooperation with the City of

1 Brownsville, has been working on this project. The
2 map on the screen shows the general area and the
3 overview of the proposed project. The project
4 consists of reconstructing the US 281 Military
5 Highway along a 5.4 mile stretch from FM 3248, which
6 is Alton Gloor Boulevard, all the way to FM 1421.

7 Now upon completion of the project, US
8 281 Military Highway would consist of a wider
9 roadway, improved intersections, and a brand-new
10 pavement structure. The project would also address
11 drainage and irrigation improvements throughout the
12 project, and the map on the screen shows the general
13 area.

14 Now at this time, ladies and gentlemen,
15 I would like to present to you the San Benito area
16 engineer, Mr. Juan Bosquez, with more information,
17 more specifics regarding the project.

18 MR. BOSQUEZ: Thank you, Mr. Saenz, and
19 good evening to everyone in attendance.

20 I will begin by going over our typical
21 overview for the project.

22 Today, the first topics I would like to
23 discuss are the existing roadway and the need and
24 purpose for the project. In other words, why the
25 project is needed and what will the project

1 accomplish.

2 But before I continue, I want to make
3 note that the proposed typical sections shown on
4 these slides can be found on the back of the fact
5 sheet you received when you checked in.

6 Currently, US 281 Military Highway is an
7 existing rural highway with one 12 foot lane, one
8 travel lane, and a seven foot shoulder in each
9 direction. The existing typical roadway width is 38
10 feet wide and is within an existing 100 foot right-of-
11 way. However, the existing major intersections
12 within the project limits have additional left and
13 right turn lanes.

14 Why is this project needed? This
15 project is needed to provide greater mobility for the
16 increasing traffic volumes on the US 281 corridor. As
17 of now, mobility is decreased because of thru-traffic
18 having to stop and wait behind turning traffic at
19 major intersections. Potential safety concerns are
20 also present due to increased traffic on the existing
21 two-lane roadway.

22 What is the purpose of this project?
23 The project proposes to improve safety and mobility
24 by adding lanes to this roadway. In addition, the
25 project will improve overall traffic operations by

1 adding left and right turn lanes at the major
2 intersections within the limits of the project.

3 The proposed configuration of US 281
4 Military Highway will consist of two 12 foot travel
5 lanes, with an eight foot shoulder in each direction.
6 The proposed roadway will be 64 feet wide, and will be
7 accommodated typically within the existing 100 foot
8 right-of-way, as shown on the slide. No right-of-way
9 acquisition is expected within the typical scenario
10 shown here, except at major intersections.

11 The proposed typical configuration of US
12 281 Military Highway at the intersection is shown on
13 the slide.

14 In the case of Carmen Avenue, the
15 intersection will consist of two 12 foot travel lanes
16 with a 14 foot left turn lane in the middle. In
17 addition, it will have an 11 foot right turn lane
18 leading into the Veterans Memorial High School, and
19 will maintain a minimum five foot shoulder on each
20 side. The proposed right-of-way in this section will
21 consist of 126 feet of right-of-way to accommodate
22 the wider intersection approaches.

23 Similar typical sections will be
24 proposed for the San Pedro Road and FM 1421
25 intersections.

1 The San Pedro Road intersection will
2 consist of two 12 foot travel lanes in each direction,
3 a 12 foot left turn lane in the middle, and an eight
4 foot shoulder in each direction.

5 Likewise, the FM 1421 intersection will
6 consist of two 12 foot travel lanes in each direction,
7 a 12 foot lane, turn lane, in the middle, one 12 foot
8 right turn lane, and an eight foot shoulder in each
9 direction. Proposed right-of-way will vary at these
10 three intersections up to a maximum right-of-way
11 width of 126 feet.

12 Next, I would like to talk about the
13 general overall details of the project. Within the
14 project scope, we will be widening the existing
15 roadway from 38 feet to 64 feet at the non-
16 intersection locations, and at the intersections it
17 will widen them from a minimum of 62 feet to a maximum
18 88 feet.

19 Right turn lanes, as well as left turn
20 lanes will be introduced at the intersections. The
21 project will provide a minimum five foot shoulder in
22 each direction throughout the limits of the project.

23 New cross drainage structures, as well
24 as parallel roadside ditches will be proposed
25 throughout the project in order to accommodate

1 drainage flow. Irrigation siphons and crossings will
2 be replaced as needed.

3 In addition, new traffic and pedestrian
4 signalization will be proposed at the Carmen Avenue
5 intersection. As a safety enhancement, raised
6 buttons are proposed on the pavement centerline to
7 alert drivers from crossing into the opposing
8 direction of traffic. The proposed US 281 total
9 reconstruction will include a new pavement surface.

10 The project scope work will involve
11 acquisition of right-of-way due to additional turn
12 lanes mainly at the Carmen Avenue, San Pedro Road, and
13 FM 1421 intersections. Approximately, two and a half
14 acres is estimated to be acquired because of the
15 additional right-of-way needed primarily at the major
16 intersections.

17 There will also be some acquisition at
18 one specific curve location in order to insure proper
19 safety requirements.

20 Proper documentation and mapping is
21 being completed to follow the proper TxDOT
22 acquisition process. All necessary coordination will
23 be carried out to reach each respective property
24 owner within the proposed acquired limits.

25 At this time, I would like to ask our

1 TxDOT right-of-way staff to rise. You see the
2 gentleman to the left of me, and anyone who has any
3 questions regarding right-of-way issues or the
4 acquisition process may approach the right-of-way
5 staff after the meeting.

6 The project will require an
7 environmental assessment to analyze the project's
8 impacts on the environment.

9 Environmental impacts to be analyzed
10 include community impacts, noise, vegetation, streams
11 and wetlands, threatened endangered species, cultural
12 resources, hazardous material, and air quality.

13 The statement shown on the bottom of the
14 slide states that TxDOT, as of December 16, 2014, is
15 now responsible for the environmental reviews,
16 consultation, and other actions that were previously
17 the responsibility of the Federal Highway
18 Administration.

19 The purpose of the project is to improve
20 safety, mobility, and overall operations.

21 The project will increase the capacity
22 of the roadway and will address the increasing
23 traffic volumes in the area.

24 The widening of this project will allow
25 safe access to private and commercial entrances and

1 exits throughout the limits of the project. The two
2 lanes in each direction allow for safer maneuvering
3 operations and provides a passing lane for vehicles.

4 For this project, two alternatives were
5 considered, a build and a no-build alternative.

6 Many factors were considered in
7 evaluating these alternatives. Some factors include
8 the number of potential impacts to businesses and
9 residents, as well as the cost and feasibility of
10 building the proposed alternative.

11 The no-build alternative must be
12 considered during the environmental study process.
13 This alternative would leave the existing roadway in
14 its current configuration. No improvements would be
15 made. This alternative would not meet the purpose and
16 need of the project.

17 The build alternative includes the
18 improvements discussed here this evening, providing
19 for improved safety, mobility and operation of US 281
20 Military Highway.

21 With this it concludes the technical
22 overview, and I will now turn the program back to Mr.
23 Octavio Saenz.

24 MR. SAENZ: Thank you, Mr. Bosquez.

25 The next step in the project development

1 is to review and evaluate all of the comments
2 received.

3 The project development would continue
4 after an environmental decision is reached for the
5 project. Now we're anticipating that we will receive
6 this environmental decision by late fall 2015. Now I
7 should add that the project schedule you see is -- and
8 the dates are preliminary, and, of course, subject to
9 change.

10 Now back to the environmental decision.
11 Once this is reached, the project would be placed for
12 bids, and then will proceed to construction. Now
13 construction will take, approximately, 18 months.

14 We have a total of 13.6 million dollars
15 allocated for this project; 6.7 million from
16 Coordinated Border Infrastructure fund; 6.9 million
17 dollars from Proposition 1 Congestion fund.

18 And at this time, we will begin the
19 public comment period.

20 And I would like to introduce to you the
21 panel to my left. Mr. Juan Bosquez, you already met,
22 he's a San Benito area engineer. To his left is Homer
23 Bazan, he's director of planning and design; and to
24 his left is Eddie Espinoza, the project manager for
25 this project.

1 Now at this time I ask you when you come
2 up to the microphone, that one, please state your full
3 name and then please make your comment. I have a list
4 here, so when I please call your name, you can stand,
5 or raise your hand so a TxDOT member can help you out.
6 Now, unfortunately, we don't have wireless right now,
7 so if there's a problem with not being able to make it
8 to the microphone, we'll play it by ear.

9 And, of course, in order for everyone to
10 be able to make a public comment, we are asking that
11 you do not exceed three minutes, please.

12 We would like at first to invite the
13 public officials to speak and provide any comments.
14 So if there are any elected officials or
15 representatives of elected offices that would like to
16 make a comment at this point.

