



DEIS Reasonable Alternatives Community Impact Assessment Technical Report

SH 68 from I-2/US 83 to I-69C/US 281
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, -003
Hidalgo County, Texas

Texas Department of Transportation - Pharr District
February 2018

Table of Contents

1

2 1.0 INTRODUCTION 4

3 1.1 Overview 4

4 1.2 Project Description..... 4

5 1.2.1 2014 Modified 2 Alternative 5

6 1.2.2 2014 PSM Alternative 6

7 1.2.3 FM 1423 PSM Alternative 6

8 1.2.4 No Build Alternative 7

9 2.0 METHODOLOGY 7

10 2.1 Introduction 9

11 2.2 Displacements 9

12 2.3 Cities, Neighborhoods, Colonias, and Community Facilities..... 10

13 2.4 Community Cohesion 10

14 2.5 Access and Travel Patterns 11

15 2.6 Economic and Employment..... 11

16 2.7 Population 11

17 2.8 Environmental Justice 12

18 2.9 Language and Limited English Proficiency (LEP)..... 14

19 3.0 RESOURCES IN COMMUNITY STUDY AREA..... 14

20 3.1 Cities and Census Designated Places 14

21 3.2 Neighborhoods and Colonias 14

22 3.3 Community Facilities..... 18

23 3.4 Access and Travel 21

24 3.4.1 Roadway Facilities and Travel Patterns..... 21

25 3.4.2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities 22

26 3.5 Economic and Employment..... 23

27 3.6 Population Trends..... 25

28 3.7 Race and Ethnicity 25

29 3.8 Income and Poverty 26

30 3.9 Limited English Proficiency..... 31

31 3.10 Other Characteristics 32

32 4.0 ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES 34

33 4.1 Potential Right-of-Way and Displacements..... 34

34 4.2 Community Cohesion 38

35 4.3 Community Facilities..... 40

36 4.4 Access and Travel Patterns 40

37 4.4.1 Roadway Access and Travel Patterns..... 40

38 4.4.2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Access..... 50

39 4.4.3 Agricultural Access..... 50

1 4.5 Economic and Employment.....51
 2 4.5.1 Transportation Infrastructure Improvements and Alignment Location 51
 3 4.5.2 Business Displacements and Employment Opportunities51
 4 4.5.3 Tax Revenues Loss54
 5 4.5.4 Construction55
 6 4.6 Community Impacts Assessment.....55
 7 4.7 Identification of Minority and Low-Income Populations55
 8 4.8 Consideration of Impacts to EJ Populations55
 9 4.9 Access to Information and Participation for Limited English Proficiency
 10 Populations57
 11 4.10 No Build Alternative57
 12 5.0 CONCLUSION58
 13 6.0 REFERENCES CITED59
 14

Attachments

15
 16 Attachment A – Exhibits
 17 Exhibit 1. Project Location on County Map
 18 Exhibit 2. Project Location on 7.5’ USGS Topographic
 19 Exhibit 3. Communities
 20 Exhibit 4. Neighborhoods and Colonias Index
 21 Exhibit 4-1. Neighborhoods and Colonias
 22 Exhibit 4-2. Neighborhoods and Colonias
 23 Exhibit 4-3. Neighborhoods and Colonias
 24 Exhibit 5. Community Facilities and Public Resources Index
 25 Exhibit 5-1. Community Facilities and Public Resources
 26 Exhibit 5-2. Community Facilities and Public Resources
 27 Exhibit 5-3. Community Facilities and Public Resources
 28 Exhibit 6. Minority and Poverty Population by Census Block Group
 29 Exhibit 7. Potential Building Displacements Index
 30 Exhibit 7-1. Potential Building Displacements
 31 Exhibit 7-2. Potential Building Displacements
 32 Exhibit 7-3. Potential Building Displacements
 33 Exhibit 7-4. Potential Building Displacements
 34 Exhibit 7-5. Potential Building Displacements
 35 Exhibit 7-6. Potential Building Displacements
 36 Exhibit 7-7. Potential Building Displacements
 37 Exhibit 7-8. Potential Building Displacements
 38 Exhibit 7-9. Potential Building Displacements
 39 Exhibit 7-10. Potential Building Displacements

- 1 Exhibit 7-11. Potential Building Displacements
- 2 Exhibit 7-12. Potential Building Displacements
- 3 Exhibit 7-13. Potential Building Displacements
- 4 Attachment B – Project Area Photographs
- 5

Tables

- 7 Table 3-1. Potentially Impacted Neighborhoods in the Community Study Area15
- 8 Table 3-2. Colonias in the Community Study Area16
- 9 Table 3-3. Schools and Early Childhood Daycare Centers in the Community Study Area18
- 10 Table 3-4. Public Parks in the Community Study Area20
- 11 Table 3-5. Places of Worship in the Community Study Area.....20
- 12 Table 3-6. Public Buildings in the Community Study Area21
- 13 Table 3-7. Major Roadways in the Community Study Area22
- 14 Table 3-8. Employment Status in the Community Study Area24
- 15 Table 3-9. Population Trends25
- 16 Table 3-10. Racial and Ethnic Distribution in the Community Study Area.....27
- 17 Table 3-11. Median Household Income and Poverty Characteristics in the Community Study
- 18 Area29
- 19 Table 3-12. Population 5 Years and Over That Speaks English Less Than “Very Well” in the
- 20 Community Study Area31
- 21 Table 3-13. Age in the Community Study Area33
- 22 Table 3-14. Disability Status of Civilian, Non-Institutionalized Population in the Community
- 23 Study Area34
- 24 Table 4-1. Estimated Potential ROW35
- 25 Table 4-2. Estimated Potential Building Displacements35
- 26 Table 4-3. Housing Units and Vacancy Rates in the Community Study Area37
- 27 Table 4-4. Neighborhoods Crossed39
- 28 Table 4-5. Potential Changes to Access and Travel Patterns in the Community Study Area .41
- 29 Table 5-1. Impact Summary Table.....59

30
31

1 1.0 INTRODUCTION

2 1.1 Overview

3 The Pharr District of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) proposes to construct
4 State Highway (SH) 68, a new highway facility from Interstate (I)-2/U.S. Highway (US) 83 to
5 I-69C/US 281, located in eastern Hidalgo County. The new highway facility corridor would
6 begin at I-2/US 83 and travel north then west to connect to I-69C/US 281. The total length of
7 the new highway facility is approximately 22 miles.

8 The purpose of this technical report is to identify potential community impacts associated with
9 the three reasonable alternatives and the No Build Alternative identified. This document
10 serves as support for *Section 4: Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences of*
11 *the State Highway (SH) 68 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).*

12 1.2 Project Description

13 SH 68, as currently described in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the
14 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), is a proposed four-lane divided rural
15 highway facility with future mainlanes and overpasses.

16 SH 68 would be constructed in several phases, as funding becomes available. Funding has
17 been secured for Phase I. Funding for future phases has not yet been determined.

18 Phase I would construct a new four-lane divided rural highway facility from I-2/US 83 to Farm-
19 to-Market (FM) 1925, which is also known as Monte Cristo Road. The four-lane divided facility
20 would serve as frontage roads for the ultimate facility and consist of two lanes in each
21 direction with shoulders, separated by a grassy median. Future phases would extend the four-
22 lane divided rural highway from FM 1925 to I-69C/US 281, and eventually would complete
23 the ultimate facility by constructing the mainlanes and overpasses. The new highway facility
24 is being developed as a non-tolled facility.

25 The ultimate, controlled-access facility would be contained within a 350-foot typical right-of-
26 way (ROW) width, with up to 400 feet of ROW needed at proposed grade separations. The
27 proposed frontage roads would consist of two 12-foot wide lanes in each direction, with 4-foot
28 wide inside shoulders and 8-foot wide outside shoulders. The frontage roads would include
29 curb and gutter to accommodate drainage requirements. The proposed mainlanes would
30 consist of two 12-foot wide lanes in each direction, with 4-foot wide inside shoulders and 10-
31 foot wide outside shoulders. Mainlanes would be separated by a grassy median. Mainlane
32 overpasses are assumed to be provided at major roadway crossings. Proposed future
33 entrance and exit ramps would consist of 14-foot wide lanes, with 2-foot wide inside shoulders

1 and 8-foot wide outside shoulders. The termini at I-2/US 83 and I-69C/US 281 would include
2 proposed connections to existing frontage roads and proposed direct connector ramps to and
3 from existing mainlanes.

4 As part of the alternatives analysis and public involvement process for SH 68, study corridors
5 and reasonable alternatives were developed within the approximately 179 square-mile study
6 area for the new highway facility. The reasonable alternatives were analyzed and evaluated to
7 identify three reasonable alternatives. The three reasonable alternatives, as well as the No
8 Build Alternative, are being advanced for more detailed analysis in order to identify a
9 recommended preferred alternative. For more information about the development of the
10 reasonable alternatives and alternatives analysis methodology, refer to the **SH 68 Alternatives**
11 **Analysis Technical Report**.

