

# I-69 Program Segment Committee Meeting

## MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

**SUBJECT:** Segment Three Committee Meeting

**DATE:** December 16, 2011

**LOCATION:** City of Wharton Civic Center, Wharton, Texas

**ATTENDING:** Attendees are listed on attached sign-in sheets (Attachment 1)

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this meeting was to receive committee member comments on the draft I-69 Segment Three Committee Report and Recommendations. The meeting agenda is included as Attachment 2.

### **Welcome/Introductions:**

Domingo Montalvo, Jr., Segment Three Committee Chair, welcomed the attendees and reviewed the purpose of the meeting. He then had the committee members and the attendees introduce themselves.

### **Administrative/Announcements:**

Marc Williams, Segment Three Committee Facilitator, inquired if the committee members had any comments on the November 2011 meeting notes that were e-mailed prior to the meeting. No comments were offered at the time. Marc requested that if the committee members had any comments that they be forwarded to him or Doise Miers within one week. Once finalized, the notes will be posted on the website.

### **Discussion of Public Involvement Activities**

Domingo Montalvo and Jim Gonzales provided a brief report on the I-69 signing ceremony in Robstown on December 5, 2011 where a 6.2 mile segment of U.S. 77 was designated as I-69. Domingo also reviewed a map (Attachment 3) that was distributed at the I-69 Advisory Committee meeting which identified committed funding and projects to upgrade portions of U.S. 281, U.S. 77, U.S. 59, and U.S. 84. Both gentlemen acknowledged that the advancement of the I-69 program is dependent upon the availability and authorization of future funding and the proper planning of individual upgrade projects through close coordination with the communities along the I-69 system.

### **Review of the Draft Committee Report and Recommendations**

Marc Williams facilitated the review of the draft Segment Three Committee report with the committee members. The following summarizes the committee members' discussions and comments that were received:

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- A committee member indicated that the City of El Campo was concerned that its future I-69 section was not identified in the draft report. The committee chair responded that the priority future I-69 sections identified in the report were based on committee member input that reflected the coordination which occurred with the communities and organizations that are being represented. It was further explained that the prioritization process was necessary because it is recognized that funding is not available to upgrade the entire I-69 system to meet interstate standards. In addition, all of the committee members worked collaboratively through the process of identifying the initial priorities of the I-69 program within the geographic limits of the committee. The intent is to see the initial priority sections advanced into the project development process as funding becomes available.
- Another committee member expressed concern that the priority sections are not interconnected as part of a system of upgrades that extend from those sections of U.S. 59 in the Houston region that likely already meet interstate standard. The committee member believes that isolated upgrades should occur when there are other needs that should be solved. For instance, specific to El Campo, the community is concerned about how local access may be affected by the I-69 program. The community is interested in having the Segment Three Committee report identify the addition of access roads along U.S. 59 as a priority. There was agreement to highlight the need for access roads in El Campo in the report.
- The committee chair commented that a large section of U.S. 59 in the Houston region will likely be designated as I-69 in 2012. As such, it is clearly evident that the I-69 program would be progressing southward from Houston and northward from the newly designated segment of I-69 in Corpus Christi. In between, the communities represented on the segment committee will need to be working together and with their constituents to start planning for the I-69 program so that it can progress when the communities are ready for it and as funding becomes available.
- A committee member commented that the intermodal center in Kendleton should be identified on the map in the report. It was acknowledged that the center will be added to the map.
- A committee member inquired about the “green” U.S. 77 segment in Refugio County on the map in the report. The committee member suggested that the map legend include a symbol/description for that segment of U.S. 77.
- A committee member reported that there is a large ready mix concrete plant in Rosenberg, Fort Bend County, which depends upon U.S. 59 for transportation. A representative from the plant notified the committee member that the plant’s transport fleet of vehicles is permitted to use U.S. routes but have restrictions on interstates. It was further explained that the plant would need to modify its entire fleet in order to utilize the interstate with an advanced lead time of up to 18 to 24 months to complete the installation process. In response, Marc Williams indicated that the committee could call attention to this issue in their report. Another committee member suggested that TxDOT explore possible courses of actions that could be taken to potentially resolve this issue. This information could also be