17 All right, hearing none, we will move
18 on.

19 All right. We will now start with --
20 and I apologize if I mispronounce your name -- LeRoy
21 Stoltenberg.

22 MR. STOLTENBERG: Yes. My name is LeRoy
23 Stoltenberg. I live in River Bend Resort, a property
24 owner within the resort. I don't have property
25 affected directly with the road project. I believe

1 what you're doing is probably the right thing that
2 needs to be done, looking at the traffic that comes in
3 and out of the high school every day. We live where
4 we can watch the traffic and see what's going on
5 there, plus we drive in it sometimes.

6 My biggest concern is two simple
7 questions. Our entranceway to River Bend Resort now
8 has a long enough driveway where we can drive in and
9 be able to use our key card at night and wait for the
10 gate to open, with a 38 foot or 40 foot trailer behind
11 a good sized pickup truck to pull it, or a motor home
12 that is 40 foot, 40 foot long, with a vehicle behind
13 it. When your project is done, you're gonna take a
14 considerable amount of property, right-of-way, on
15 that side. When I pull in there with my pickup truck,
16 and my 38 foot fifth wheel, after dark, after six
17 o'clock, have to use the key card, I'm gonna be
18 sitting over at least one of the lanes that you've got
19 coming there, and maybe one and a half with the
20 trailer, waiting for the gate to open. I believe the
21 property on both sides of the road, at that point in
22 that area for almost a half mile, belong to the same
23 gentleman. I would not see any reason why you would
24 shift the road all the way to the other side, unless
25 you're intending on rebuilding the entranceway to

1 River Bend Resort.

2 The other question is there is a line of
3 palm trees all the way down that side, and according
4 to your sketches out here on the wall, all of those
5 palm trees are going to be taken. I believe it take
6 30, to 40, to 50 years for those palm trees to grow to
7 the height they are. That's my two main questions.

8 MR. BAZAN: Yes, sir. We'll take a
9 look, you know, specifically at your area. We can
10 meet with you after the meeting. Now with this
11 project, right now there's shoulder's out there right
12 now. There will still be shoulders, so if anybody is
13 making a right, a right turn into the property, they
14 will have that shoulder that can be used, so, I mean,
15 we'll take a look at it directly with you and see what
16 we can do, you know, to address that issue. It is a
17 concern. I understand what you're saying.

18 Now the palm trees, you were mentioning
19 about the palm trees. We'll take a look at that.
20 We're very sensitive to any -- anytime we remove any
21 trees, we -- if we can avoid moving any trees, we'll
22 definitely look into that to see if we can do that, so
23 -- we've done that before on other projects. You
24 know, we do whatever we can to minimize, especially if
25 they're like older trees or older palms, we'll try to

1 see what we can do to avoid or at least minimize the
2 impact to them, so -- we can meet with you after the
3 meeting, specifically, to address your -- some of
4 your issues.

5 MR. SAENZ: Thank you, gentlemen. Next
6 we have Joel De La Fuente. Mr. De La Fuente? All
7 right. At this moment the microphone is open to
8 anyone who would like to make a comment. Ma'am?

9 MS. SUAREZ: My name is Sylvia Suarez,
10 and I live in San Pedro. As you very well know,
11 there's an elementary school there. You're gonna
12 have many buses that are going to be going into
13 Highway 281, into oncoming cars. Is there any way
14 that you can put a traffic light right there? Now as
15 it is right now, we're having problems trying to get
16 out of San Pedro. Can you imagine with Highway 281
17 being extended.

18 Oh, by the way, I've very happy that
19 you're doing this. It's desperately needed. I have
20 lived in this community for many many years, and I do
21 travel to Brownsville.

22 I also see the need as you're coming --
23 I mean, as you're going into town from Highway 281,
24 and you want to turn to Alton Gloor, the traffic light
25 there does not really help us make a turn. The long

1 lines are so long that you have to have like two or
2 three lights in order for you to make a turn. We
3 desperately need for you to have two turning lanes
4 there.

5 Now my last question is this. You're
6 going to be taking care of all of this, and in San
7 Pedro in front of Highway 281, we always have problems
8 with the drainage right there. For some reason, I
9 don't know why, the water doesn't drain, and
10 something needs to be done. Now that you're going to
11 build Highway 281 again, please do it correctly, talk
12 to the people, find out what is going on there. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. BAZAN: Yes, Ms. Suarez, and I
15 talked to you before the meeting, so I know a lot of
16 your concerns that you have.

17 First of all, that light at San Pedro
18 Road that you mentioned, you know, we -- we can't
19 build -- we can't install a signal everywhere. You
20 know, we have to make sure they meet the
21 justification. You know, it has to have the traffic
22 volume. We have certain numbers that have to be
23 satisfied before we can put a signal. So we'll take a
24 look at that. We'll take a look at the counts and see
25 if it does warrant a signal there, and if it does

1 warrant a signal, you know, we'll put it on the
2 project. At the very least, I believe it has a
3 flashing beacon right now, or --

4 MS. SUAREZ: You see, we have many many
5 buses that come into Brownsville because Stillman
6 Middle School, the students come into the city. The
7 small elementary school that is there also has buses.
8 What I'm looking at is the incoming cars that, you
9 know, you're going to -- I cannot see the buses com --
10 I mean, trying to get into Highway 281 to come into
11 the city, so it's desperately needed.

12 MR. BAZAN: Yeah, we'll take a look at
13 that. We'll take into account the school traffic, the
14 buses. We'll take a look into that and see what we
15 can do to see if a signal is warranted or needed.
16 We'll take a look at that very -- very closely.

17 And the other thing you mentioned was at
18 Alton Gloor, 3248 that signal.

19 MS. SUAREZ: Yes.

20 MR. BAZAN: Having -- right now you just
21 have one lane right now, so I can see why it builds
22 up, that long line. Now that we're gonna have two
23 lanes, it will shorten that. It will shorten that
24 line leading to that. Now it should not be -- it
25 should probably be giving you more green for those

1 left turners, so we'll take a look and see what we can
2 do with the timing. It may be a timing issue with the
3 signal, so we'll definitely take a look at that signal
4 timing to see if we can improve it. We can do that
5 now to see what we can do. But in the future, when
6 the project is done, that line should be reduced,
7 because now instead of having just one lane, you'll
8 have two lanes, so that line should get reduced.

9 MS. SUAREZ: There is two lanes, but,
10 you know, if you could make two of them turning lanes.

11 MR. BAZAN: Yeah, two left turners.

12 MS. SUAREZ: Yes.

13 MR. BAZAN: We do that at very heavy
14 volume areas, and this one area we'll look at that,
15 but that area -- that does have two lanes, that's
16 right, but it's not long enough, obviously, it's just
17 the approach, so now we'll have two lanes for the rest
18 of the project now, so that should help. I understand
19 the queue, that line was a good distance, very long
20 distance. So having two lanes all the way through, it
21 will -- it should reduce that line. But we'll take a
22 look at the timing right now, or the signal right now,
23 see what we can do to make it have a longer green, but
24 we'll take a look at that. That's something that we
25 could do.

1 And the last thing you mentioned was the
2 drainage. The drainage is a concern on this project,
3 obviously. We're gonna do the best we can. The
4 ditches that are out there next to the roadway are
5 gonna remain out there. Now we're gonna do the best
6 job we can to grade them, or to make sure that we try
7 to get the water away as much as possible. We can't
8 -- I can't guarantee you we're gonna solve all the
9 flooding problems for the area, but we're gonna try to
10 see what we can do to improve it.

11 MS. SUAREZ: Before it was Highway 281,
12 it was higher right there in that section. When the
13 State came and did it, they thought they were doing a
14 wonderful job, but they lowered it.

15 MR. BAZAN: I know after Hurricane
16 Dolly, after Hurricane Dolly we got some funding and
17 we raised the roadway at one location there. And so
18 we'll definitely take a look at that to see what we
19 can do.

20 MS. SUAREZ: Okay, thank you.

21 MR. SAENZ: Yes, sir. If anybody want's
22 to start making a line just to secure a place, please
23 do so. Just remember to state your name, sir.

24 MR. DE LEON: Yes. Good afternoon,
25 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Ernesto De Leon. We

1 are landowners in several properties here on -- North
2 on 281. We already received a letter, we already
3 signed it, authorizing personnel to get on our
4 property.

5 I served on the Brownsville BISD Bond
6 Oversight Committee, and when the construction of
7 Keddleman-Sano (phonics) project was in effect, we
8 reviewed the architectural engineering plans, and as
9 a concerned citizen, I immediately noticed that there
10 was only entrance and exit on Alton Gloor. I
11 immediately pointed it out to Mr. Tapia, and I got
12 criticized that I was not an engineer, I was not an
13 architect, and what the hell was I doing suggesting
14 it. Well, needless to say, seven months later TxDOT
15 comes back and says you will not -- we will not issue
16 a permit unless you find an exit to the back. But too
17 late. Things were in place already, football field
18 there where the exit should have been, and it cost the
19 taxpayers over a hundred thousand dollars for the
20 mistake.