12 The three reasonable alternatives are shown in **Exhibits 1 and 2 in Attachment A**, which are
13 described below, along with the No Build Alternative. The alternatives are presented in order
14 geographically, from west to east. All alternatives would have the same ultimate typical
15 section, as described above.

16 **1.2.1 2014 Modified 2 Alternative**

17 The 2014 Modified 2 Alternative (light purple route in **Exhibits 1 and 2 in Attachment A**) is
18 approximately 21.7 miles in length and would require an estimated 1,057 acres of ROW. The
19 2014 Modified 2 Alternative is almost entirely on new location.

20 This alternative connects to I-2/US 83 approximately 7 miles east of I-69C/US 281, between
21 the FM 1423 (Val Verde Road) overpass and the North Hutto Road overpass, near the existing
22 intersection of the I-2/US 83 westbound frontage road and Valley View Road. From I-2/US 83,
23 the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative would travel northwest on new location for approximately 3
24 miles to near Minnesota Road before turning generally northward for approximately 7 miles
25 through the communities of Muniz and San Carlos, continuing north of SH 107.

26 Approximately 1 mile north of SH 107, near Mile 17 ½ Road, the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative
27 would curve to the west for approximately 2 miles, crossing FM 1925 (Monte Cristo Road) and
28 Davis Road. North of Davis Road, the 2014 Modified 2 route would run parallel to the west
29 side of Brushline Road for approximately 5 miles. The proposed roadway would then curve to
30 the northwest for approximately 2 miles before running along the north side of the existing
31 FM 490 for approximately 3 miles and connect to I-69C/US 281 near the South Texas
32 International Airport at Edinburg.

1 Future mainlane overpasses are assumed to be provided at Ferguson Road, Sioux Road, East
2 Nolana Loop/Earling Road, Owassa Road, Alberta Road, Trenton Road, Wisconsin Road,
3 Canton Road, SH 107, FM 1925, FM 2812, Brushline Road, and Air Cargo Drive.

4 **1.2.2 2014 PSM Alternative**

5 Like the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative, the 2014 Public Scoping Meeting (PSM) Alternative
6 (orange route in **Exhibits 1 and 2 in Attachment A**) is almost entirely on new location. The
7 2014 PSM Alternative is approximately 22.4 miles in length and would require an estimated
8 1,076 acres of ROW. The 2014 PSM Alternative follows the same new location route as the
9 2014 Modified 2 Alternative from its intersection with I-2/US 83 to SH 107, a distance of
10 approximately 8 miles, and continues generally northward for another 2 miles to cross FM
11 1925.

12 North of FM 1925, the 2014 PSM Alternative would curve to the east for approximately 1 mile,
13 approaching Mile 19 N Road, where it would then run parallel to the west side of Val Verde
14 Road for approximately 4 miles. The corridor would then curve to the northwest for
15 approximately 4 miles before running along the north side of the existing FM 490 for
16 approximately 3 miles and connect to I-69C/US 281 near the South Texas International Airport
17 at Edinburg.

18 This alternative would also pass through the communities of Muniz and San Carlos. Future
19 mainlane overpasses are assumed to be provided at Ferguson Road, Sioux Road, East Nolana
20 Loop/Earling Road, Owassa Road, Alberta Road, Trenton Road, Wisconsin Road, Canton Road,
21 SH 107, FM 1925, FM 2812, Brushline Road, and Air Cargo Drive.

22 **1.2.3 FM 1423 PSM Alternative**

23 The FM 1423 PSM Alternative (dark pink route in **Exhibits 1 and 2 in Attachment A**) is
24 approximately 21.6 miles in length and would require an estimated 1,061 acres of ROW. This
25 alternative would connect to I-2/US 83 approximately 6 miles east of I-69C/US 281.

26 This alternative would generally follow FM 1423 (also known as Val Verde Road) northward
27 for approximately 7.5 miles from the intersection with I-2/US 83 to SH 107 in the community
28 of San Carlos. From SH 107, the alternative would continue northward along Val Verde Road
29 approximately 2 miles to FM 1925 (Monte Cristo Road). Approximately 1.5 miles north of FM
30 1925, between Mile 19 N Road and Davis Road, the route would then follow the 2014 PSM
31 Alternative route for approximately 11 miles north and west to I-69C/US 281 near the South
32 Texas International Airport at Edinburg.

33 This alternative would pass through the City of Donna and the community of San Carlos.
34 Future mainlane overpasses are assumed to be provided at FM 495 (Kansas Road), Sioux

1 Road, East Nolana Loop/Earling Road, Roosevelt Road, Alberta Road, Trenton Road,
2 Wisconsin Road, Canton Road, SH 107, FM 1925, FM 2812, Brushline Road, and Air Cargo
3 Drive.

4 **1.2.4 No Build Alternative**

5 The No Build Alternative means that the proposed improvements associated with the SH 68
6 project would not occur. Under this alternative, the existing facilities would operate as they
7 currently do and there would be no new roadway constructed. There would be no relocations
8 or conversion of land to transportation uses, and no adverse environmental or economic
9 impacts with this alternative would occur. However, the No Build Alternative would not address
10 the purpose and need for the new highway facility because it would not improve north-south
11 mobility, increase travel capacity for local and regional traffic, or provide an alternate north-
12 south evacuation route during emergency events.

13 **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

14 In accordance with TxDOT's *Environmental Handbook: Community Impacts, Environmental*
15 *Justice, Limited English Proficiency, and Title VI Compliance (2015)*, an assessment for
16 potential community impacts was performed for the three reasonable alternatives, including
17 potential ROW and displacements, environmental justice (EJ) areas, impacts to community
18 cohesion, and impacts to existing access and travel patterns. Information is also presented
19 on cities, neighborhoods, colonias, and community facilities; persons with limited English
20 proficiency (LEP); as well as social and economic data. Publicly available data sources were
21 used to frame the analysis.

22 The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations require agencies
23 to evaluate the potential effect on communities as an important part of the project
24 development process. In addition to the TxDOT handbook mentioned above, FHWA's
25 *Community Impact Assessment: A Quick Reference for Transportation* provides another
26 framework for conducting such an assessment. The study of potential effects on communities
27 provides a mechanism to ensure compliance with related federal regulations, statutes,
28 policies, technical advisories, Executive Orders (EOs), such as the following:

- 29 • Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – prohibits discrimination on the basis of race,
30 color, or national origin in any program or activity that receives federal funds or other
31 federal financial assistance.
- 32 • Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1970 – provided funding for existing interstate and new
33 urban and rural primary and secondary roads in the U.S.

- 1 • Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (1970,
2 amended in 1987) – intended to ensure fair compensation and assistance for those
3 whose property was acquired for public use under eminent domain law.
- 4 • FHWA Environmental Impact and Related Procedures (1987) – regulation that
5 prescribes the policies and procedures for implementing NEPA.
- 6 • FHWA Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f)
7 Documents (1987) – technical advisory that provides guidance on the preparation and
8 processing of environmental and Section 4(f) documents.
- 9 • FHWA Environmental Policy Statements (1990 and 1994) – policy that provides
10 guidance on beginning the preparation of a NEPA document to establish continuity
11 between planning efforts and project development efforts.
- 12 • Intermodal Surface Transportations Efficiency Act of 1991 – represented a major
13 change to transportation planning and policy by adopting an overall multimodal
14 approach.
- 15 • EO 12898 on Environmental Justice (1994) – requires federal agencies to assess
16 disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on
17 minority populations and low-income populations.
- 18 • Proposed U.S. Department of Transportation Order on Environmental Justice (1997) –
19 policy that provides guidance on implementing EO 12898.
- 20 • Recommendations of the President's Council on Sustainable Development (1999) –
21 policy that provides guidance on sustainable development for new approaches to
22 achieve economic, environmental, and equity goals.

23 It is TxDOT policy to conduct a thorough and complete community impact assessment to
24 address the community impacts of transportation projects.

25 The approximately 179 square-mile study area for the three reasonable alternatives includes
26 a diverse set of community characteristics within Hidalgo County. Since the three reasonable
27 alternatives are primarily located in the northern and eastern portions of the study area, the
28 focus of this Community Impact Assessment Technical Report is a subset of the study area
29 and is hereafter referred to as the community study area (see **Exhibits 1 and 2** in **Attachment**
30 **A**). The community study area encompasses approximately 110 square miles and represents
31 the area in which the local population is anticipated to be most affected by the three
32 reasonable alternatives.

33 The community study area is generally defined by I-2/US 83 to the south, FM 490 to the north,
34 FM 493/La Blanca Road to the east, and a combination of Alamo Road, Doolittle Road, and I-

1 69C/US 281 to the west. The boundaries of the community study area represent the existing
2 major east/west and north/south roadway facilities, generally consisting of the local travel
3 shed potentially impacted by the three reasonable alternatives (see **Exhibits 1 and 2** in
4 **Attachment A**).