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included in the report. The concrete plant representative further explained that an interstate restriction along the currently designated U.S. 59 route would affect several concrete companies in the Houston region. To utilize the interstate, the concrete companies would need to reduce their loads by 40 percent which would not be economical. Consequently, the only other options would be to find alternative routes or to modify their entire fleets by adding an extra axle. It would cost approximately \$20,000 per vehicle to retrofit it with the extra axle. It was further emphasized that the concrete industry in the region would need enough lead time to either work with federal and state legislators to modify the current regulatory restrictions and/or to modify their fleets.

## **Next Steps and Final Committee Tasks**

Marc Williams explained that the schedule is to hold a conference call/web-ex session in January to finalize the report. Marc then concluded the meeting by providing a brief status update on the process of designating U.S. 59 as I-69 in the Houston region: approximately 80 miles of U.S. 59 are under study in the Houston region as part of the interstate designation process. The stretch of U.S. 59 under study has been divided into three segments. The earliest that one of the U.S. 59 segments may be designated as I-69 would likely be mid-2012 based on the pre-set meeting schedule of the transportation organization which is federally responsible for approving interstate designations.

The meeting was then adjourned.

## **Attachments:**

1. Sign-In Sheet
2. Agenda
3. I-69 Major Construction Funding Figure

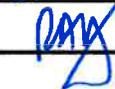
## **Meeting Staff included:**

Roger Beall-TxDOT/TTA, Doise Miers-TxDOT/GPA, Marc Williams-Consultant, Joe Shalkowski-Consultant, Steve Lindsey-Consultant

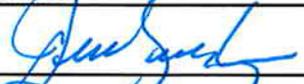
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**Attachment 1  
Sign-In Sheet**

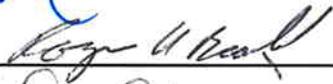
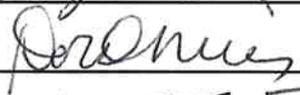
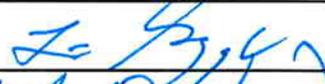
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<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Appointing Entity</b>	<b>Int.</b>
Anzaldua	Leonard T.	Refugio County	
Bowman	David W.	Goliad County	
Carter	John "Ed"	City of Goliad	
Chambers	Spencer	Port of Houston Authority	
Emmett	Ed	Harris County	
Farrell	June	Houston-Galveston Area Council	
Fischer	Laura	Bee County	
Fitch	Tim	City of Beeville	
Fitzgerald, P.E.	Mike	Galveston County	
Fowler	D. Dale	City of Victoria	
Gertson	Stephen	Texas Farm Bureau	
Hermes	Joe D.	City of Edna	
Jaso	Ray	City of Refugio	
King	E. J. "Joe"	Brazoria County	
Kramer	Michael	City of Houston	
Miller	Ray	Victoria MPO	
Montalvo, Jr.	Domingo	City of Wharton	
Pozzi	Donald R.	Victoria County	
Simons	Dennis	Jackson County	
Spenrath	Phillip	Wharton County	
Ward	Lane	Fort Bend County	
Young	Richard	City of El Campo	

**I-69 Segment Three Committee Meeting  
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 Public Sign-In**

Name (Please Print)	Agency/Company	Signature
Jim Gonzales	Alternate for: Brazoria County Judge Joe King	
Perri D'Amore	Greater Fort Bend Econ. Dev. Council	
TOM STANSEL	ALVIN CHAMBER	
BOBBY SLAVINSKI	ALLIED CONCRETES	
Andres GARZA, Jr	City of Wharton	
Phillip		