21 A year or so transpired. We were
22 meeting here at this high school, and I noticed that
23 -- I could foresee the project that you're fixing to
24 do right now, and I suggested we own the Vera strip,
25 which is a Spanish land grant that's been in the

1 family for several -- over a hundred something years.
2 It's about less than 300 feet wide. It's a narrow
3 strip about six mile long from the river all the way
4 to US 83. I could foresee that the traffic here, as
5 it was pointed out in the Brownsville Herald on
6 Sunday, accidents have happened right in this
7 vicinity. So I suggested to the members of the
8 committee that an exit to the side here hitting Carmen
9 for the near future would be advisable and would avoid
10 the same fiasco that we had at Keddleman-Sano.
11 Needless to say, about a week ago I got criticized
12 that I was trying to rip the dadgum BISD, trying to
13 sell my properties on the Vera -- De Leon/Vera strip
14 property, trying to take advantage, and they also
15 insulted Cati Presas, a board member, that she was in
16 cahoots with me. 300 feet wide, probably an acre at
17 the most, is what it would take to cross here and
18 avoid for certain buses to hit 281, and then --
19 because this area here, as you well know, will be
20 developed. Within the next 10 years, there will be
21 hundreds or thousands of homes in that area. And to
22 avoid more traffic problems, I think that that would
23 be taken into consideration, and I would like to know
24 what you think about that. Thank you.

25 MR. BAZAN: That's something -- we're

1 always looking at ways to improve the operations on
2 our highways, so we can take a look at that and see if
3 there's an opportunity there that we can work with the
4 school district, or to see what we can do. If it
5 makes sense to help out the operations, and it is
6 safer for buses, we'll definitely take a look at that.
7 It may not be up to us, but we can work with them.

8 MR. DE LEON: I understand. It's a
9 straight shot out here to the left of where I'm at,
10 and like I said, our property is about -- less than
11 300 foot wide. You know, I'm not gonna retire on
12 that, in other words. An acre, at the most, acre and
13 a half for the buses to get in and out, so, basically,
14 please consider that and make a suggestion, if you
15 may.

16 MR. BAZAN: We'll work with the school
17 district and the City, whoever is needed, and see what
18 we can work out. If it makes sense to help out
19 operations on our highway, we'll definitely, you
20 know, take a look at that and see what we can come to
21 an agreement with, you know, if possible.

22 MR. SAENZ: And I would like to remind
23 everyone that this session is being recorded, so
24 every single comment is being annotated at this
25 moment.

1 Sir?

2 MR. GONZALEZ: Hello. My name is Miguel
3 Gonzalez. I live here on 7520 US Military Highway,
4 right in front of San Pedro in Gem Estates I.

5 I noticed on your map that you have
6 outside, and you're showing where you're going to
7 have turning lanes, and I spoke to one of your
8 gentlemen already about my concern, but I just want to
9 point out that right where I live you is Gem Estates
10 I. You have Gem Estates II right in front, and Gem
11 Estates III, and they're not fully -- those lots are
12 not full of families yet, and they will be shortly.
13 That turning lane is desperately needed at that
14 point. There will be several hundred families in that
15 area, on Halo Drive and on Gaston Drive. There's
16 already I don't know how many there now. There's
17 already been in the last two years at least four or
18 five accidents right there in that particular area.
19 Right now it's only one lane, no turning lane, and
20 when cars are coming 70 miles an hour, and you have a
21 car sitting there to turn left, the cars swerve, and
22 they've taken out my mailboxes, they've taken out
23 trash cans. All I'm asking is if you all are gonna do
24 this, to extend it all through that Gem Estates area.
25 And it's two entrances, basically, and to have that

1 middle lane through that strip. I think it would
2 avoid accidents that have already happened -- not the
3 ones that already happened, but accidents for the
4 future, if you can consider putting a turning lane all
5 through there, as well. I know the two lanes are
6 desperately needed, but that turning lane for that
7 area -- and another thing I wanted to mention is that
8 when that land was developed on the opposite side of
9 my home, that land was already given for that purpose,
10 because you all had a meeting about 16, 17 years ago,
11 at Villanueva, and the person who developed it told me
12 about it at this meeting, he's my father-in-law, he
13 developed it, and that land was already there for that
14 purpose, so that when the road did open up, that land
15 would be there, and it's still there, okay. And we
16 have several property owners that are here that live
17 in Gem Estates that can speak to that, as well.

18 MR. BAZAN: Yes, sir, Mr. Gonzalez. And
19 I think we talked before the meeting, and, obviously,
20 we can't put a left turn lane all throughout the
21 project. I mean, we would like to. If we had the
22 right-of-way, we would like to do that.
23 Unfortunately, we don't have the right-of-way, that's
24 why we're only doing it at the major intersections.
25 In your area, there you mentioned that there's some

1 additional right-of-way. We'll take a look at that,
2 you know, because I believe in your area there was --
3 every time there's a new development, we ask the
4 developer to dedicate a little extra right-of-way
5 there, so it's possible there that, you know, you did
6 give 10 feet on each side. So if there's enough
7 right-of-way there, it's possible we could do
8 something, and maybe a left turn lane right there.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Yeah, right there in that
10 lane there was an extra 10 feet all the way across
11 through that whole Gem Estates, and it shows it on
12 your property there.

13 MR. BAZAN: We can take a look at that.
14 If we can build that left turn lane without needing
15 additional right-of-way, we'll look at that. We'll
16 take a look at that.

17 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. SAENZ: All right. Next.

19 MR. OSHER: My name is Henry Osher. I
20 own about a half a mile or so of land that fronts the
21 project. However, I'm just here, more than anything,
22 as a member of the motoring public. I had a question
23 regarding traffic signals. And within city limits I
24 know most of this -- or all of this project pretty
25 much -- no, most of it falls outside the juris --

1 outside city limits, but in a city -- within the city
2 limits of a given municipality, does the traffic
3 control signals and such devolve to the jurisdiction
4 of the City, or do you guys -- if it's a state
5 highway, like 48, Padre Island Highway in
6 Brownsville, et cetera, do you guys handle the
7 signaling, or is it always left to the city within
8 their city limits? Because I think there's a lot of,
9 frankly, really bad signals, and presumably the
10 purpose of signals, something that irritates me, is
11 to facilitate traffic flow and/or avoid -- if not
12 avoid congestion, avoid accidents, and allow access,
13 and often if they're unnecessary or poorly timed, it
14 ends up that people disregard them, scoff laws,
15 ignore them, or they don't see them, and if everybody
16 moves along at the same speed, they can move at the
17 speed of light. Photons don't run into each other at
18 186,000. It's when things are at different
19 velocities, like someone slowing down, or this or
20 that. So if the signals don't stop people
21 unnecessarily, they probably won't run into each
22 other, or perpendicular, crossing traffic won't end
23 up at the light change. It's just, I think self-
24 defeating. I'm wondering who the heck -- and
25 furthermore, speaking of environmental concern, I

1 think it's an issue often with a lot of gas that's
2 wasted idling, or, more importantly, accelerating and
3 missing a light because it's poorly timed while you
4 approach a signal that services a place that has
5 minimal traffic, and a major thoroughfare. They
6 should be timed, they should be efficient. It will
7 enhance -- it serves traffic flow, and it serves --
8 avoids the accidents, all the purposes I would assume
9 that the traffic lights are there for. My question,
10 who is doing this stuff? I would like an answer to
11 that. Within the city limits, is it the city that
12 does all of that?

13 MR. BOSQUEZ: Well, thank you, Mr.
14 Osher. I think I can clarify that. Normally, the
15 signals within the city limits, it depends on the size
16 of the city. If we have a city, say, it's 50,000 or
17 more in population, once these new signals are
18 constructed, they are normally responsible for a lot
19 of the maintenance of the signals. Now that doesn't
20 mean that we just don't, you know, work on them or
21 cooperate with the cities. A lot of times we do have
22 these, I guess, concerns brought up to us, even though
23 they're within the city, you know, limits, and it kind
24 of falls back on them, we still will work with them,
25 partner with them, and sometimes we'll work together

1 and make sure that we can come up with a solution. A
2 lot of times it's that when the traffic, let's say,
3 changes, due to the increase in population in the
4 area, sometimes -- it takes a while sometimes before
5 we get those concerns brought up to us. But as soon
6 as they are, we do do that, we pass it on to the
7 cities. But to answer your question, that's kind of
8 the rule of how it works. The larger cities maintain
9 the signals, even though they are kind of -- TxDOT
10 highways, they're responsible for maintaining them.

