

# US 59 LOOP UPGRADE

February 2017 NEWSLETTER #2



TxDOT-Laredo District Office  
1817 Bob Bullock Loop  
Laredo, Texas 78043  
(956) 712-7400

## The US 59 Loop and I-69 West

The northern portion of Loop 20 has been re-designated as a part of US 59 and “Future I-69”. The portion of US 59 (Saunders Street) from west of Loop 20 (Bob Bullock Loop) to I-35 is now designated as Business US 59. In addition, the segment of the US 59 Loop from 0.3-mile west of I-35 to the entrance to the World Trade International Bridge IV is now officially designated as a segment of I-69 West (I-69W).



## The Loop’s State, National and International Importance

In south Texas, I-69 will split into three branches: I-69 West to Laredo, I-69 Central into Hidalgo County, and I-69 East to Brownsville. North of this split, I-69 passes through Houston and east Texas. The northern terminus of I-69 nationally is at Port Huron, Michigan. Both I-35 and I-69W are important freight corridors into Laredo. Based on federal crossing data, Laredo ranks as the third busiest port-of-entry of all types (land/sea/air) in the U.S.; according to Mexican officials, Nuevo Laredo is ranked as the #1 port-of-entry in Mexico. According to TxDOT’s 2015 Freight Mobility Plan, nearly 7 million jobs in Texas rely on freight transportation and trade with Mexico with the vast percentage of that freight passing through Laredo.

## The Need for Upgrading the US 59 Loop

Overall, upgrades to the Loop are needed due to:

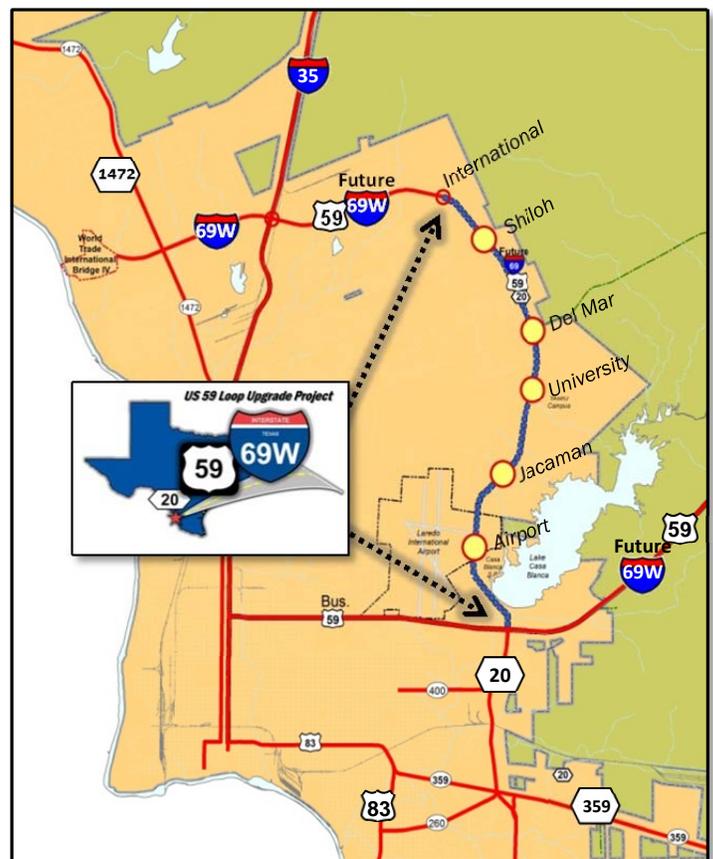
- Rapid Population and Traffic Growth.
- Traffic Congestion.
- The Increasing Number of Heavy Trucks.
- Traffic Safety Concerns.
- Federal Legislative Requirements for the I-69 Corridor.

### What Will It Cost And How Will It Be Funded

Using current, non-inflated future-year costs, this project is estimated to cost well over \$400 million. That includes the costs for the additional right-of-way and utility adjustments, engineering and construction.

Funding options for the overall construction cost of the proposed US 59 Loop project are being developed by the local government planning organizations and TxDOT at this time. Still to be decided is whether construction proceeds along the entire 6.9-mile project corridor as one project or proceeds in phases as funds become available over the next 10-20 years.

**Direct Tolling.** *Not currently under consideration.*



**What Is Proposed With The US 59 Loop Upgrade:**

The US 59 Loop corridor between the International Boulevard and the US 59/Loop 20 intersection is proposed to be upgraded to an urban interstate freeway. This freeway facility is proposed to include:

- Three mainlanes in each direction.
- Three-lane frontage roads on each side of the mainlanes.
- Mainlane bridges over the major street crossings at Airport Drive, Jacaman Road, University Boulevard, Del Mar Boulevard and Shiloh Road.
- Constructing sidewalks on each side plus a 10-ft. bicycle path adjacent to the east-side frontage road.
- This project will integrate with the International Boulevard project that is under construction and the near future construction project of constructing the Loop mainlanes over the I-35 and the adjacent Union-Pacific Railroad line. The mainlanes over McPherson Road would also be completed with those two projects. This project would also integrate with the Spur 400 (Clark Blvd.) project that is currently under construction.

It is anticipated that approximately 184-acres of additional right-of-way would be needed to upgrade the US 59 Loop from east of International Boulevard to the existing US 59/Loop 20 Interchange. Minor impacts are anticipated to the Casa Blanca Golf Course and the Lake Casa Blanca State Park as a result of the additional right-of-way needed from these two Webb County owned properties. However, both of these park facilities would continue to be fully operational as a golf course and state park with the State Park entrance realigned to a much safer location off of Ranchito Road.

**How To Get Involved:**

Public involvement is an important component of the US 59 Loop Upgrade Project and your feedback is highly valued. Public input is essential to the success of the project and final design. For more information, visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and search keywords "US 59 Loop".

To get more information or to submit comments on the project, please contact:

**Mike Graham – Laredo District Environmental Coordinator**  
 E-Mail: [Mike.Graham@TxDOT.gov](mailto:Mike.Graham@TxDOT.gov)  
 TxDOT – Laredo District  
 1817 Bob Bullock Loop  
 Laredo, Texas 78043  
 Phone: (956) 712-7742

**Raul Leal – TxDOT Public Information Officer**  
 E-Mail: [Raul.Leal@TxDOT.gov](mailto:Raul.Leal@TxDOT.gov)  
 TxDOT – Laredo District  
 1817 Bob Bullock Loop  
 Laredo, Texas 78043  
 Phone: (956) 712-7416



**The 2<sup>nd</sup> US 59 Loop Upgrade Project Public Meeting  
 & The Chapter 26 Parks & Wildlife Code Public Hearing**  
 March 28, 2017  
 Open House: 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and after the Hearing until 7:00 p.m.  
 Chapter 26 (PWC) Public Hearing: 6:00 p.m.  
 Texas A&M International University at the Western Hemispheric Trade Center – Room 111

*Spanish-speaking team members will be available at the meeting to assist with translation needs. If you require other communication needs or special accommodations, please contact Raul Leal, the TxDOT Laredo Public Information Officer at least five days before the public meeting. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your request.*

*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. 17, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.*