

LAREDO OUTER LOOP

FEASIBILITY STUDY

Online Survey Results

Background

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Laredo District is conducting a feasibility study on the proposed Laredo Outer Loop Project in Webb County from the Interstate Highway 35 (I-35)/State Highway (SH) 255 (Camino Colombia Road) interchange to the vicinity of the proposed fifth bridge crossing, near Rio Bravo, Texas. The Laredo Outer Loop aims to provide additional capacity and accommodate future growth in Laredo by providing a new high-capacity connection along the east side of Laredo. The proposed Laredo Outer Loop will extend approximately 45 miles. The ultimate cross section considered will be a six-lane freeway (three lanes in each direction) with one-way, two-lane frontage roads in each direction.

Survey Structure

As part of the public outreach strategies an online survey was created, in English and Spanish, using MetroQuest to inquire about the public preferences on the proposed alignments for the Laredo Outer Loop. The survey was active starting on December 20, 2019 until February 2, 2020 and was made available to the public through the [project website](#) as well as during the public meetings held in Laredo in January 2020. Links to the survey were publicized through eBlasts, TxDOT's Twitter and Facebook accounts, a flyer which was mailed to all potentially affected property owners and fliers posted at truck stops close to the study area. On January 16, 2020, a local news channel displayed information on how to access the online survey, which resulted in an increase of responses of almost 50%.

Users were guided through 5 tabs in the online survey, which presented the following information:

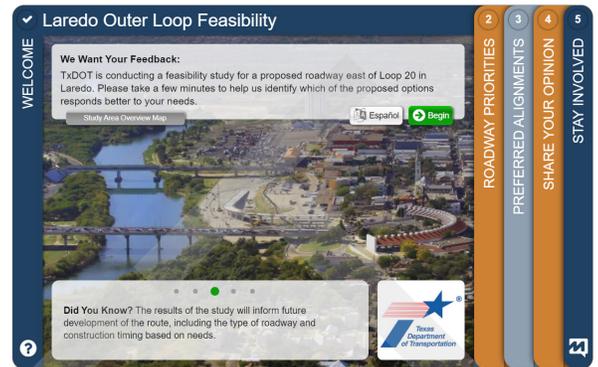
- » Screen 1 (S1) - **Welcome** and introductory text related to the study
- » Screen 2 (S2) - Select top 3 **Roadway Priorities**
- » Screen 3 (S3) - Select **Preferred Alignments** by segment
- » Screen 4 (S4) - **Share your Opinion** and vision for the region
- » Screen 5 (S5) - **Stay Involved** and provide thoughts on corridor use

126 ONLINE SURVEY RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED IN SIX WEEKS

Responses to the online survey came from 11 different ZIP Codes, with the top three counties being the following **78045, 78041 and 78043**

S1 S2 WELCOME & ROADWAY PRIORITIES

Survey participants were presented with several facts about the feasibility study, including a map of the study area. The Spanish version of the survey was accessible through a link in the Welcome screen.

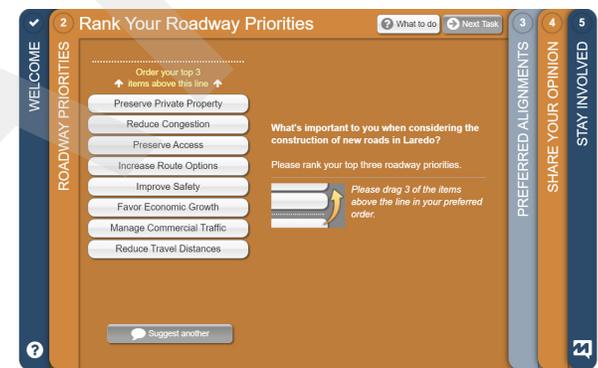


84% OF THE SURVEYS WERE COMPLETED ON A COMPUTER OR CELL PHONE



16% OF THE SURVEYS WERE COMPLETED DURING THE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Survey participants were given eight roadway priorities and asked to **pick their top three priorities** when considering the construction of new roads in Laredo. The options included:



PRESERVE PRIVATE PROPERTY prefer new road alignments that minimize impacts on private property and entail less land acquisition

REDUCE CONGESTION prefer new road alignments that would reduce congestions and delays

PRESERVE ACCESS prefer new road alignments that preserve or improve access to adjacent land uses