11 MR. OSHER: So the 50k, a home rule
12 city, usually they'll handle the signals?

13 MR. BOSQUEZ: Below the 50k, we will be
14 the ones taking care of the signals.

15 MR. OSHER: I want to make a couple of
16 comments that were more positive. I used to always
17 joke about TxDOT and how if you had -- do a project in
18 front of a school where your kid attended, is more
19 liable -- the kid is -- more probable the kid would
20 graduate before the project was done, then the
21 project would get done. But that's -- I noticed that
22 you guys did 550 -- the 511 extension there to the
23 Port quite expeditiously. I don't know if that's
24 attributable to the RMA -- the CCRM -- Mr. Sepulveda
25 and his cohorts, and whatever, but that got done --

1 it's not a done deal, but that's been done extremely
2 expeditiously in contrast to some others. I used to
3 always joke that you guys paid delay premium, rather
4 than delay damages in your clauses, because on sunny
5 days you would see a lot of equipment out there and no
6 one doing a diddly thing and all the traffic would be
7 stopped, speaking of irritations. And the other
8 thing is I think you guys got a real gem when you
9 hired this guy away from Fox Rio, because he's so well
10 spoken, so bright and on his feet, just really sharp,
11 Mr. Saenz is. Thanks for addressing my question.

12 MR. BOSQUEZ: All right. Thank you.

13 MR. TREVINO: Santiago Trevino. I'm not
14 representing my family, but we have about a thousand
15 feet that's going to be affected. I believe about --
16 I don't know if you're coming a hundred feet in. We
17 have a couple of questions. Will there be proper
18 lighting put in that area for the people that live
19 there? And one of them is sewage goes all the way
20 around our farm. Are they going to be putting
21 amenities in front, going through, connecting San
22 Pedro and Brownsville, or is it going to be just
23 pushed to the back again out this way and around the
24 side? We just want to know what's going to be
25 happening with the utilities in that area, generally.

1 MR. BOSQUEZ: I guess if you don't mind
2 repeating the area we're looking at.

3 MR. TREVINO: You know that whole curve,
4 Del Carmen.

5 MR. BOSQUEZ: Okay.

6 MR. TREVINO: That 40 acre farm that's
7 there. That's a group of our family, basically, 20
8 acres, 10 acres and 10 acres. That's about a thousand
9 feet off of the area that you're building on the new
10 roads. We just want to know what's going to be in the
11 development? Are they going to put proper lighting?
12 Are they gonna put -- what's gonna be happening?
13 Could we talk later, perhaps?

14 MR. BOSQUEZ: Yeah, I would probably say
15 that. It's probably best to look at that,
16 specifically, at what we're looking at exactly, I
17 mean, because if it does involve an area where, you
18 know, we're not acquiring a right-of-way, then it may
19 not -- you know, you mentioned utilities. There may
20 not really be much adjustments to it, but at the same
21 time, that's not a problem. We can definitely meet
22 after this meeting and start looking at that.

23 MR. TREVINO: And the last part of it, I
24 believe people farm our farm, we don't farm it, and I
25 want to -- are we gonna have water rights still to

1 that area through Rogers, I believe? We'll have water
2 through you? Okay, cool. All right. Those are mine.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. AMADOR CARBAJAL: Amador Carbajal, I
5 live right across Mr. Gonzalez. Part of what he was
6 saying, this project was supposed to be done back in
7 2009 and 2011. Is it a done deal that it's gonna get
8 done, or not? And the property was left -- I live
9 right by the highway. I'm 10 feet further in from
10 everybody else. All Gem Estates is -- II and III is
11 10 feet further in away from the road, because at the
12 first time they proposed it, they proposed they were
13 going to do a turning lane there, and that's the way
14 it was -- it was supposed to have turning lane, rain
15 gutters, all of this and that, and it's gone from all
16 of that just a four lane road in that area.

17 Another question is the machinery
18 they're going to be using, I know we live pretty close
19 to the highway, it does a lot of bouncing, everything,
20 structural damage to houses or anything, you know,
21 what if anything happens, you know? We had mentioned
22 -- Mr. Espinoza over there on -- you know, on the
23 structural damage.

24 Another one is the lighting, or the
25 traffic lights like this gentleman was speaking. The

1 traffic light at Veterans. During summer,
2 especially, I mean, that thing can turn to Veterans,
3 for people to go from Veterans, from River Bend, and
4 there's nobody there. You're sitting there at the
5 light. I mean, can't they put those things on
6 sensors? I lived in other cities where there's a lot
7 more traffic, and it moves a lot more quicker because
8 they use sensors on those lights. They're not on
9 timers. If you get there, like somebody comes to
10 Veteran, it's summer, they stand there and the light
11 will change so they can go. They're not just on
12 timers that if there's nobody during summer it
13 doesn't move.

14 And then proper lighting for all the --
15 is there gonna be lighting all the way through,
16 because that highway is pretty dark at night?

17 MR. BAZAN: Yes, sir. As far as this
18 project, some people have told me that these projects
19 have been around 20 years. We have been working in
20 this area for a while, as far as design. For a while
21 there we had a project where we were gonna buy a lot
22 of right-of-way through this area. We wanted to make
23 it like a -- almost like a future expressway, almost.
24 We were looking at buying 300 feet of right-of-way
25 back then. And then we had, you know, the budget

1 crunch back in -- several years back, and we had to
2 stop that project, so we had to kind of reduce the
3 scope and see what we could fit in, into the existing
4 right-of-way as much as possible, so we could do
5 something, do a project. So that's the reason why
6 we're making change, you know, the scope of the
7 project, that was part of the reason. Now you were
8 mentioning about a left turn lane. Back then -- back
9 then, the last time we had a public meeting, we were
10 looking at having, you know, left turn lanes, you
11 know, more throughout the projects, but because of
12 the budget crunch and everything that's changed, we
13 had to kind of reduce the scope, and that's why now
14 we're only able to put left turn lanes at certain
15 locations.

16 So, I mean, there's -- like I mentioned earlier,
17 we would like to have put more, if we could. We just
18 don't have the right-of-way.

19 MR. CARBAJAL: Well, the right-of-way is
20 there already, because it was -- like I said -- like
21 he says, it was proposed a long time ago and they left
22 the right-of-way there, and that's the way it was
23 proposed the first time, because we did leave that.
24 And the first time they proposed it, it was gonna be
25 within that hundred foot right-of-way that the

1 turning lane was gonna be within there. They weren't
2 gonna take more than what was already given.

3 MR. BAZAN: At that time, we were
4 looking at a curb and gutter, I believe, a curb and
5 gutter project, and at that time, we were gonna be
6 able to put a left turn lane, and not buy right-of-
7 way, but, you know, that project, we couldn't do that
8 project because it just got too expensive, and it
9 would involve more right-of-way and more outfalls.
10 It was just a costlier project, and it didn't become
11 feasible. We were gonna have to go into the levies
12 for the outfalls, to get the water out of here, so
13 that project just -- we weren't able to do that
14 project for many reasons. But, you're right, that we
15 did propose a left turn lane back then, but, you know,
16 we just can't do that now under this project now the
17 way it is.

18 You were mentioning also about
19 construction damage to your --

20 MR. CARBAJAL: Well, I mean, I know in
21 some places, like on -- when they did Pablo Kisel,
22 there was a house where they have those machines that
23 are bouncing around the ground and all of that. I
24 know there was structural damage on one of the houses
25 that was done. I'm not saying it's gonna happen, just

1 if it happens, you know, what are --

2 MR. BAZAN: What I recommend is that
3 everybody -- you know, especially the closer you are,
4 document the way -- the condition your house is now,
5 you know, in case there is any damage later on, you
6 have something that you can go back and document for
7 the record. So I would recommend that you document
8 everything the way your house is now, you know, in
9 case anything happens.

10 Now as far as traffic lights and
11 sensors, that's -- that's something that -- you know,
12 I'm very sensitive, also. I hate those kind of lights
13 where you're there waiting and there's no traffic on
14 the opposite street. We'll take a look at that,
15 obviously, and see what we can do, see what we can do
16 to avoid that. The more sensors we put -- you're
17 right, the more sensors that are out there, the better
18 the signal will operate. So, yeah, we'll take a look
19 at that.

20 And then I believe you mentioned
21 lighting.

22 MR. CARBAJAL: Right.

23 MR. BAZAN: Lighting, itself, it's --
24 you know, generally, that's -- continuous lighting,
25 generally is not -- you know, we don't do that in most

1 cases. We do what we call safety lighting, like at
2 signals, at major intersections, we'll put lighting
3 there with a signal so that all the traffic there at
4 the intersection, you know, can see all the area
5 there, make it safer. But, generally, away from that
6 roadway, it's the responsibility of the local
7 government to pay for that kind of thing. So it's
8 something that's generally, you know, it's very tough
9 to do. It becomes the responsibility of the local
10 government to pay for that.

11 MR. CARBAJAL: At least some sections
12 they've got lighting, but they're those old lights,
13 they're dim, you can't see them. At least, you know,
14 upgrade them --

15 MR. BAZAN: We'll upgrade all those kind
16 of lights. Yeah, at intersections -- you know,
17 anytime there's a major intersection where we have a
18 signal or a flashing beacon, we will definitely
19 upgrade those lights, yeah.