5 FM 493/La Blanca Road and FM 907/Alamo Road represent the two closest north/south
6 arterials that parallel the three reasonable alternatives. To the west of FM 907/Alamo Road
7 and to the east of FM 493/La Blanca Road, the local residents' travel patterns and access to
8 community services are assumed to trend west towards the City of Edinburgh, or east towards
9 the cities of Edcouch, Elsa, and Weslaco. FM 907/Alamo Road represents the eastern
10 boundary of several small communities, including North Alamo, Murillo, and Cesar Chavez. It
11 is also assumed that the majority of local north/south travel by these residents currently
12 occurs along Alamo Road, and would likely continue to occur even after completion of the new
13 highway facility.

14 Similarly, FM 493/La Blanca Road is situated midway between the three reasonable
15 alternatives and the cities of Edcouch, Elsa, and Weslaco. Residents living east of FM 493/La
16 Blanca Road are more likely to identify themselves with these nearby cities. It is assumed that
17 the majority of local north/south travel by these residents currently occurs along FM 493/La
18 Blanca Road, and would likely continue to occur even after completion of the new highway
19 facility.

20 **2.1 Introduction**

21 The following sections summarize the community impacts assessment and is structured to
22 provide the regulatory background, description of existing conditions per community issue
23 discussed, and the anticipated impacts.

24 **2.2 Displacements**

25 To assess potential ROW and displacements for each of the three reasonable alternatives, a
26 review of 2015 and 2017 aerial imagery were conducted to identify buildings located within
27 the proposed ROW and within 50 feet of the proposed ROW of the three reasonable
28 alternatives. Buildings within 50 feet of the proposed ROW of the three reasonable
29 alternatives were identified to account for potential displacements that could occur if minor
30 future design modifications are necessary. Identified buildings were initially categorized as
31 residences, commercial businesses, industrial facilities, public facilities, or waste
32 management facilities. In addition to identifying primary buildings, any associated buildings
33 located within the parcel, including barns, sheds, detached garages, carports, or other
34 detached buildings, were identified and classified as outbuildings.

1 2.3 Cities, Neighborhoods, Colonias, and Community Facilities

2 The United States (U.S.) Census Bureau’s OnTheMap application was used to identify the
3 communities in the community study area. The communities consist of incorporated cities
4 and Census Designated Places (CDPs). CDPs are defined as a concentration of population by
5 the U.S. Census Bureau for statistical purposes and generally consists of unincorporated small
6 communities and the immediate surrounding area, but does not have an official legal status.
7 CDPs serve as an important tool in assessing community impacts in areas where no
8 incorporated cities exist, but a concentrated population lives.

9 Residential neighborhoods were identified based on a review of 2017 Hidalgo CAD data and
10 2015 and 2017 aerial imagery. These neighborhoods consisted of subdivided tracts of land
11 that included low-density single-family residences with demonstrated unifying characteristics,
12 including similar housing styles, lot size, and shared access along a dedicated local street
13 within the subdivision.

14 Colonias are unregulated settlements typically located in semi-rural areas, and almost
15 exclusively in the U.S.-Mexico border region. Section 916 of the National Affordable Housing
16 Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-625, as amended) generally defines a colonias as any
17 identifiable community lacking basic living necessities, including potable water, adequate
18 sewage systems, electricity, paved roadways, sanitary housing, or other generally determined
19 objective criteria. The location of each colonia was verified using 2015 and 2017 Hidalgo CAD
20 data, 2016 Texas Secretary of State colonia data, and a review of historic aerial photography
21 (1980 to 2017).

22 Community facilities and public resources found within the communities include, but are not
23 limited to the following: schools, early childhood day care centers, parks, places of worship,
24 cemeteries, and public buildings (e.g., federal, state, county, and city buildings). Their names
25 and locations were identified via a desktop survey, and a review of historic aerial photography
26 (1980 to 2017).

27 2.4 Community Cohesion

28 Communities may be defined by geographic boundaries, individuals, or a group of individuals
29 that share common values, characteristics, or interests. Cohesion is typically measured by the
30 ability of individuals, or group of individuals, to interact with others and be recognized as one
31 common group. Residents may develop a sense of neighborhood or community cohesion
32 through social interactions, gatherings at local community facilities, or participation in
33 neighborhood organizations. Community facilities, such as schools, hospitals, places of
34 worship, public parks, and activity centers, are common resources that help to develop and
35 sustain community cohesion. However, new linear transportation facilities can affect

1 community cohesion by introducing barriers, or limiting access, to parts of a community or
2 neighborhood. Potential impacts to community cohesion include the displacement of
3 residences, business, and community facilities; isolation or segmentation of
4 neighborhoods/communities; severing access to local services; and increased noise or visual
5 impacts.

6 An assessment of the potential impacts to community cohesion was based on a review of
7 demographic data, property data, and field observations within the community study area to
8 identify concentrations of unique populations, established neighborhoods, the location of
9 public and community facilities, local businesses, typical pedestrian activity, and accessibility
10 to local community facilities and services.

11 **2.5 Access and Travel Patterns**

12 An assessment of the potential impacts to existing mobility was performed to evaluate how
13 the three reasonable alternatives would enhance or impede existing access and travel
14 patterns within the community study area. Factors considered include potential changes in
15 travel patterns, accessibility, and travel times. Direct impacts to mobility may include
16 restricted access to community facilities and local businesses, increased travel times, and
17 restricted or limited access to individual properties. Beneficial impacts to local mobility may
18 include improved connectivity, improved access to services, congestion relief, and reduced
19 travel times. The bicycle and sidewalk components of the transportation system within the
20 community study area were identified via a desktop survey, and a review of 2015 and 2017
21 aerial imagery.

22 **2.6 Economic and Employment**

23 U.S. Census Bureau 2012-2016 ACS census data regarding employment, earnings, industry
24 distribution, and demographics were used to analyze the economic characteristics present in
25 the community study area. Additional data from the U.S. Census Bureau's OnTheMap
26 application and its Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics program were used. Also, the
27 *Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Hidalgo County 2011-2015*
28 (published in 2010) was reviewed to determine the major employers in and around the
29 community study area.

30 **2.7 Population**

31 The social and economic profile was developed using readily available desktop data from the
32 U.S. Census Bureau. Data for past population trends was obtained from the decennial census
33 from year 1990, year 2000, and year 2010, while future population projections were obtained
34 from the Texas Demographic Center. Data for racial and ethnicity distribution, income/poverty
35 status, housing, language and limited English proficiency, age, and disability status was

1 obtained from the American Community Survey (ACS) year 2012-2016 five-year estimates.
2 Note that ACS data are estimates, rather than actual decennial census counts. A total of 14
3 census tracts and 29 census block groups were identified and analyzed for the community
4 study area developed for assessment of the three reasonable alternatives. Some census
5 tracts and census block groups have land areas that do not fall completely within the
6 community study area boundary. In those cases, the most conservative approach was used
7 and the entire census tract/census block group was analyzed.

8 The decennial census is used to provide counts of people for the purposes of congressional
9 apportionment, while the purpose of the ACS is to measure the changing social and economic
10 characteristics of the U.S. population between decennial census (e.g., every 10 years). It is
11 important to note that both the decennial census and the ACS provide the same types of data
12 (e.g., population, race, income, housing, etc.). While the decennial census provides population
13 characteristics on a specific date, the ACS averages population characteristics over a period
14 of time. While there is a small increase in the sampling error with the ACS data over the
15 decennial census, the sampling error is not considered to be significant. Since the year 2010
16 decennial census data is now eight years old, and the ACS data is updated yearly, the ACS
17 2012-2016 five-year estimate data was used in this analysis as it is the most recently
18 approved data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

19 **2.8 Environmental Justice**

20 EJ is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race,
21 ethnicity, culture, income, or education level with respect to development, implementation,
22 and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies” (USEPA 1998). According
23 to the EPA, fair treatment means that racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups should not be
24 disproportionately affected by negative environmental consequences that are a result of
25 industrial operations or federal, state, and local regulations.

26 EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-*
27 *Income Populations* (1994) requires federal agencies to “make achieving environmental
28 justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately
29 high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and
30 activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” EO 12898 supplements Title
31 VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352). While EO 12898 applies only to federal
32 agencies, TxDOT’s environmental process ordinarily emulates the processes adhered to by
33 federal agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). By following federal
34 agency environmental processes, federal guidance can aide in evaluating socioeconomic
35 impacts, including EJ. The FHWA has identified three fundamental principles of EJ (FHWA
36 2012):

- 1 • To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and/or adverse human health
2 or environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority and/or
3 low-income populations.
- 4 • To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in
5 transportation decision-making process.
- 6 • To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by
7 minority and/or low-income populations.