**I-69 Segment Three Committee Meeting  
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 Staff Sign-In**

Name (Please Print)	Agency/Company	Signature
MARC WILLIAMS	I-69 MP	
ROGER BEALL	TXDOT	
Doise Miers	TXDOT	
Steven Lindsay	I-69 GEC	
Joe Shalkowski	I-69 GEC	
Lennie Gregory	TXDOT	
Mark Weddridge	TXDOT	
Roman Hill	TXDOT	

**I-69 Program  
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**Attachment 2  
Agenda**

**I-69 Segment Three Committee Meeting  
Wharton, Texas  
November 4, 2011  
9:30 am**

**Welcome/Introductions**

*Mayor Domingo Montalvo, Committee Chair  
Marc Williams, Facilitator*

**Administrative/Announcements**

Review and approve November 2011 meeting notes  
Recap of I-69 Designation Event (I-37 to Robstown)

**Review of Draft Committee Report and Recommendations**

Contents of the Draft Committee Reports and Recommendations – Review and discuss

**Next Steps and Final Committee Tasks**

Schedule for completing Committee Report and Recommendations  
Future meetings and/or conference calls

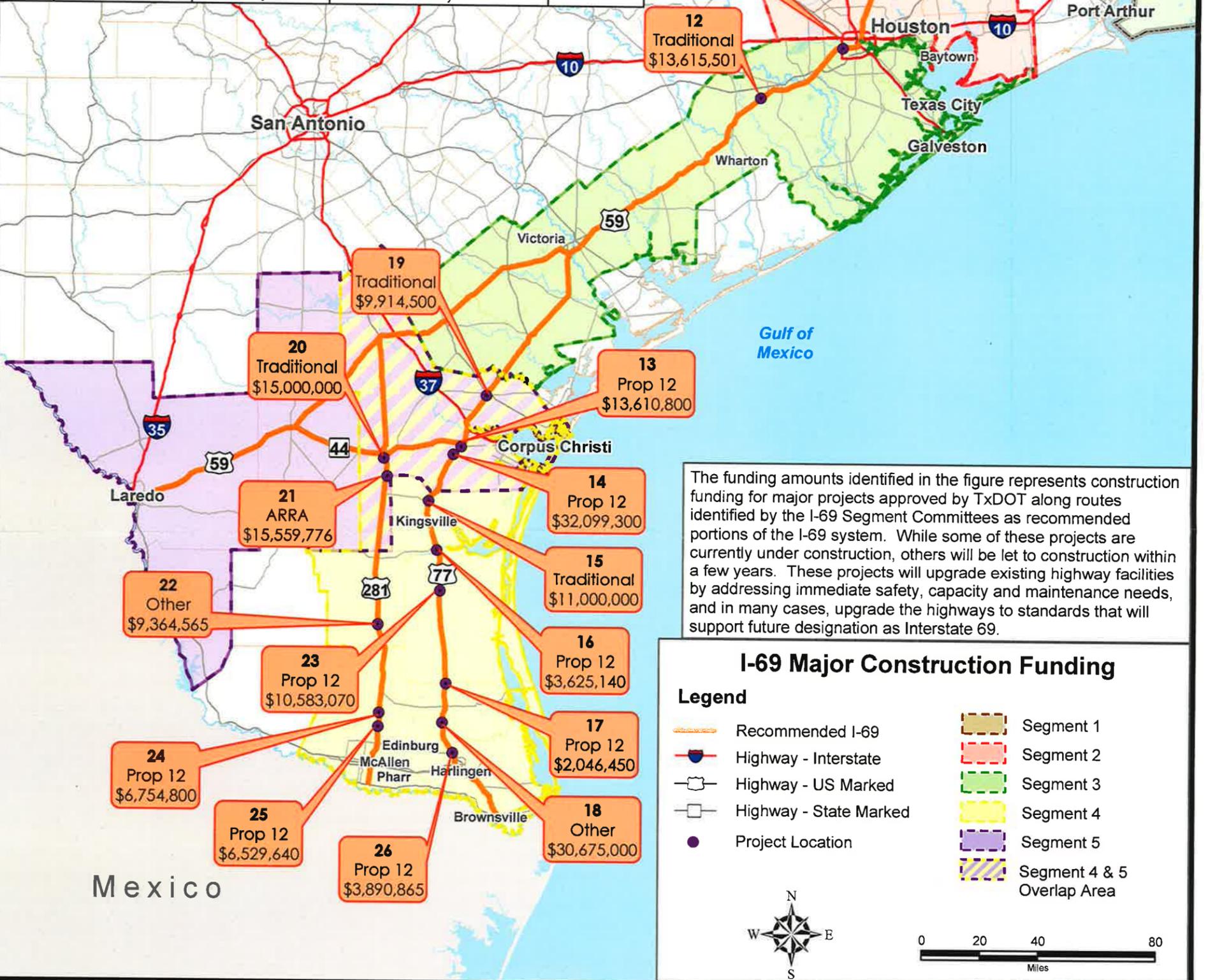
**Wrap Up**

**Adjourn**

**I-69 Program  
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**Attachment 3  
I-69 Major Construction Funding  
Figure**

Map ID	From	To	Description of Work	Construction Status
1	Emma Lena Way		Construct Off-Set Left Turn Lane	Pending
2	0.7 Miles North of SH 49	0.6 Miles North of SH 49	Widen Pavement on Outside of Curve	Pending
3	Sabine River Bridge		Bridge Replacement	Sep-12
4	Loop 224	1.4 Miles South of Loop 224	Access Management and Raised Median	Sep-13
5	Just North of FM 2021	Just South of FM 2021	Construct Overpass/Underpass	May-13
6	.9 Miles North of LP 287	.1 Miles North of LP 287	Replace Bridge	May-12
7	SH 150	South of UPRR in Shepherd	Construct Overpass/Underpass	Under Construction
8	South of UPRR in Shepherd	Just North of FM 2914	Construct Frontage Road	Under Construction