20 MR. CARBAJAL: All right. Thank you.

21 MR. BAZAN: Sure.

22 MR. FRY: Hi, my name is Scott Fry. I'm
23 representing Valley Municipal Utility District No. 2,
24 and we provide water and waste water service to this
25 area from about New Carmen Road to the resaca just

1 east of the high school here. My concern is with the
2 intersection of New Carmen Road, we have a lot of
3 vehicles that travel on there daily. We have some
4 slow moving vehicles that travel on there, and I
5 notice that your left turn lane from the high school
6 tapers down right in that area, and I would like to
7 just request that you all consider extending the left
8 turn lane just a little bit further, so that we are
9 able to pull in and out of New Carmen Road safely. I
10 believe that there's some students from Rancho Viejo
11 that are zoned for this high school that probably use
12 New Carmen Road. You have the state park there, they
13 use it; and our building office that serves River Bend
14 is in Rancho Viejo, so I'm sure that there are a lot
15 of people from River Bend would appreciate that, too,
16 if they could have a safe way to get out onto the
17 highway from -- you know, to be able to turn left into
18 a turning lane, instead of turn left, you know, into a
19 taper. Thanks.

20 MR. BAZAN: We'll look at that, Mr. Fry.
21 We'll take a look at that. We can meet with you
22 afterwards and see, you know, if we can -- if the
23 right-of-way is available that we can do that. I
24 mean, we'll definitely consider that and look into
25 that. The key is do we have enough right-of-way. But

1 if we can, we will definitely consider that and maybe
2 we can do that. So, sure, we'll take a look at it.
3 We can meet with you after the meeting, also.

4 MR. POOLE: Hello. My name is William
5 Poole. My family lives right at the entrance from San
6 Pedro, the first one from Brownsville, and some of the
7 houses are gonna be within about 40 feet of the
8 finished project. I wonder if there's gonna be any
9 guardrails or anything to protect houses that are
10 really close to the roadway.

11 My second question is whether or not
12 there's gonna be an increase in the flow of hazardous
13 materials through that new section, and if so,
14 what's gonna be done to sort of address the safety
15 concerns for the residents along the -- the whole
16 project?

17 MR. BAZAN: As far as your first
18 comment, as far as guardrail, we generally will look
19 at the guardrail to see if it's absolutely needed. We
20 only put it if it is a safety concern. We have
21 certain limits otherwise, we would put guardrails all
22 over the place, and it becomes also an obstacle. So
23 we definitely don't want to put it everywhere, but
24 we'll take a look at that to see if it's needed. Like
25 I said, in most cases, you know, it's -- it becomes

1 more of a hindrance or an obstacle, and it becomes
2 more of a safety issue in itself.

3 You mentioned hazardous material, as far
4 as cargo. All of our state highways are open to the
5 public, I mean, to all the public. Now the cities and
6 local governments can designate certain highways to
7 -- you know, to allow hazardous cargo in that area.
8 As far as the Military Highway, I know the Brownsville
9 and Harlingen area got together and did a study. I'll
10 take a look at that study, see how it refers to this
11 portion of the highway, as far as hazardous cargo.
12 This project won't change, you know, either way,
13 whether it's -- hazardous cargo can go on it or not.
14 It depends on that -- on that study, and what the two
15 -- the area decided on. Like I said, TxDOT, all of
16 our highways are open to all the public, but the local
17 governments themselves can designate which highways
18 are the ones that are allowed to carry hazardous
19 cargo. So it depends on the local government. But we
20 can take a look at that and see how this highway is
21 addressed, you know, as far as that study.

22 MR. PEREZ: Good evening. My name is
23 Jesse Perez. I'm here with my wife, Michelle Flores
24 Salinas. Our concern is we were advised, we looked at
25 the map, that you all are going to be taking 10 feet

1 from the point -- from 10 feet into our property
2 already. I have heard many of you say, well, that's a
3 very good question, we'll go ahead and take a look at
4 that, and that's all you keep on saying. I would
5 assume people like you would do this research first
6 before you all started making any plans.

7 Now for people that say, well, I think
8 it's a very good idea expanding the roadways, I can
9 see that some of the people don't live close to that
10 area. Some do, from River Bend; some the school. I
11 understand safety is very important, and I'm a very
12 strong advocate for that. Although, in all the years
13 that we've lived there, we've had close to five
14 vehicles halfway into our property close to our
15 doorway. Now it's a 60 mile an hour zone. You guys
16 -- a young lady made a good point of reference to
17 having a traffic light, and you said, well, we have to
18 look into it, we have to have the traffic going
19 through. You all are widening the streets, the
20 highway, so how do you see the traffic? Is there a
21 very high impact area there? Very much so, because
22 I've seen it, and as a firefighter, paramedic for
23 Brownsville Fire Department, I've gone to them.

24 Now the safety with the children going
25 to San Pedro, yes, strongly -- a light is needed

1 there. There is no doubt about it.

2 Now from my family's concern, 10 feet
3 going into our property. You guys can say, well,
4 we'll have to take a look at it. I think this is
5 something you all should have done way before that.

6 Now you all say -- you all can tell
7 everybody here, well, we'll go ahead and take a look
8 at it, but, otherwise, behind closed doors you
9 probably say, well, we did take a look at it, but it
10 ain't gonna happen. So if I don't know if there's
11 gonna be another little forum here you're gonna be
12 holding, maybe you all should be having -- giving the
13 people actual questions -- actually answers, I'm
14 sorry, to their questions, rather than saying, well,
15 we'll just take a look at it. Thank you.

16 MR. SAENZ: Let me address something
17 real quick, and I thank you for your comments. The
18 reason why some of these answers are like, let's take
19 a look at it on an individual basis, it's because
20 there's an individual need, an individual answer. So
21 one answer for someone here might be different for the
22 other one. That's why we need to be specific as to,
23 you know, it's a 5.4 stretch, and we want to be as
24 specific as possible. That's why we want to visit
25 one-on-one, and I believe there was something else

1 that you wanted to add, Mr. Bazan?

2

3 MR. BAZAN: Yes. Yeah, in this specific
4 case, as far as San Pedro, that intersection, by
5 commission we're not buying right-of-way for most of
6 the project. Now at the major intersections, and we
7 consider San Pedro one of the major intersections, we
8 looked at that one as -- because of the way it is, as
9 having a very important need, so that's why we're
10 adding a left turn lane there. We're also adding a
11 right turn lane to get into -- into the Veterans High
12 School. So for that reason there, we're buying right-
13 of-way.

14 Now, obviously, we always try to
15 minimize right-of-way. You know, that's one of our
16 goals. We always try to minimize right-of-way. We
17 try -- if we don't need to buy right-of-way, we won't
18 do it, but in this case here, we're -- we're limiting
19 the amount of right-of-way that we need just to that
20 area, just to that intersection. So, unfortunately,
21 in that area we had to buy from those property owners
22 right there.

23 MR. PEREZ: Excuse me, real quick.
24 What's your name again?

25 MR. BAZAN: My name is Homer Bazan.

1 MR. PEREZ: Mr. Bazan, I'm not
2 questioning your right-of-way. I didn't question it
3 at all. I'm just saying you all are taking 10 feet,
4 and you're just taking it from ours because,
5 unfortunately, our house is the only one there. There
6 is other properties empty across the street in which
7 property could be taken from there, or five from that
8 side, five from ours. But you're taking the whole 10
9 feet. You're not just taking one. You're taking the
10 whole cake. So -- and then one of you all said, I
11 don't recall, said, oh, that's true. We'll have to
12 take a look at that. I asked three different people;
13 nobody gave me an answer. You all have to take a look
14 at it? Like I said earlier, you all should have done
15 your math. It's 10 feet, people, for one. You can
16 say, oh, it's only one person. Well, that's too bad.
17 No, sir. I mean, in your eyes it may be okay. So I
18 know you all are probably gonna tell me, oh, we have
19 to take a look at that. We'll go ahead and contact
20 you in reference to that. I'm sure, and just to
21 advise you, when you go by, I will be recording that
22 conversation, so I can make it public, also, to see if
23 you all -- you all say you all are gonna take a look
24 at it. Well, just let me give you a heads up. When
25 you all do look at it, I want the information to be

1 brought to us to show us, oh, this is what we looked
2 at. Not just, we did look at it, sorry, we can't do
3 anything about that. That's all I have to say, sir.

4 MR. BAZAN: Sure. And we can definitely
5 meet with you one-on-one, obviously, and then go over
6 exactly why we're doing what we're doing. Like I
7 said, we always try to minimize right-of-way. In this
8 area here, it just happens to turn out that we needed
9 to buy the right-of-way in that area for the safety --
10 for the safety improvements. But we'll sit down and
11 meet with you one-on-one, definitely. Now -- and
12 that's the main reason. San Pedro we had to do those
13 safety improvements.

14 MS. POOLE: My name is Peggy Poole. I
15 live in San Pedro, just about where it hits 281. I go
16 to work every morning about eight o'clock, and I don't
17 have a question, I just have two comments I want to
18 make.