8 Disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects are defined by
9 FHWA as effects that:

- 10 • Are predominately borne by a minority and/or low-income population; or
- 11 • Would be suffered by the minority and/or low-income population and are appreciably
12 more severe greater in magnitude than the adverse effects that would be suffered by
13 the non-minority and/or non-low-income populations.

14 Minority populations were identified based on the federal Council on Environmental Quality's
15 (CEQ) guidance document *Environmental Justice: Guidance Under the National*
16 *Environmental Policy Act* (CEQ 1997). The guidance states that "Minority populations should
17 be identified where either: (a) the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent
18 or (b) the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the
19 minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of
20 geographic analysis...". Minority populations were also identified based on FHWA guidance
21 document *Order 6640.23A Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations*
22 *and Low-Income Populations* (FHWA 2012). For this analysis, the measure used to identify
23 minority populations was the racial and ethnic categories for the block groups within the
24 community study area.

25 Low-income populations were identified based on FHWA guidance document *Order 6640.23A*
26 *Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income*
27 *Populations* (FHWA 2012). The guidance states that low-income populations consist of "a
28 person whose median household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human
29 Services (DHHS) poverty guidelines." For this analysis, the measure used to identify low-
30 income populations was the median household income for the block groups within the
31 community study area. A family composed of four persons making less than \$24,600 annually
32 in year 2017 would be considered below the poverty level, thus being low-income (DHHS
33 2017).

1 2.9 Language and Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

2 EO 13166, *Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency* (2000)
3 requires federal agencies to “examine the services they provide and develop and implement
4 a system by which persons with LEP can meaningfully access those services.” EO 13166 also
5 supplements Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352). Identifying LEP
6 populations and making accommodations for communication in languages other than English
7 ensures that agencies do not violate the Title VI prohibition against national origin
8 discrimination.

9 U.S. Census Bureau 2012-2016 ACS data was collected for the community study area to
10 determine those persons who speak English less than very well. In compliance with EO 13166,
11 identified LEP populations were ensured access to information and provided meaningful
12 opportunities to provide input regarding the three reasonable alternatives and the No Build
13 Alternative.

14 3.0 **RESOURCES IN COMMUNITY STUDY AREA**

15 3.1 Cities and Census Designated Places

16 The community study area resides fully within Hidalgo County and encompasses portions of
17 the City of Edinburg, City of Alamo, City of Donna, La Blanca CDP, Hargill CDP, Doolittle CDP,
18 Faysville CDP, San Carlos CDP, and Muniz CDP (see **Exhibit 3** in **Attachment A**). Residential
19 development consisting of dense residential neighborhoods and rural, large-lot subdivisions
20 occur throughout the community study area. Business are largely concentrated in the
21 southern part of the community study area near the main thoroughfare of I-2/US 83, with
22 smaller pockets of local businesses located along SH 107, FM 1925/Monte Cristo Road, and
23 FM 2812 in the central part of the community study area. Agricultural operations, including
24 the production of sorghum, cotton, fruit and vegetables, and livestock ranching, occur
25 throughout the community study area. Within the southern part of the community study area,
26 agricultural properties consisting of smaller, segmented parcels, with larger, intact parcels
27 north of FM 2812.

28 3.2 Neighborhoods and Colonias

29 Within the community study area, a total of 21 neighborhoods were identified near the three
30 reasonable alternatives based on their unifying characteristics, including similar housing
31 styles, lot size, and shared access along a dedicated local street within the subdivision. These
32 neighborhoods consisted of subdivided tracts of land that included low-density single-family
33 residences with demonstrated unifying characteristics, including similar housing styles, lot
34 size, and shared access along a dedicated local street within the subdivision. Known

1 neighborhoods within the community study area are identified in **Table 3-1** (see **Exhibits 4, 4-**
2 **1** through **4-3** in **Attachment A**).

3 **Table 3-1. Potentially Impacted Neighborhoods in the Community Study Area**

Communities Crossed	Relative Location	Number of Units
Pastos Verdes	White Eagle Road connected to Sioux Road near FM 1423	16
Valverde Heights	Amelia Lane connected to Sioux Road near FM 1423	36
Overland Park, Phase 1	SW intersection of Earling Road and FM 1423	43
San Joaquin	FM 1423, north of Minnesota Road	208
Miaz Acres	Central unnamed road with direct access to FM 1423, south of Roosevelt Road	5
Alve	Alex Lane and FM 1423	23
San Pablo	South of Alberta Road and west of the Donna Irrigation District West Main Canal	42
Palmito Estates, Unit 1	NE intersection of Alberta Road and FM 1423	30
Palmito Estates, Unit 2	Nueces Circle and Trenton Road intersection	52
Bally's Estates	South of Canton Drive, approx. 0.8 miles east of Tower Road	66
San Martin	SE intersection of FM 1423 and Canton Drive	3
Iowa Gardens, Phase 2	South of Iowa Road, approx. 0.7 miles east of Tower Road	51
Holly Estates, No. 2	Sin Tacha Street, NW of the 83 rd Street and Curve Road intersection	33
Magnolia Village	East of Sharp Road, approx. 0.32 miles south of SH 107	46
San Carlos Estates, Unit 2	North SH 107, near Sharp Road	36
Rincon de Ecinos, No. 4	Buffalo Street from Sharp Road to Gaston Circle	28
Cardinal Reef	East of Sharp Road and south of Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1	34
Cardinal Point	Redbird Street connected Ramseyer Drive	31
Santa Cruz Ranches	North of Mile 22 ½ Road along Calle Paris, Cibolo Drive and Brushline Road	61
Rancho los Papalotes, No. 1	Brushline Road north of El Cibolo Road	23
Border Town, No. 2 (Permitted)	NE corner of FM 8212 and Uresti Road	116 ¹
Note: (1) Permitted Parcels		

4
5 Within the community study area, residential communities include 76 documented colonias.
6 Colonias are unregulated settlements typically located in semi-rural areas, and almost
7 exclusively in the U.S.–Mexico border region. Section 916 of the National Affordable Housing
8 Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-625, as amended) generally defines a colonias as any
9 identifiable community lacking basic living necessities, including potable water, adequate
10 sewage systems, electricity, paved roadways, sanitary housing, or other generally determined

- 1 objective criteria. Documented colonias within the community study area are identified in
2 **Table 3-2** (see **Exhibits 4, 4-1** through **4-3** in **Attachment A**).

Table 3-2. Colonias in the Community Study Area

Colonia Name ¹	M Number ²	Estimated Population ²	Area (acres) ¹
13 ½ North / FM 493	M1080003	23	26.54
Adkins Subdivision	M1080018	59	8.97
Alberta Acres	M1080031	59	3.32
Alsonia	M1080036	35	28.75
Arriaga Subdivision	M1080058	14	5.00
Bar #5	M1080068	510	28.13
Bar #7	M1080069	230	16.65
Brown Acres	M1080122	95	24.09
Browning-Ken #3	M1080123	57	8.39
Collin Subdivision	M1080165	59	9.69
Colonia Guadalupe	M1080174	61	4.86
Colonia Guadalupe #2	M1080175	29	7.76
Colonia Guadalupe #3	M1080176	14	7.76
Colonia Tijerina	M1080183	171	30.18
Colonia Whalen Road	M1080185	93	8.44
Country Terrace Estates	M1080201	36	12.96
D. T. Villareal	M1080213	77	10.62
Donna ROW for Colonia Boyce	M1080232	90	1.38
Doolittle Acres	M1080233	40	9.07
Ebony Acres	M1080237	63	12.47
Edinburg Acres	M1080239	54	19.97
El Charro #2	M1080240	329	19.37
Engleman Estates	M1080260	162	18.64
Hacienda De Los Vegas	M1080300	23	3.94
Harding Gill Tract	M1080305	70	4,531.66
Highway Frontage Subdivision	M1080321	75	8.78
Hillcrest Terrace	M1080326	140	25.50
Imperial Subdivision	M1080333	50	7.30
Ingle-Doolittle	M1080334	36	4.79
Isaac's Subdivision	M1080341	189	33.66
Jackson's New World Subdivision	M1080345	27	1.87
Jackson's New World Subdivision #2	M1080346	59	15.32
L. J. #1	M1080365	378	15.30
La Blanca Heights	M1080368	152	24.01
La Coma Heights	M1080371	167	84.46