INCREASE ROUTE OPTIONS prefer new road alignments that will increase my travel options

IMPROVE SAFETY prefer new road alignments that improve safety conditions on existing roads

FAVOR ECONOMIC GROWTH prefer new road alignments that foster economic development and commercial activities in east Laredo

MANAGE COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC prefer new road alignments that help divert freight traffic away from central areas in Laredo

REDUCE TRAVEL DISTANCES prefer new road alignments that add the least number of miles to my trips

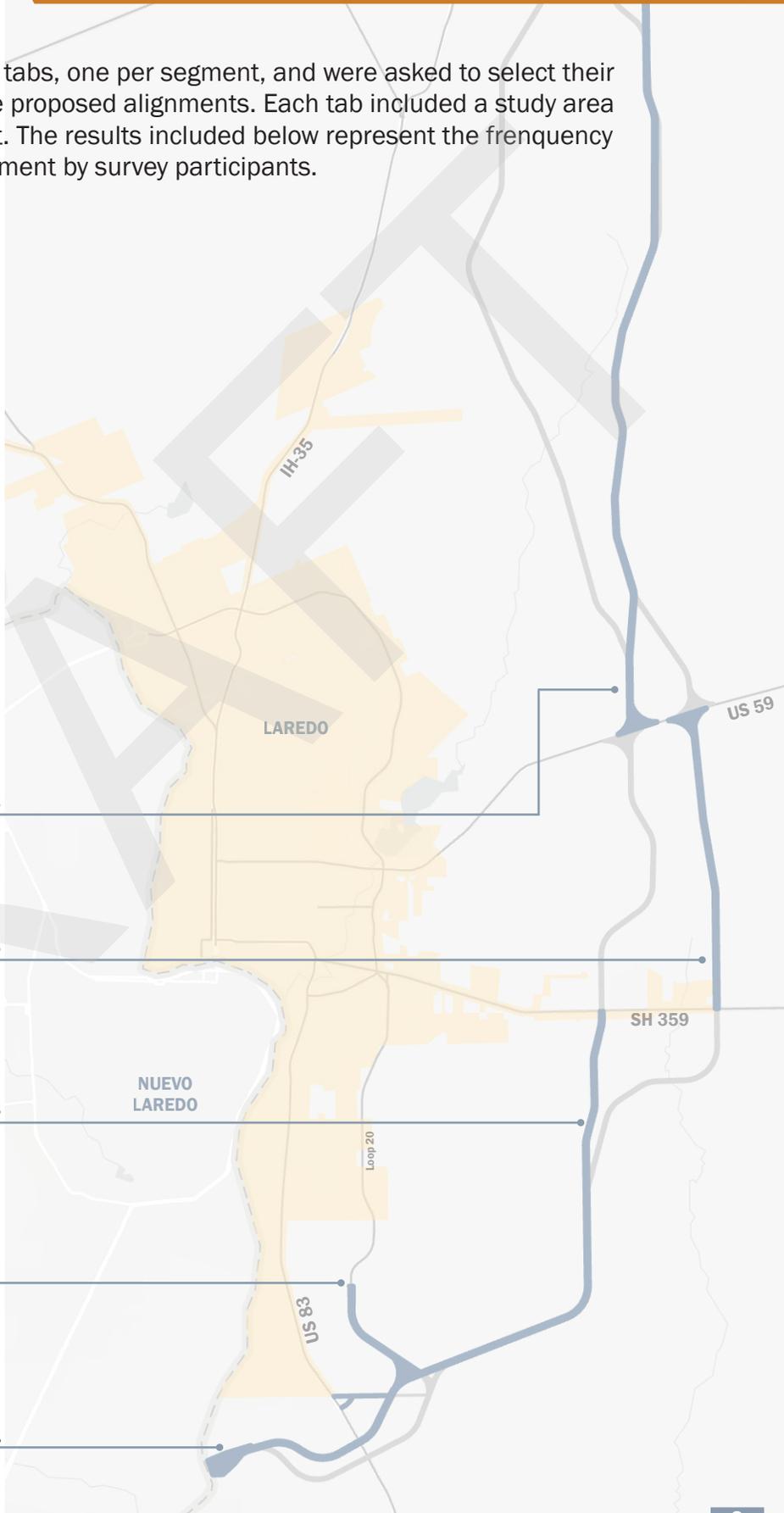
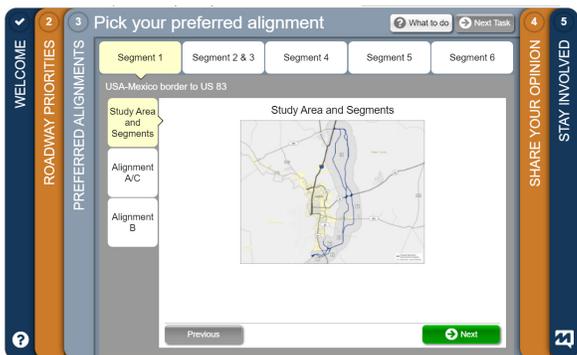
PRIORITY RANKING RESULTS