19 Number one, first comment, in the area
20 of the new high school, several times I have been
21 going to work and have been faced with oncoming
22 traffic three abreast; one in the turning lane, one in
23 the right lane, and one on my side of the street. So
24 I'm forced to go onto the turning lane -- I mean the
25 side shoulder in order to get through. This has

1 happened more than once to me. So I know that there
2 is a great need to widen this road.

3 The second comment has to do with the
4 light at Alton Gloor. Just last week I was in the
5 turning lane to turn, and the light turned yellow. I
6 have handicap plates on my car. So I hit the brakes
7 to stop. The car behind me went on the right side of
8 me, and turned in front of me in that intersection,
9 because he didn't want to stop behind me. If there
10 had been two turning lanes there, he may not have had
11 to do that. That's my other comment.

12 MR. SAENZ: Thank you.

13 MR. TREVINO: My name is Jaime Trevino.
14 Our family owns property just north of that bridge
15 that's going to be coming into effect. My
16 understanding that bridge is for commercial railroad
17 traffic coming from Mexico, correct? My question
18 deals with this. It's reasonable to assume that there
19 will be an increase in truck traffic in that area,
20 because from what I've seen of the bridges in
21 Brownsville, you find a lot of trucks, warehouses, I
22 guess for the stuff that's confiscated or
23 quarantined, or just put on hold. The question deals
24 with are there going to be like allowances made to
25 like slow traffic down if you have trucks coming out

1 of that area from, I guess, just north of that bridge,
2 you know, like -- or is it going to stay 70 miles per
3 hour?

4 MR. BOSQUEZ: Mr. Trevino, I think from
5 my understanding your question is if there is gonna be
6 any kind of additional truck traffic --

7 MR. TREVINO: Yes.

8 MR. BOSQUEZ: -- because of the waste
9 rail that was built there in that location, right?

10 MR. TREVINO: Yes, sir.

11 MR. BOSQUEZ: The way that the rail has
12 been, I guess, constructed, I don't see that
13 happening, really.

14 MR. TREVINO: Okay.

15 MR. BOSQUEZ: You know, but there's no
16 guarantee that there won't be no further development
17 on there. We don't know of any further development.
18 The road is just gonna go through just continuously,
19 like it does right now. But the way that it is set
20 up, if you notice right on the -- right past the
21 road, I guess on the northeast side of where the
22 railroad crosses, you see there's an inspection
23 facility in that area. So I would really doubt it
24 that there's gonna be any loading and unloading
25 happening at that location.

1 MR. TREVINO: Okay, thank you.

2 MR. BOSQUEZ: Okay?

3 MR. TREVINO: Thank you.

4 MS. GARZA: My name is Corina Garza, and
5 I live here on Vasquez Road, and I was wondering if
6 you all were gonna reduce the speed or keep it the
7 same, or higher, because of the fact that when I try
8 to go home from picking up my kids here at Veterans,
9 it's -- it's like a video game. I have to be jumping
10 cars. I can put my blinker that I'm gonna turn into
11 my road, and people think that I'm going to pass the
12 car up ahead, and they all want to follow, but
13 instead, they're going to hit me from the side. And I
14 know I'm not the only one that lives on the side of
15 the highway, because there's a lot of people here that
16 do, and it's just like a game. So making two lanes
17 when we want to come out so I can go to work, I'm
18 gonna have to jump cars now, just to get to work, so
19 now it's just gonna be real -- it's gonna be real
20 chaotic, unless you all put like a middle lane. I
21 know that ain't gonna happen, because I'm -- I'm in
22 the middle of everybody, but I want you all to know
23 what we have to go through.

24 MR. BAZAN: Yeah, the speed that's out
25 there right now, it's gonna remain the same with this

1 project. Now what we usually do, after the road is
2 finished and it's open to traffic again, then we go
3 back in and do another study to see if there is a need
4 to adjust the speed limit. So we'll do that after the
5 project is completed.

6 MS. GARZA: Because I think that we
7 needed a middle lane for the longest time to avoid all
8 of these accidents that have happened. There's a lot
9 of people that have died because there's no middle
10 lane, including when they were constructing either
11 the bridge or the school, that little boy that they
12 hit, the one that they hit, if that man wasn't
13 crossing the street, if he was in the middle of a
14 lane, that little boy would have been alive today.

15 MR. BAZAN: Yeah, as far as having
16 additional lanes, it will help. There's no doubt
17 about it, you know, having that -- the lane
18 construction.

19 MS. GARZA: Because it's very sensitive
20 to me because my kids are learning to drive, and I
21 don't want to hear that my kids get hit by a car.

22 MR. BAZAN: Right.

23 MS. GARZA: Because these homes out here
24 have been here for 60, 70, 80 years, just like the
25 ranch I live on, my mother-in-law's ranch, they've

1 had it for 70 plus years. Nobody knew that until the
2 school came. That's when all the people started
3 coming this way, but nobody knew that there's homes in
4 there.

5 MR. BAZAN: Yeah, we're trying to make
6 the road as safe as possible. I mean, having these
7 additional lanes is gonna help a lot. It's gonna be a
8 big improvement.

9 MS. GARZA: Well, I hope so.

10 MR. BAZAN: Yeah.

11 MS. GARZA: Because my kids are starting
12 to drive, as well as my kids' friends, and a lot of
13 their parents are here, and I know a lot of them have
14 to turn into their streets, and nobody knows that
15 they're going that way, and I would hate to hear that
16 any of the kids died because of this.

17 MR. BAZAN: Right.

18 MS. GARZA: Okay?

19 MR. BAZAN: I mean, obviously, you want
20 to make the road as safe as possible.

21 MS. GARZA: And I want to know what
22 Vasquez Road -- I mean, I know we're a stretch away
23 from a lot of people, but we have no lighting, we have
24 nothing. We pay our taxes. We have city -- I mean, I
25 don't have city water, I have well water. You know,

1 we pay our part, and we have nothing. Nobody ever
2 does anything for us.

3 MR. BAZAN: I mean, continuous lighting,
4 it's -- it's -- obviously, it's a very sensitive
5 issue. I mean, that's something that it's not up to
6 us, the State. You know, it's up to the local
7 government to take care of that, if they --

8 MS. GARZA: But that's what everybody
9 says, oh, it's not us, it's someone else, talk to
10 TxDOT, talk to -- I mean, it's just -- it's an ongoing
11 thing.

12 MR. BAZAN: And we try to do the safest
13 thing possible. Like at the intersections, you know,
14 that's why we do these left turn lanes. If we could,
15 we would not buy any right-of-way from anybody, but in
16 order to make the road as safe as possible, we're
17 adding these left turn lanes at the major
18 intersections. That helps, you know.

19 MS. GARZA: Yeah, but what about all the
20 people that live on the side? I mean, these homes
21 have been here forever. I mean, they're like 40 plus
22 years. Nobody took them into consideration when
23 they started building the school and adding all of
24 these -- that's why all of these people say, we're
25 going into town, and a lot of people are like, what do

1 you mean town? This is town. But when we say we're
2 going into town, it's because town was Tejon Road,
3 where, you know, it wasn't -- it's not Alton Gloor to
4 us.

5 MR. BAZAN: Yeah. We're --

6 MS. GARZA: And that's what -- that's
7 what I want to know is what are you all going to do
8 about us who live, who have to exit the street, so we
9 can go into town?

10 MR. BAZAN: And we believe this is gonna
11 be a lot safer this way, you know, by having these
12 extra lanes. It's gonna make the --

13 MS. GARZA: Well, I hope so, because
14 when we have to leave for work, we're gonna have to be
15 jumping streets now. We're not gonna be -- I mean,
16 we're gonna be having to jump lanes --

17 MR. BAZAN: Lanes.

18 MS. GARZA: -- instead of that one
19 lane.

20 MR. BAZAN: Right. But it will be --
21 you should have a lot more gaps.

22 MS. GARZA: Well, I hope so.

23 MR. BAZAN: Traffic will flow a lot
24 better with these additional lanes, and it will help
25 out.

1 MS. GARZA: Well, I just -- I guess my
2 point is don't raise the speed limit, if anything,
3 lower it for the safety of all the kids that are gonna
4 start driving, okay?

5 MR. BAZAN: Generally, we don't raise
6 the speed limits, you know.

7 MS. GARZA: Well, look where it's at
8 already. And right in front of Vasquez Road, look it
9 up, how many people have died right at the entrance,
10 or right there.

11 MR. BAZAN: By commission, we'll take a
12 look at the speed limit after the roadway is completed
13 and see if there's an opportunity to lower it. We
14 will definitely take a look at that.

15 MS. GARZA: At least around the school
16 area, at least a certain stretch.

17 MR. BAZAN: Definitely, yes. We'll take
18 a look at it.

19 MS. GARZA: A lot of it -- because of
20 the kids, but a lot of the kids don't know that, hey,
21 you know, there's cars, they're not supposed to be
22 passing. I mean, the older gentleman that just passed
23 away right in front of Vasquez Road because the
24 student decided to do a turn around.