Table 3-2. Colonias in the Community Study Area

Colonia Name ¹	M Number ²	Estimated Population ²	Area (acres) ¹
Laguna Park	M1080398	173	11.35
Las Brisas Estates	M1080408	59	9.06
Loma Chica Subdivision	M1080420	45	8.51
Los Cerritos Subdivision	M1080424	187	88.34
Meadow Lands	M1080458	160	37.24
Monte Cristo Heights	M1080473	72	84.49
Muniz Subdivision	M1080487	54	43.44
North Alamo Village	M1080494	382	18.32
North Santa Cruz Subdivision	M1080501	126	28.84
Owassa Road / Tower Road	M1080529	139	20.03
Palma Subdivision	M1080541	207	9.63
Palmas Subdivision #2	M1080543	97	9.23
Pecan Estates #5	M1080555	48	8.83
Puerta del Sol Subdivision	M1080570	150	19.93
Rambo Estates	M1080585	257	28.20
Ramiro Leal	M1080822	64	9.02
Rancho Nuevo Subdivision	M1080598	312	18.50
Rankin Subdivision	M1080603	77	8.80
Reina del Sol Mobile Home Estates	M1080608	72	17.48
Rodgers Road Subdivision	M1080623	36	19.32
Ruthven #1	M1080636	77	4.20
Ruthven Subdivision #2	M1080637	90	9.14
San Carlos Acres	M1080641	86	9.72
San Carlos Farms Subdivision	M1080642	41	4.33
Santa Cruz Estates	M1080649	99	9.86
Serendipity Way	M1080659	39	6.59
Seventh Street Addition Subdivision	M1080660	15	0.89
Southern Breeze Subdivision	M1080690	212	16.70
Tierra Bonita #1	M1080729	405	9.12
Tierra Bonita #2	M1080730	308	8.40
Tower Heights Subdivision	M1080746	131	18.97
Tower Road Estates	M1080847	50	4.42
Tower Subdivision	M1080747	113	18.07
Town of Faysville	M1080748	978	96.58
Towne East Subdivision #1	M1080749	113	7.94
Triple C Subdivision	M1080757	144	7.07
Tropicana	M1080759	77	8.64
Unknown 1	Unkn1	0	0.65

Table 3-2. Colonias in the Community Study Area

Colonia Name ¹	M Number ²	Estimated Population ²	Area (acres) ¹
Val Verde North Subdivision	M1080770	108	13.39
Walston Farms	M1080792	275	24.99

Sources:
(1) TNRIS 2016
(2) Texas Attorney General 2017

Note: Colonia boundary data was obtained from the Texas Natural Resources Information Board and cross referenced with the Directory of Texas Colonias that is maintained by the Texas Secretary of State (<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/border/colonias/reg-colonias/index.shtml>). Minor adjustments to colonia boundaries within the community study area were made based on recent aerial photography and Hidalgo County Appraisal District Data. Each colonia unique identification number (or M Number) and estimated population was obtained from the Border Colonia Geography Online interactive webmap found on The Attorney General of Texas website (<https://coloniadata.oag.state.tx.us/>).

1 3.3 Community Facilities

2 Public community facilities identified within the community study area includes schools, early
3 childhood daycare centers, public parks, places of worship, and various federal, state, and
4 local government buildings. Exhibits 5, 5-1 through 5-3 in Attachment A identifies community
5 facilities located within the community study area. The community study area encompasses
6 parts of three school districts, including Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District
7 (ISD), Edinburg Consolidated ISD, and Donna ISD. In addition, two charter schools and a high
8 school operated by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department are located within the community
9 study area. Edinburg Consolidated ISD serves the majority of students within the community
10 study area. Table 3-3 identifies the school/early childhood facilities located within the
11 community study area.

Table 3-3. Schools and Early Childhood Daycare Centers in the Community Study Area

Name	Location	Economically Disadvantaged Students (percent)
State of Texas	--	59.0%
Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD		
Audie Murphy Middle School	924 West Sioux Road, Alamo, TX	89.5%
Edinburg Consolidated ISD		
Carmen Avila Elementary	9205 Carmen Avila Road, Edinburg, TX	96.4%
Enedina B. Guerra Elementary	10010 North Via Fernandez, Edinburg, TX	92.7%
Hargill Elementary	13394 4 th Street, Hargill, TX	94.5%
John F. Kennedy Elementary	8610 Tex-Mex Road, Edinburg, TX	94.8%
Monte Cristo Elementary	4010 North Doolittle Road, Edinburg, TX	95.8%
San Carlos Elementary	505 South 83 rd Street, Edinburg, TX	97.4%
Villarreal Elementary	4014 North Doolittle Road, Edinburg, TX	87.7%
Harwell Middle School	9207 Carmen Avila Road, Edinburg, TX	94.8%
J. Economedes High School	1414 North Alamo Road, Edinburg, TX	92.4%
Donna ISD		
Elroy Garza Salazar Elementary	9207 Golie Road, Donna TX	89.3%
Julian S. Adame Elementary School	5001 North FM 493, Donna, TX	92.1%

Table 3-3. Schools and Early Childhood Daycare Centers in the Community Study Area

Name	Location	Economically Disadvantaged Students (percent)
Maria Alicia P Munoz Elementary School	1901 East Roosevelt Road, Donna, TX	96.5%
Patricia S. Garza Elementary School	8801 Alberta Road, Donna, TX	98.6%
Daniel Singleterry Elementary School	9113 North Val Verde Road, Donna TX	97.5%
Dora M. Saucedo Middle School	520 North Valley View Road, Donna, TX	95.1%
Veterans Middle School	2711 North Golie Road, Donna, TX	95.4%
Donna North High School	7250 North Val Verde Road, Donna, TX	96.9
Texas Juvenile Justice Department		
Lone Star High School South	3801 East Monte Cristo Road, Edinburg, TX	--
Private/Charter		
IDEA-Alamo	325 East FM 495, Alamo, TX	95.7%
Valley Christian Heritage School	932 North Alamo Road, Alamo, TX	--
Early Childhood Daycare Centers		
New Generation Child Care Center	750 North Alamo Road, Alamo, TX	--
Super Kids Academy Daycare Center	715 North Tower Road, Alamo, TX	--
Ms. Angelitos Daycare Center	3324 East FM 2812, Edinburg, TX	--
Sources: PSJA ISD 2016, Edinburg Consolidated ISD 2016, Donna ISD 2016, Idea Public Schools 2016, Google 2016, Texas Education Agency 2016, Google 2017a, Google 2017b		
Note: Schools for which no Texas Academic Performance Report was available are denoted with a "--".		

1

2 The Texas Education Agency provides Texas Academic Performance Reports which include
3 details of district and campus academic performance with financial reports and information
4 about staff, programs, and demographics. The *2015-2016 Texas Academic Performance*
5 *Reports* were not available for all the schools identified within the community study area.
6 **Table 3-3** provides the percentage of economically disadvantaged students enrolled in each
7 school, and the respective school district. Students identified as being economically
8 disadvantaged were defined as students being eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or
9 eligible for other public assistance. All schools within the community study area, with reported
10 data, contain a larger percentage of economically disadvantaged students in comparison to
11 the State of Texas.

12 Six public parks were identified within the community study area, including two within the City
13 of Edinburg, two within the City of Alamo, and two in Hidalgo County within the Hargill CDP and
14 San Carlos CDP. Public parks within the community study area are identified in **Table 3-4**.

15

Table 3-4. Public Parks in the Community Study Area

Name	Location
Hidalgo County	
Hargill Community Park	200 South Harding Avenue, Hargill, TX
Sunflower Park	SH 107/Sunflower Road Intersection, Edinburg, TX
JR "Milo" Pounce Memorial Park	3516 East FM 2812, Edinburg, TX
City of Edinburg	
Monte Cristo/Villarreal Park	4010 North Doolittle Road, Edinburg, TX
City of Alamo	
Alaniz Park	423 North Tower Rd, Alamo, TX
Robert Balli Sr. Park	804 East Nebraska Street, Alamo, TX
Sources: Hidalgo County 2016a, Hidalgo County 2016b, Hidalgo County 2016c, City of Edinburg 2016, City of Alamo 2016	

- 1 Twenty (20) places of worship were identified within the community study area. Places of
 2 worship are concentrated in the more densely populated areas of the community study area,
 3 from south of FM 1925/Monte Cristo Road to I-2/US 83. **Table 3-5** identifies the places of
 4 worship located within the community study area.