9	1 Mile North of FM 2914	1 Mile South of FM 2914	Construct Overpass/Underpass	Dec-11
10	Liberty Co Line	1 Mile South of FM 2090	Widen Roadway and Provide Access Control	Under Construction
11	IH 610 (W Loop)	IH 610 (W Loop)	Interchange Improvements	2014
12	FM 360	FM 360	Construct Overpass	Under Construction
13	SH 44	FM 892	Construct Mainlanes to Complete Freeway	Jul-12
14	FM 892	.804 Miles South of CR 28	Construct Main Lanes and Overpasses	Jul-13
15	South of SH 141	North of SH 141	Construct Overpass/Underpass	Feb-12
16	8 mi South of La Parra Avenue	Kenedy/Kleberg County Line	Provide Access Control	Pending
17	Business 77	Willacy/Kenedy County Line	Provide Access Control	Pending
18	FM 1018	FM 3168	Construct Main Lanes, Overpass and Underpass	Under Construction
19	North BU 77 T Intersection	North BU 77 T Intersection	Construct Overpass/Underpass	Under Construction
20	FM 1554	FM 1554	Construct Overpass	Jul-12
21	1 Mile North of FM 2908	South of CR 449	Construct Interchange	Under Construction
22	FM 755	FM 755	Construct Overpass	May-12
23	0.87 mi South of La Parra Avenue	0.71 mi North of La Parra Avenue	Construct overpass	Aug-12
24	FM 490	FM 162	Reconstruct Main Lanes and Add Frontage Roads	Pending
25	FM 162	FM 2812	Reconstruct Main Lanes and Add Frontage Roads	Pending
26	SH 107/FM508 in Combes	Cameron/Willacy County Line	Convert Frontage Roads to One-Way	Aug-12



The funding amounts identified in the figure represents construction funding for major projects approved by TxDOT along routes identified by the I-69 Segment Committees as recommended portions of the I-69 system. While some of these projects are currently under construction, others will be let to construction within a few years. These projects will upgrade existing highway facilities by addressing immediate safety, capacity and maintenance needs, and in many cases, upgrade the highways to standards that will support future designation as Interstate 69.