25 MR. BAZAN: We'll look at the school

1 zone area, in particular, after the --

2 MS. GARZA: Well, I would hope you look
3 into Vasquez, the entrance, too, not forget us.

4 MR. BAZAN: Right.

5 MS. GARZA: That's why I came tonight.
6 It doesn't affect our property, but it affects the
7 entrance, and we have to come out and get into -- for
8 my kids to get home.

9 MR. BAZAN: Right. No, we'll take a
10 look at the whole area, obviously.

11 MS. GARZA: Thank you.

12 MS. SUAREZ: This is just a comment.

13 MR. SAENZ: Your name?

14 MS. SUAREZ: We in San Pedro will be
15 having a meeting -- my name is Sylvia Suarez. We in
16 San Pedro will be having a meeting about street
17 lights, and this is being done through the County.
18 Olmito got it about two months ago, and Cameron Park
19 had gotten it, and this is a project that they have,
20 and their property tax, that's where the bill is going
21 to be for the whole -- for the whole year, but it's a
22 long struggle, and, you know, you have to be
23 consistent and be asking the County constantly. And
24 some years ago I noticed that Villanueva got a street
25 light in front of each property, and I called the

1 City, and I met with them, and they said that if PUB
2 Light passes through your front yard, that if you
3 request a street light, they will place it. They
4 don't place it because the people do not call. So if
5 anybody is from San Pedro area, that's what we're
6 going to be working on, street lights for our
7 community.

8 MR. SAENZ: Thank you, ma'am.

9 MS. SUAREZ: The meeting is on Monday,
10 the 13th of April.

11 MR. CABRERA: My name is Rogelio
12 Cabrera, and just one short question. Is this going
13 to affect our cemeteries over here?

14 MR. BAZAN: We'll take a look at that
15 with you individually, as far as -- you're talking
16 about the Cemetery School?

17 MR. CABRERA: No. I have a private
18 cemetery.

19 MR. BAZAN: Oh okay.

20 MR. CABRERA: And the cemetery is there
21 on that curve.

22 MR. BAZAN: Okay. In that area, I don't
23 believe we're gonna be buying any right-of-way in
24 that area, so it wouldn't affect your cemetery, if
25 it's outside -- it will remain there. It won't be

1 affected at all.

2 MR. CABRERA: Okay, thank you.

3 MR. SAENZ: All right. Ladies and
4 gentlemen, I really appreciate the comments that
5 you've made today. Please rest assured that your
6 concerns are being addressed to the best of our
7 abilities. And this is not the only time that you can
8 actually put in your concern. You can also -- again,
9 if you want to leave additional comments, you can do
10 it at the registration table tonight. You can also
11 mail or drop off comments at our office in Pharr. You
12 can fax them at 956-702-6110, or you can email
13 comments to Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov, and you can
14 also, as we said earlier in the meeting, to just
15 revisit the schematics and the details of this
16 project go to our website, www.txdot.gov and search
17 for US 281 Military Highway to view the presentation
18 and also provide additional comments.

19 And remember one thing that we have to
20 remember is that Monday, April 13th, 2015 will be the
21 comment period deadline. That's when we get all the
22 comments together, put them in some sort of report,
23 and also make more decisions from there, and please
24 register so that we can update you on all the
25 comments.

1 Now with this, ladies and gentlemen, we
2 adjourn. We thank you for your participation
3 tonight?

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5 (The meeting was concluded at 7:20 p.m.)
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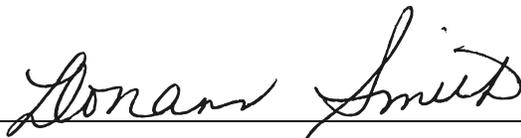
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC MEETING

U.S. 281 (MILITARY HIGHWAY)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION
Taken on 4-1-15

I, DONANN SMITH, Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing contains a true and correct transcription of the Public Meeting held on April 1, 2015.

Certified to by me this 15th day of April, 2015.



DONANN SMITH, CSR #2304
Expiration Date: 12-31-15
Action Reporting, Firm #13
P. O. Box 4513
McAllen, Texas 78502
(956) 631-1024

APPENDIX G

PUBLIC MEETING PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: The public meeting was held at Veterans Memorial Early College High School on the north side of US 281.



Photo 2: Veterans Memorial Early College High School from Carmen Avenuenue, facing west.



Photo 3: Schematics presented at the public meeting.



Photo 4: Schematics presented at the public meeting.



Photo 5: Formal presentation given at the public meeting.



Photo 6: Formal presentation given at the public meeting.

APPENDIX H

WRITTEN COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS
COMENTARIOS DEL PÚBLICO

(PLEASE PRINT/Favor de usar letra molde)

NAME/Nombre: CARLOS PALOMINO

ADDRESS/Dirección: _____

REPRESENTING/Representando: GEMS ESTATES III MY NEIGHBORHOODS

(Texas Transportation Code, §201.811(a) (5)): check each of the following boxes that apply to you:
Código de Transportación de Texas §201.811(a) (5): marque las casillas siguientes que aplican a usted:

- I am employed by TxDOT/ Soy empleado de TxDOT.
- I do business with TxDOT/ Hago negocios con TxDOT.
- I could benefit monetarily from the project or other item about which I am commenting/ Me podría beneficiar monetariamente el proyecto u otro elemento del cual estoy comentando

COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS:

I am a strong advocate of having a middle lane to turn into the GEM Estates neighborhood. I lived thru the experience of being hit in the back of our van while waiting to turn into a neighborhood and it did not have a turn in lane. At that time I had all my family, children in the van. The vehicle was considered a total loss. We all survived. My son will be driving next year and I have this on my mind. I foresee we will be having a lot of vehicle traffic on both lanes. Please consider a turn in lane. Thank you

Written statements may be submitted to TxDOT Pharr District at 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577. Comments may also be sent electronically by fax to (956) 702-6110 or e-mailed to Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov. The deadline to submit comments is Monday, April 13, 2015.

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The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT.

La revisión ambiental, consultas y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes ambientales federales para este proyecto se están o han sido, llevadas a cabo por TxDOT conforme con 23 USC 327 y un Memorandum de Entendimiento con fecha del 16 de Diciembre del 2014, y ejecutado por la Administración Federal de Carreteras y TxDOT.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
COMENTARIOS DEL PÚBLICO

(PLEASE PRINT/Favor de usar letra molde)

NAME/Nombre: Sylvia G. Suarez

ADDRESS/Dirección: _____

REPRESENTING/Representando: _____

(Texas Transportation Code, §201.811(a) (5)): check each of the following boxes that apply to you:
Código de Transportación de Texas §201.811(a) (5): marque las casillas siguientes que aplican a usted:

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I could benefit monetarily from the project or other item about which I am commenting/ Me podría beneficiar monetariamente el proyecto u otro elemento del cual estoy comentando

School Buses

COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS:

- 1) Traffic Light Needed entrance of San Pedro-Old Military Road
- 2) Coming from Veteran High School
using 281. You come to a stop
and if you want to turn to Alton Gloor
Please have 2 turning lanes that
can be used. Please work on
- 3 entrance of Veterans School, the
exit also needs 2 exits to turn to
Hwy 281 Thank you!
I can't believe itz!
you are really going to do this project!

Written statements may be submitted to TxDOT Pharr District at 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577. Comments may also be sent electronically by fax to (956) 702-6110 or e-mailed to Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov. **The deadline to submit comments is Monday, April 13, 2015.**
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PUBLIC COMMENTS
COMENTARIOS DEL PÚBLICO

(PLEASE PRINT/Favor de usar letra molde)

NAME/Nombre: Lauren Hein S

ADDRESS/Dirección: _____

REPRESENTING/Representando: _____

(Texas Transportation Code, §201.811(a) (5)): check each of the following boxes that apply to you:
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COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS:

Would like to request a caution sign
at River Bend entrance as 40ft Motorhomes
pulling truck or car turning in and need
time to access card reader and for gate
to open.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS
COMENTARIOS DEL PÚBLICO

(PLEASE PRINT/Favor de usar letra molde)

NAME/Nombre: Mike + Cindy Gonzalez

ADDRESS/Direcc _____

REPRESENTING/Representando: Self

(Texas Transportation Code, §201.811(a) (5)): check each of the following boxes that apply to you:
Código de Transportación de Texas §201.811(a) (5): marque las casillas siguientes que aplican a usted:

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- I do business with TxDOT/ Hago negocios con TxDOT.
- I could benefit monetarily from the project or other item about which I am commenting/ Me podría beneficiar monetariamente el proyecto u otro elemento del cual estoy comentando

COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS:

Middle turning lane through out GEM Estates area (Halo Ave. Gustin Dr.)
Street lights on all of military highway.
Sidewalks on all of military highway

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PUBLIC COMMENTS
COMENTARIOS DEL PÚBLICO

(PLEASE PRINT/Favor de usar letra molde)

NAME/Nombre: SCOTT FRU

ADDRESS/Dirección: _

REPRESENTING/Representando: VALLEY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DIST. #2