Table 3-5. Places of Worship in the Community Study Area

Name	Location
Hidalgo County	
Iglesia Bautista Maranatha	8463 East SH 107, Suite B, Edinburg, TX
St. Theresa Church	205 Jefferson Avenue, Edinburg, TX
Iglesia Casa de Dios	4020 East FM 2812, Edinburg, TX
Iglesia El Poder de Dios	5408 North Tower Rd, Edinburg, TX
Iglesia Ni Cristo	7215 E Trenton Rd, Edinburg, TX
Iglesia Congregacional Vida Nueva	7524 SH 107, Edinburg, TX
Iglesia El Divino Pastor	3112 East Efrain, Edinburg, TX
St. Joseph the Worker	8310 Highland Ave, Edinburg, TX
Salon del Reino de los Testigos de Jehova	7230 SH 107, Edinburg, TX
Templo Pentecostes Fuente del Cielo	1318 North 83 rd Street, Edinburg, TX
First Baptist Church of Hargill	FM 490, Hargill, TX
Iglesia Bautista Monte de Sion	3507 North Val Verde Road, Edinburg, TX
Iglesia Cristiana	8803 West Roosevelt Road, Edinburg, TX
Templo Biblico El Rey Ya Viene	8106 Canton Road, Edinburg, TX
City of Alamo	
Heavenly Splendor Worship	1010 SH 495, Alamo, TX
San Pablo United Methodist Church	1002 East Birch Avenue, Alamo, TX
Resurrection Catholic Church	834 East Citrus Avenue, Alamo, TX
City of Donna	
Apostolic Church	702 Murphy Avenue, Donna, TX
Templo La Hermosa	1300 East IH-2/US 83, Donna, TX
New Life Temple	667 Murphy Avenue, Donna, TX
Sources: ChurchFinder 2016a, ChurchFinder 2016b, ChurchFinder 2016c	

5

- 1 Various government buildings, consisting of U.S. post offices, Texas correctional institutions,
2 and local county and city offices and service facilities, are located within the community study
3 area. Government buildings within the community study area are identified in **Table 3-6**.

Table 3-6. Public Buildings in the Community Study Area

Name	Location
Federal	
U.S. Postal Service Alamo	423 Los Alamos Drive, Alamo, TX
U.S. Postal Service Donna	509 North Salinas Boulevard, Donna, TX
State of Texas	
Department of Criminal Justice-Lopez Jail	1203 El Cibolo Rd, Edinburg, TX
Juvenile Justice Department - Evins Regional Juvenile Center	3801 East Monte Cristo Road, Edinburg, TX
Hidalgo County	
Urban County Program	427 East Duranta Avenue, Alamo, TX
San Carlos WIC Clinic	230 North 86 th Street, Edinburg, TX
Sherriff's Office/County Jail	711 El Cibolo Road, Edinburg, TX
City of Edinburg	
Solid Waste Management	8601 North Jasman Road Edinburg, TX
South Texas International Airport at Edinburg	1300 FM 490, Edinburg, TX
Public Works	1201 North Doolittle Road, Edinburg, TX
City of Alamo	
Sargent Fernando De La Rosa Memorial Library	416 North Tower Road, Alamo, TX
Police Department/Municipal Court	423 North Tower Road, Alamo, TX
Municipal Court	502 East Duranta Alamo, TX
Fire Station Number 2	415 North Tower Road, Alamo, TX
North Alamo Water Supply	420 South Doolittle Rd, Alamo, TX
Sources: USCBP 2017, USPS 2017a, USPS 2017b, TDCJ 2017, TJJJ 2017, Hidalgo County 2017a, Hidalgo County 2017b, City of Edinburg 2017, City of Alamo 2017	

4 **3.4 Access and Travel**

5 **3.4.1 Roadway Facilities and Travel Patterns**

- 6 The predominant mode of transportation within the community study area is the private
7 automobile. The majority of the local roadway infrastructure is concentrated south of SH 107
8 and east of FM 1423/Val Verde Road, in the more densely populated section of the
9 community study area. **Table 3-7** identifies the major roadway facilities in the community study
10 area.

Table 3-7. Major Roadways in the Community Study Area

Roadway	Functional Classification / Capacity	Access
I-69C/US 281	Interstate Four-lane Divided	North/South From FM 2812 to FM 490
I-2/US 83	Interstate Six-lane Divided	East/West From FM 493 to FM 907
FM 1925 (Monte Cristo Road)	Principal Arterial Two-lane Undivided Transitioning to Four-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to Doolittle Road
SH 107	Principal Arterial Four-lane Divided	East/West From FM 493 to FM 907
FM 907 (North Alamo Road)	Minor Arterial Two-lane Undivided	North/South From I-2/US 83 to FM 1925
FM 493 (La Blanca Road)	Minor Arterial/Major Collector Four-lane Undivided Transitioning to Two-lane Undivided	North/South From I-2/US 83 to FM 490
FM 1423 (Val Verde Road)	Major Collector Two-lane Undivided	North/South From I-2/US 83 to SH 107
FM 2812	Major Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to I-69C/US 281
FM 490	Major Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to I-69C/US 281
Doolittle Road	Major Collector Two-lane Undivided	North/South From FM 1925 to FM 2812
Brushline Road	Minor Collector/Local Two-lane Undivided	North/South From FM 1925 to FM 490

Sources: HCMPO 2017

1 Within the community study area, collector and local roads provide access to the larger
2 roadways. While households and jobs are distributed throughout the community study area,
3 they are generally clustered near the major roadways. Based on the distribution of households
4 and the location of the highest concentration of full-time jobs, residents within the community
5 study area tend to travel west and south towards the cities of Alamo, Edinburg, Pharr, and San
6 Juan.

7 3.4.2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

8 While there are bicycle trails in Hidalgo County, nearly all are located outside of the community
9 study area to the south of the I-2/US 83 and west of the I-69C/US 281 corridors. Existing
10 bicycle and pedestrian facilities are limited within the community study area. A dedicated bike
11 lane is provided along Kansas Road between Alamo Road and FM 1423/Val Verde Road.
12 Otherwise, bicycle facilities within the community study area consist of striped shoulders along
13 Alamo Road, FM 1423/Val Verde Road, FM 493/La Blanca Road, SH 107, FM 1925/Monte
14 Cristo Road, and FM 2812. Similarly, sidewalks are limited to a small stretch along Kansas
15 Road from Alamo Road to Tower Road, and to two neighborhood subdivisions within the
16 community study area. Pedestrian traffic within the community study area should use low-
17 volume streets and roadway shoulders for mobility.

1 3.5 Economic and Employment

2 According to the U.S. Census Bureau's OnTheMap application, there are approximately 3,900
3 full-time jobs located within the community study area. The largest industry employers include:

- 4 • Health Care and Social Assistance (16.3 percent)
- 5 • Retail Trade (15.3 percent)
- 6 • Construction (10.6 percent)
- 7 • Wholesale Trade (9.2 percent)
- 8 • Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting (9.1 percent)

9 The highest concentration of employers is found along the I-2/US 83 corridor, which coincides
10 with the area of higher population and income. According to the *Draft Comprehensive*
11 *Economic Development Strategy for Hidalgo County 2011-2015* (published in 2010), major
12 employers in and around the community study area include schools, hospitals/medical
13 centers, public agencies, and private companies. Employment opportunities within the region
14 also benefit from its close proximity to Reynosa, Mexico and the Port of Harlingen, Port
15 Mansfield, Port Isabel/San Benito, and Port of Brownsville (Hidalgo County 2010).

16 **Table 3-8** provides the employment breakdown for the census tracts located within the
17 community study area based on U.S. Census Bureau 2012-2016 ACS data. The Hidalgo
18 County unemployment rate is at 9 percent, which is higher than the 6.4 percent
19 unemployment rate for Texas. Three of the 14 census tracts within the community study area
20 had a higher unemployment rate than Hidalgo County (Census Tract 243.02 at 34.8 percent,
21 Census Tract 235.07 at 10.1 percent, and Census Tract 235.14 at 12.6 percent), while the
22 remaining census tracts had a lower unemployment rate. Census Tract 219.04 had the lowest
23 unemployment rate at 2.4 percent.

24

1 **Table 3-8. Employment Status in the Community Study Area**

Census Geography	Population 16 years and older	Labor Force					Not in Labor Force	Percent of Civilian Labor Force Unemployed
		Total in Labor Force	Total Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Armed Forces		
Texas	20,599,223	13,312,277	13,219,523	12,371,392	848,131	92,754	7,286,946	6.4%
Hidalgo County	578,762	333,497	333,296	303,214	30,082	201	245,265	9.0%
CT 219.01	6,752	3,820	3,820	3,528	292	0	2,932	7.6%
CT 219.03	3,268	1,433	1,433	1,340	93	0	1,835	6.5%
CT 219.04	3,821	1,833	1,833	1,789	44	0	1,988	2.4%
CT 221.03	4,269	2,145	2,145	1,961	184	0	2,124	8.6%
CT 221.04	6,608	3,821	3,821	3,497	324	0	2,787	8.5%
CT 235.03	5,890	3,631	3,578	3,289	289	53	2,259	8.1%
CT 235.07	6,144	3,431	3,431	3,085	346	0	2,713	10.1%
CT 235.11	6,290	3,369	3,369	3,097	272	0	2,921	8.1%
CT 235.12	5,092	221	221	208	13	0	4,871	5.9%
CT 235.13	5,630	3,306	3,306	3,056	250	0	2,324	7.6%
CT 235.14	5,692	3,251	3,251	2,841	410	0	2,441	12.6%
CT 235.15	8,773	5,364	5,364	5,023	341	0	3,409	6.4%
CT 243.01	797	389	389	369	20	0	408	5.1%
CT 243.02	734	353	353	230	123	0	381	34.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016, Table DP03.
Abbreviation: CT, Census Tract

2

1 3.6 Population Trends

2 As shown in **Table 3-9**, the population of Hidalgo County outpaced the growth experienced by
3 the State of Texas between the years 1990 and 2010 according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
4 In addition, projected growth for the years 2020 to 2050 would continue to outpace the
5 growth projected for the State of Texas according to the Texas Demographic Center, although
6 by a closer margin.