PREFERRED ALIGNMENTS

S3

Survey participants were presented with five tabs, one per segment, and were asked to select their preferred alignment by Liking or Disliking the proposed alignments. Each tab included a study area map and individual maps for each alignment. The results included below represent the frequency in which alignments were Liked for each segment by survey participants.



ALIGNMENT PREFERENCES

Alignment C - 64
Alignment A - 37
Alignment B - 32

SEGMENT 6

Alignment B - 55
Alignment A/C - 34

SEGMENT 5

Alignment A/C - 50
Alignment B - 39

SEGMENT 4

Alignment A/C - 55
Alignment B - 43

SEGMENT 2/3

Alignment A/C - 64
Alignment B - 42

SEGMENT 1

S4 SHARE YOUR OPINION

Survey participants were given the opportunity to provide their feedback on how to improve mobility and freight movements within the area of interest of the Laredo Outer Loop Feasibility Study. Participants were encouraged to share additional concerns and their vision for the region.



TWENTY FIVE PARTICIPANTS SHARED THEIR OPINION ON HOW TO IMPROVE MOBILITY AND FREIGHT MOVEMENTS IN THE LAREDO REGION

Comment Number	Date Received	Comment
1	12/24/2019	With the increase in population and growth in south Webb County, this outerloop will be instrumental for the socioeconomic development in our city.
2	1/10/2020	Have lanes that are vehicles only not big trucks so we can travel faster.
3	1/10/2020	Will this be a divided highway in each direction? Please advise.
4	1/15/2020	It is important that commercial traffic have the proper infrastructure to access and egress the international bridges – both World Trade Bridge and Colombia Solidarity. Providing fast, efficient access from the bridges to the interstate highway is vital; however, safe, accessible roadways must be available to the noncommercial traffic. The ideal situation is to provide separate roadways for commercial and noncommercial traffic, or designated lanes if necessary.
5	1/17/2020	There has been numerous studies that have already been done (ie KC Railroad, Laredo MPO). Time to start finding funding and Implement construction. No more updating or studies.
6	1/17/2020	Get 18 wheelers off urban streets or create a multi-lane thruway for their access to I-35 or Loop 20.
7	1/17/2020	Few traffic lights.
8	1/17/2020	Overpasses
9	1/17/2020	Build outer loop but not with stop lights.
10	1/17/2020	The vision would be to eliminate congestion and reduce traffic lights for better flow. Freight movements within the area would be improved if loop structures mimic that of Mines Road where freight moves along the upper boundaries of the overpass where as regular mobility is freed up on the lower boundary of the loop as originally intended.
11	1/17/2020	I-35 needs to be expanded both north and south. Trucks are dominating both sides and access roads. Very dangerous.
12	1/17/2020	I believe any of those roadway alignments can only improve all issues we have, traffic, commercial trailers, safety, access, I only hope I would get started sooner than later.