(Texas Transportation Code, §201.811(a) (5)): check each of the following boxes that apply to you:
Código de Transportación de Texas §201.811(a) (5): marque las casillas siguientes que aplican a usted:

- I am employed by TxDOT/ Soy empleado de TxDOT.
- I do business with TxDOT/ Hago negocios con TxDOT.
- I could benefit monetarily from the project or other item about which I am commenting/ Me podría beneficiar monetariamente el proyecto u otro elemento del cual estoy comentando

COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS:

I AM CONCERNED FOR THE RESACA DE LA PALMA WHICH CROSSES US 281 AT TWO LOCATIONS, (STA 10+80.00 TO 11+35.00). VMUD #2 SERVES THIS AREA WITH POTABLE WATER, SEWER SERVICE, AND RAW WATER TO FILL THIS RESACA. AS THIS AREA DEVELOPS INTO RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SUBDIVISIONS, AN INCREASED NEED FOR DRAINAGE WILL OCCUR. THE ONLY VIABLE DRAINAGE CHANNEL FOR THIS AREA IS THE RESACA. ALTHOUGH THE RESACA IS NOT CURRENTLY PROVIDING LARGE SCALE DRAINAGE FOR THIS AREA, I ASK THAT ADEQUATE CULVERTS BE PLACED ^{UNDER 281} TO ACCOMMODATE THE FLOW OF THIS RESACA TOWARD THE EAST.

Written statements may be submitted to TxDOT Pharr District at 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577. Comments may also be sent electronically by fax to (956) 702-6110 or e-mailed to Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov. The deadline to submit comments is Monday, April 13, 2015. Declaraciones por escrito pueden ser enviadas después de la junta pública a TxDOT Pharr District a 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577. Sus comentarios también pueden ser enviados vía fax al (956) 702-6110, o por correo electrónico a Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov. La fecha límite para presentar comentarios es el lunes, 13 de Abril del 2015.

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ALSO, PLEASE CONSIDER EXTENDING THE LEFT TURN LANE WEST FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL TO ACCOMMODATE NEW CARMEN RD.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
COMENTARIOS DEL PÚBLICO

(PLEASE PRINT/Favor de usar letra molde)

NAME/Nombre: HAROLD EWALD

ADDRESS/Dirección: 12

8520
irecto

REPRESENTING/Representando: RIVER BEND GOLF RESORT / RIVER BEND

(Texas Transportation Code, §201.811(a) (5)): check each of the following boxes that apply to you:
Código de Transportación de Texas §201.811(a) (5): marque las casillas siguientes que aplican a usted:

- I am employed by TxDOT/ Soy empleado de TxDOT.
- I do business with TxDOT/ Hago negocios con TxDOT.
- I could benefit monetarily from the project or other item about which I am commenting/ Me podría beneficiar monetariamente el proyecto u otro elemento del cual estoy comentando

COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS:

① Right hand turn into River Bend Resort with a 45° motor coach ^{with} ~~a~~ a towed vehicle will be difficult and should be reviewed

② Is it possible to save the mature palm trees that run along the golf course.

Thank you - we need Hwy 281 to be expanded!

Written statements may be submitted to TxDOT Pharr District at 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577. Comments may also be sent electronically by fax to (956) 702-6110 or e-mailed to Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov. The deadline to submit comments is Monday, April 13, 2015. Declaraciones por escrito pueden ser enviadas después de la junta pública a TxDOT Pharr District a 600 W. Interstate 2, Pharr, Texas 78577. Sus comentarios también pueden ser enviados vía fax al (956) 702-6110, o por correo electrónico a Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov. La fecha límite para presentar comentarios es el lunes, 13 de Abril del 2015.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT.

La revisión ambiental, consultas y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes ambientales federales para este proyecto se están o han sido, llevadas a cabo por TxDOT conforme con 23 USC 327 y un Memorandum de Entendimiento con fecha del 16 de Diciembre del 2014, y ejecutado por la Administración Federal de Carreteras y TxDOT.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
COMENTARIOS DEL PÚBLICO

(PLEASE PRINT/Favor de usar letra molde)

NAME/Nombre: ERNESTO L. DE LEON

ADDRESS/Dirección: _____

REPRESENTING/Representando: PROSECUTOR DE LEON VERDE CERTAIN

(Texas Transportation Code, §201.811(a) (5)): check each of the following boxes that apply to you:
Código de Transportación de Texas §201.811(a) (5): marque las casillas siguientes que aplican a usted:

- I am employed by TxDOT/ Soy empleado de TxDOT.
- I do business with TxDOT/ Hago negocios con TxDOT.
- I could benefit monetarily from the project or other item about which I am commenting/ Me podría beneficiar monetariamente el proyecto u otro elemento del cual estoy comentando

COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS:

SUGGESTED THAT A SIDE EXIT/EXIT TO
VETERAN MEM. H.S. BE CONSIDERED FOR CERTAIN
BUSES - AVOID HAVING THEM TO USE. AUG 31
SIDE EXIT FROM VMHS TO CRIMEN AVE

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PUBLIC COMMENTS
COMENTARIOS DEL PÚBLICO

(PLEASE PRINT/Favor de usar letra molde)

NAME/Nombre: Oscar Coballas

ADDRESS/Dirección: 6 52d

REPRESENTING/Represe _____

(Texas Transportation Code, §201.811(a) (5)): check each of the following boxes that apply to you:
Código de Transportación de Texas §201.811(a) (5): marque las casillas siguientes que aplican a usted:

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COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS:

I have a question,
was/could be sewer being installed.
We have lived at property 18 years and have
NO drainage.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Barnard

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 1:06 PM

To: Teresa Muehlberger-McMillian

Cc: Eddie Espinoza; Robert Casarez; Scott Pajeski

Subject: US 281 Reconstruction Project

Hi Teresa,

Please forward the requested plans to Scott Pajeski and myself in pdf and auto-cad format.

Regards,

Mark Barnard

Mr. Rogelio Cabrera visited the office today and had the following comment on US 281 project.

They don't have any sanitary sewer. Rather they have septic tanks. Whenever it rains a lot sewer comes out of septic tank out into their land. Therefore, they are asking our help to get with Military Hwy Water to see if they can EXTEND sanitary sewer since there several houses that are in desperate need to have this line. They will get some neighbor signatures and submit to Military Hwy water. They are just asking for our help to see if we can do something about it. In other words, if military hwy water decides to install line they need to coordinate with TxDOT so that they can install their line away from NEW edge of pavement.

They live between San Pedro south to new West Rail bridge on the north side (cemetary side).

Andres A. Espinoza
Assistant Area Engineer
TxDOT/San Benito Area Office

Eddie,

I talked to Mrs. Cristina Ortiz on Friday and she wants to schedule a meeting to discuss the project and for us to answer some questions with regards to the project. I will be available on the dates and times below. Please check your calendar and contact Mrs. Ortiz on when we can meet with her at her parents' home.

Wednesday (4/8)

1:30 to 3:00 pm

Thursday (4/9)

1:30 to 3:00 pm

Friday (4/10)

10:00 to 12:00 pm

1:30 to 3:00 pm

From: "Peggy Poole"

To: "Eddie Espinoza" <Eddie.Espinoza@txdot.gov>

Subject: US 281 Military Highway

Date: Thu, 2 Apr 2015 08:43:29 -0500

Mr. Espinoza,

How can I get a copy of the rendering of the project that was on the wall at the meeting. I thought it would be at the txdot.gov website, but it isn't.

Thank you.

May the Grace and Peace of the Lord be with you,

Peggy Poole

From: "Norm Rourke"

Date: April 2, 2015 at 7:25:52 AM CDT

To: <Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov>

Subject: Proposed widening of U.S. 281

We live in River Bend Resort across from Veterans Memorial HS and unfortunately could not be at the meeting. The proposed widening of U.S. 281 would be a welcomed improvement in many ways. The heavy traffic on the highway along the proposed route has grown exponentially since we moved here. The two schools (Veterans Memorial and Villa Nueva) in the project area create most of the traffic congestion. However the general traffic in the area has also increased over time. Equally beneficial in this proposal is the opportunity to eliminate some (wish it could be all!) of the unsightly property along this route. These properties are nasty, littered, overgrown and generally look like something found in a Third World country. The school and several developments that must unfortunately contend with this eyesore are diminished not only in value but in attractiveness. The proposed project would be another way for Brownsville to get its act together to be a more appealing city as SpaceX develops and attracts more people who will expect their new home to be attractive and clean. We look forward to the project!

Thank you.

Norm Rourke

-----Original Message-----

From: David Belleperche [mailto:]

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 11:20 PM

To: Robin Gelston

Subject: U.S. 281 Military Hwy Project Brownsville

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you to give my full support of the project. All I ask is that the traffic signals be upgraded to a four mast arm with luminaries. The only concern I have is that at all major intersections guardrails be installed to better protect the homes adjacent to the roadway. Thank you for investing in Brownsville.