7 **Table 3-9. Population Trends**

Year	Texas		Hidalgo County	
	Population	Percent Change by Decade	Population	Percent Change by Decade
1990 ¹	16,986,510	--	383,545	--
2000 ²	20,851,820	22.8	569,463	48.5
2010 ³	25,145,561	20.6	774,769	36.1
2020 ⁴	28,813,282	14.6	948,305	22.4
2030 ⁴	32,680,217	13.4	1,145,413	20.8
2040 ⁴	36,550,595	11.8	1,345,740	17.5
2050 ⁴	40,502,749	10.8	1,553,142	15.4

Sources:

- (1) U.S. Census Bureau 1990. Table CP-1-45.
- (2) U.S. Census Bureau 2000. Table DP-1.
- (3) U.S. Census Bureau 2010. Table P9.
- (4) Texas Demographic Center 2017.

Note: The 2020-2050 population projections assume a population change because of migration at a rate of 1/2 of the 2000-2010 migration rate and also reflects changes due to natural increase (births and deaths). The 0.5 scenario is typically used for long range projections depending on the characteristics of the area being reviewed.

8 3.7 Race and Ethnicity

9 According to the U.S. Census Bureau, minority data is collected by two main population
10 categories, race and Hispanic/Latino origin, following guidance of the *U.S. Office of*
11 *Management and Budget's 1997 Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal*
12 *Data on Race and Ethnicity* (Federal Register Vol. 62, No. 210). This guidance mandates that
13 race and Hispanic/Latino origin (ethnicity) are separate and distinct concepts.

14 **Racial Groups** include the following breakdown (U.S. Census Bureau 2011):

- 15 Caucasian or White (having origins from Europe);
- 16 African American or Black (having origins from any of the racial groups of Africa);
- 17 Asian-American (having origins from any place of the original peoples of the Far East,
- 18 Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent);

1 American Indian and Alaskan Native (having origins from any of the original people of
2 North America, Central America, or South America and now maintaining cultural
3 identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition); or
4 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (having origins in any of the original
5 peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands).

6 People that did not self-report as belonging to any one of the groups listed above were
7 categorized as “other races” or “persons reporting two or more races” by the U.S. Census
8 Bureau.

9 **Hispanic/Latino Groups** include the following breakdown (U.S. Census Bureau 2011):

10 Hispanic/Latino (having origins from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central or South
11 America, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race);

12 These two main population categories were used to determine the percentage of the total
13 population that self-reported as a minority for each census tract or block group analyzed.

14 According to U.S. Census Bureau 2012-2016 ACS data, the community study area captures
15 either entirely or parts of 14 census tracts and 29 census block groups (see **Exhibit 6** in
16 **Attachment A**). All 14 census tracts and 27 of 29 census block groups identify a minority
17 population exceeding 50 percent. Although the minority population percentage for the
18 community study area is higher than the minority population percentage for the State of Texas,
19 minority populations within the community study area are comparable to the minority
20 population identified for Hidalgo County. **Table 3-10** identifies the racial and ethnic
21 composition of the population within the community study area. Census block groups where
22 the minority population is less than 50 percent include Census Tract 219.01, Block Group 1;
23 and Census Tract 221.03, Block Group 3.

24 **3.8 Income and Poverty**

25 The 2017 national poverty level, as defined by the *2017 DHHS Poverty Guidelines* is \$24,600
26 for a family of four (DHHS 2017). **Table 3-11** shows median household income and poverty
27 characteristics within the community study area. According to U.S. Census Bureau 2012-2016
28 ACS data, median household income for the State of Texas (\$54,727) is significantly higher
29 than median household income in Hidalgo County (\$36,094) and the community study area
30 (\$29,844). Within the community study area, low-income populations are largely
31 concentrated in the southern and northern sections, but occur throughout (see **Exhibit 6** in
32 **Attachment A**).

Table 3-10. Racial and Ethnic Distribution in the Community Study Area

Census Geography	Total Population	Not Hispanic or Latino Percentage (percent)							Hispanic/ Latino Percentage (percent)	Total Minority Population (percent)
		Caucasian/ White	Black/ African American	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Other Race	Two or More Races		
Texas	26,956,435	43.4%	11.6%	0.2%	4.3%	<0.1%	0.1%	1.6%	38.6%	56.6%
Hidalgo County	828,334	6.9%	0.4%	<0.1%	0.9%	<0.1%	<0.1%	0.2%	91.5%	93.1%
Community Study Area	88,360	6.1%	1.0%	<0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	<0.1%	0.0%	92.7%	93.9%
CT 219.01	9,579	9.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	90.5%	90.6%
BG 1	866	61.7%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	36.8%	38.3%
BG 2	1,988	10.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	89.9%	89.9%
BG 3	3,562	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	99.3%	99.3%
BG 4	3,163	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	95.7%	95.7%
CT 219.03	4,575	3.7%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	96.0%	96.3%
BG 1	1,313	9.9%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	89.0%	90.1%
BG 3	1,521	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	99.3%	99.3%
CT 219.04	4,904	14.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	85.3%	85.8%
BG 1	1,662	33.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	66.1%	66.1%
BG 2	2,278	2.1%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	96.8%	97.9%
CT 221.03	5,860	14.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	84.6%	85.1%
BG 1	1,424	15.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	84.3%	84.3%
BG 2	3,863	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	94.7%	94.7%
BG 3	573	77.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.9%	0.0%	17.5%	22.3%
CT 221.04	11,504	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	98.2%	98.2%
BG 1	8,254	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	98.3%	98.3%
BG 2	3,250	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	98.0%	98.0%
CT 235.03	8,795	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	98.9%	98.9%
BG 1	3,091	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	98.1%	98.1%
CT 235.07	9,036	3.1%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	96.1%	96.9%
BG 1	3,063	5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	94.2%	94.2%

Table 3-10. Racial and Ethnic Distribution in the Community Study Area

Census Geography	Total Population	Not Hispanic or Latino Percentage (percent)							Hispanic/Latino Percentage (percent)	Total Minority Population (percent)
		Caucasian/White	Black/African American	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Other Race	Two or More Races		
BG 2	2,545	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	95.9%	95.9%
BG 3	3,428	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	98.1%	100%
CT 235.11	10,570	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	97.6%	98.1%
BG 1	5,771	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	99.0%	99.0%
BG 2	3,537	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	98.4%	78.4%
CT 235.12	5,148	15.0%	15.1%	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	68.4%	85.0%
BG 1	5,148	15.0%	15.1%	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	68.4%	85.0%
CT 235.13	8,907	4.0%	0.4%	0.3%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	94.7%	96.0%
BG 1	2,327	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	98.6%	98.6%
BG 3	2,835	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	98.1%	99.0%
CT 235.14	8,257	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	93.4%	93.4%
BG 1	4,644	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	98.8%	98.8%
BG 2	1,140	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%	100%
BG 3	2,473	19.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	80.3%	80.3%
CT 235.15	12,502	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	95.5%	95.5%
BG 1	4,057	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	93.8%	93.8%
BG 2	8,445	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	96.4%	96.4%
CT 243.01	1,137	19.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	80.3%	80.3%
BG 1	1,137	19.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	80.3%	80.3%
CT 243.02	1,002	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	94.9%	94.9%
BG 1	1,002	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	94.9%	94.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016, Table B02003.

Notes:

- (1) Community study area is based on all included census block groups
- (2) Census block groups that are bold are below 50 percent.