Comment Number	Date Received	Comment
13	1/17/2020	The outer loop is a great idea. As long as we also start adding signs that no commercial traffic is allowed to drive in some areas or signs that indicate commercial traffic to follow them. One thing I have noticed also is that sometimes people driving with Mexican plates are the ones that cause delays and inconvenience by doing daring moves on the road that endanger the safety of others. More cameras would help on that.
14	1/17/2020	Separate lanes for commercial vehicles and commuters. No more lights on the loop, this is causing traffic build-up when it should be flowing. Do it right the first time to there won't be years of additional work to the loop in the future. Model it like in bigger cities, San Antonio and such.
15	1/17/2020	My main interests involve easy access to the roads, encouraging trailers to stick to outer roads as much as possible to relieve congestion both on the Cuatro Vientos road (which was poorly planned) and on the north end of Loop 20 by I-34 (Mines area).
16	1/17/2020	No new loop. It will only encourage further development along the new highway and replicate the congestion problem. Stop building highways and devote resources to public transportation.
17	1/17/2020	Outer loop is needed before more congestion occurs, safety.
18	1/18/2020	Remove north/south traffic from already congested roads and spark more economic growth.
19	1/18/2020	In addition to making this outer loop, please add more effort and resources into finishing all the overpasses on Loop 20!
20	1/19/2020	If it's going to be built, build it up to standards for an interstate highway! No traffic lights or stop signs, this ensures the safety of truck drivers and of residents in the area. Many lives could have been saved if Loop 20 would have been built initially up to interstate standards! Don't mess this up and build it right!
21	1/19/2020	The problem has to be addressed by experts
22	1/31/2020	Adding a reasonable amount of signs for speed limits on the road.
23	1/14/2020	Would like to see side walks and bike lanes on the outer loop.
24	1/15/2020	Uniroyal and Sara road need improvement.
25	1/16/2020	Separate truck traffic from vehicular passenger traffic whenever possible. I value the truck traffic and the economic impact on our city but not at the cost of our citizens having to fear for their safety.

COMMENTS PROVIDED ON SCREEN 4 WERE RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ISSUES



28% REDUCE CONGESTION



8% IMPROVE SAFETY



32% SEPARATE FREIGHT TRAFFIC

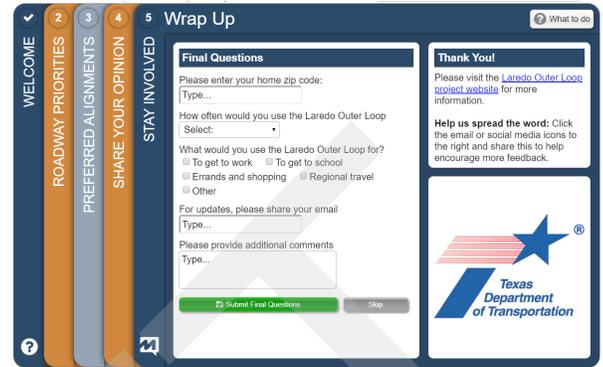


32% OTHER ISSUES

S5 STAY INVOLVED

On the last screen of the survey, participants were presented with general questions about their anticipated use of the Laredo Outer Loop. Participants were also encouraged to share the survey on social media or via email with other members of their community.

<u>Purpose of Use</u>	<u>Frequency of Use</u>
REGIONAL TRAVEL 51	28 DAILY
TO GET TO WORK 39	21 A FEW TIMES A WEEK
ERRANDS AND SHOPPING 31	9 SOMETIMES
OTHER 17	8 ONCE A MONTH
TO GET TO SCHOOL 13	4 RARELY



All comments received will be taken into consideration when finalizing the proposed alignments as well as inform the development of an Implementation Plan.

Most participants said they would use the new roadway for regional travel on a daily basis

Comment Number	Date Received	Please Provide Additional Comments
1	12/24/2019	This outerloop will benefit all the nation, not just Laredo since it will connect more directly San Antonio (I35North) with Mexico, with bridge five in the south.
2	12/27/2019	If you're going to cut my ranch and two I would like to have access to move cattle under a bridge from one into the other.
3	12/28/2019	As a resident near highway 359, we desperately need another way into town. We are left stranded anytime there's an accident on the highway.
4	1/10/2020	Great Project.
5	1/10/2020	No other comments.
6	1/10/2020	Great!
7	1/10/2020	Safety.
8	1/14/2020	I am in favor of this outer loop.
9	1/17/2020	Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.
10	1/17/2020	Speed limit should not be limited to 20 mph...
11	1/17/2020	Thank you;)
12	1/17/2020	This survey is a great idea. The only problem is that pictures are hard to see in mobile devices.
13	1/17/2020	We need to be concerned for the future of Laredo's infrastructure. If we don't construct this outer loop we won't be competitive.
14	1/31/2020	Thank you for caring about our opinion.
15	1/14/2020	Keep up the great work!
16	1/14/2020	I'm concerned with row acquisition on us 83 and do not plan to sell willingly without a fight.
17	1/15/2020	I have heard a lot of this outer loop and I hope we can finally realize this project.
18	1/15/2020	Good job.
19	1/16/2020	Safety and quality of life please.