Abbreviations: CT, Census Tract; BG, Block Group

Table 3-11. Median Household Income and Poverty Characteristics in the Community Study Area

Census Geography	Median Household Income ^{4,3}	Population for Those Whose Poverty Status is Determined ²	Persons below Poverty ²	Percentage of Population below Poverty Level ²
Texas	\$54,727	26,334,005	4,397,307	16.7%
Hidalgo County	\$36,094	817,554	267,812	32.8%
Community Study Area ^{a, b}	\$29,844	83,547	35,059	42.0%
CT 219.01	\$29,592	9,579	4,029	42.1%
BG 1	\$36,250	866	53	6.1%
BG 2	\$31,422	1,988	489	24.6%
BG 3	\$29,719	3,562	2,191	61.5%
BG 4	\$20,872	3,163	1,296	41.0%
CT 219.03	\$27,212	4,542	1,577	34.7%
BG 1	\$33,594	1,284	376	29.3%
BG 3	\$14,330	1,521	942	61.9%
CT 219.04	\$36,747	4,904	1,533	31.3%
BG 1	\$39,033	1,662	197	11.9%
BG 2	\$33,491	2,278	788	34.6%
CT 221.03	\$25,673	5,860	1,994	34.0%
BG 1	--	1,424	310	21.8%
BG 2	\$19,444	3,863	1,594	41.3%
BG 3	\$28,438	573	90	15.7%
CT 221.04	\$27,579	11,504	6,512	56.6%
BG 1	\$22,522	8,254	5,319	64.4%
BG 2	\$41,667	3,250	1,193	36.7%
CT 235.03	\$40,909	8,795	1,977	22.5%
BG 1	\$36,875	3,091	663	21.4%
CT 235.07	\$25,613	9,036	3,532	39.1%
BG 1	\$28,917	3,063	814	26.6%
BG 2	--	2,545	1,175	46.2%
BG 3	--	3,428	1,543	45.0%
CT 235.11	\$28,993	10,551	5,272	50.0%
BG 1	\$25,768	5,752	2,934	51.0%
BG 2	\$27,393	3,537	1,825	51.6%
CT 235.12	\$23,906	383	131	34.2%
BG 1	\$23,906	383	131	34.2%
CT 235.13	\$29,786	8,907	3,930	44.1%
BG 1	\$30,357	2,327	1,015	43.6%
BG 3	--	2,835	1,169	41.2%

Table 3-11. Median Household Income and Poverty Characteristics in the Community Study Area

Census Geography	Median Household Income ^{4,3}	Population for Those Whose Poverty Status is Determined ²	Persons below Poverty ²	Percentage of Population below Poverty Level ²
CT 235.14	\$26,478	8,257	4,111	49.8%
BG 1	\$27,434	4,644	2,605	56.1%
BG 2	\$33,500	1,140	299	26.2%
BG 3	\$23,582	2,473	1,207	48.8%
CT 235.15	\$37,422	12,502	4,062	32.5%
BG 1	\$38,750	4,057	984	24.3%
BG 2	\$37,123	8,445	3,078	36.4%
CT 243.01	\$47,679	1,137	197	17.3%
BG 1	\$47,679	1,137	197	17.3%
CT 243.02	\$21,033	1,002	582	58.1%
BG 1	\$21,033	1,002	582	58.1%

Sources:

- (1) U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016, Table B19013.
- (2) U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016, Table B17021.
- (3) U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016, Table B11016.

Notes:

- a) Community study area median household income based on the weighted average of median household incomes of included census block groups with the median household income calculated by median household income and total households.
- b) Community study area is based on all included census block groups.
- c) Bold median household income data are those census geographies below \$24,600.
- d) Bold percentage of population below poverty level are those census geographies above 50 percent.
- e) “—” denotes that no medium household income is calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau

Abbreviations: CT, Census Tract; BG, Block Group

1

2 Another measure for low-income is the percentage of persons below the poverty level. Low-

3 income populations should be identified where the low-income population of the affected area

4 exceeds 50 percent. **Table 3-11** shows the poverty rates for Hidalgo County (32.8 percent)

5 and the community study area (42.0 percent) are approximately double the poverty rate for

6 the State of Texas (16.7 percent). Two of the 14 census tracts, and seven of the 29 census

7 block groups, have an estimated median household income below the 2017 DHHS poverty

8 guideline for family of four. Note that the U.S. Census Bureau did not calculated an estimated

9 median household income for four of the 29 census block groups. The percentage of the

10 persons below the poverty level exceeds 50 percent in three of the 14 census tracts and seven

11 of the 29 census block groups.

12 As indicated in **Table 3-3**, there is a high percentage of students who are considered to be

13 economically disadvantaged in the community study area. A direct correlation to where an

1 individual student resides is not available, but this data is further proof of the low-income
2 status of much of the community study area.

3 **3.9 Limited English Proficiency**

4 **Table 3-12** shows the percentage of the population 5 years and older that speaks English less
5 than “very well.” According to U.S. Census Bureau 2012-2016 ACS data, LEP populations
6 within the community study area range from 0 to 45.1 percent, with all census tracts exhibiting
7 LEP populations greater than 5 percent. Access to information and participation regarding the
8 development of the three reasonable alternatives have been conducted to help inform LEP
9 populations since 2008 in compliance with EO 13166.

Table 3-12. Population 5 Years and Over That Speaks English Less Than “Very Well” in the Community Study Area

Census Geography	Population 5 years and older	English Only	Spanish	Other Indo-European	Asian and Pacific Islander	Other	Speak English Less Than Very Well
Texas	24,984,574 9	64.8%	29.5%	2.1%	2.8%	0.8%	14.1%
Hidalgo County	748,112	15.4%	83.5%	0.3%	0.8%	<0.1%	31.7%
Community Study Area	79,700	13.1%	26.8%	0.0%	<0.1%	<0.1%	32.5%
CT 219.01	8,522	15.0%	24.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	31.3%
BG 1	866	60.4%	35.2%	0.0%	0.0%	4.4%	16.1%
BG 2	1,733	22.0%	78.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	28.0%
BG 3	3,053	5.6%	94.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.4%
BG 4	2,870	7.2%	92.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	36.7%
CT 219.03	4,076	15.8%	84.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	35.1%
BG 1	1,172	23.5%	76.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	37.5%
BG 3	1,338	13.6%	86.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	39.8%
CT 219.04	4,649	17.9%	82.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	29.6%
BG 1	1,609	35.8%	64.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.2%
BG 2	2,190	7.5%	92.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	29.7%
CT 221.03	5,319	19.6%	80.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	30.0%
BG 1	1,322	21.6%	78.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	24.0%
BG 2	3,424	8.2%	91.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	37.4%
BG 3	573	82.9%	17.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
CT 221.04	10,167	4.3%	95.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.0%
BG 1	7,328	2.6%	97.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	34.5%
BG 2	2,839	8.7%	91.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.7%
CT 235.03	7,883	9.5%	90.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.9%

Table 3-12. Population 5 Years and Over That Speaks English Less Than “Very Well” in the Community Study Area

Census Geography	Population 5 years and older	English Only	Spanish	Other Indo-European	Asian and Pacific Islander	Other	Speak English Less Than Very Well
BG 1	2,856	16.6%	83.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	29.0%
CT 235.07	8,116	12.1%	87.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	37.9%
BG 1	2,780	12.2%	87.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	38.7%
BG 2	2,358	10.9%	89.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	35.9%
BG 3	2,978	12.9%	87.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	38.7%
CT 235.11	9,166	7.5%	91.9%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	38.1%
BG 1	4,870	3.0%	97.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	43.9%
BG 2	3,198	14.4%	85.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	34.2%
CT 235.12	5,122	35.9%	62.4%	0.8%	0.7%	0.3%	22.0%
BG 1	5,122	35.9%	62.4%	0.8%	0.7%	0.3%	22.0%
CT 235.13	7,674	15.7%	83.6%	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%	31.1%
BG 1	1,955	7.9%	92.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.4%
BG 3	2,406	8.0%	92.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	37.7%
CT 235.14	7,618	11.2%	88.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	36.2%
BG 1	4,253	3.3%	96.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	45.1%
BG 2	1,008	6.9%	93.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	42.2%
BG 3	2,357	27.5%	72.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	17.6%
CT 235.15	11,282	8.5%	91.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.4%
BG 1	3,786	7.9%	92.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.5%
BG 2	7,496	8.9%	91.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.4%
CT 243.01	1,010	29.2%	70.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.4%
BG 1	1,010	29.2%	70.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.4%
CT 243.02	950	9.9%	90.1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	18.9%
BG 1	950	9.9%	90.1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	18.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016, Table B16004.

Notes:

- a) Community study area is based on all included census block groups.
- b) Data for those that speak English less than very well includes those who speak English “well”, “not well”, and “not at all” according to the U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016.

Abbreviations: CT, Census Tract; BG, Block Group

1 3.10 Other Characteristics

2 **Table 3-13** provides an age-related breakdown for the population within the community study
3 area. The percentage of persons age 17 and under within Hidalgo County and the community
4 study area is comparable; however, is higher for both in comparison to the State of Texas. The
5 percentage of persons age 65 and over is similar among the State of Texas, Hidalgo County,

1 and the community study area. The median age for the State of Texas is slightly higher in
2 comparison to Hidalgo County and the community study area.

3 **Table 3-13. Age in the Community Study Area**

Census Geography	Persons for Whom Age is Determined ¹	Persons Age 17 and Younger ¹ (percentage)	Persons Age 65 and Over ¹ (percentage)	Median Age ²
Texas	26,956,435	7,132,476 (26.5%)	3,096,567 (11.5%)	35.2
Hidalgo County	828,334	279,428 (33.7%)	85,910 (10.4%)	30.2
CT 219.01	9,579	3,113 (32.5%)	1,149 (12.0%)	27.0
CT 219.03	4,575	1,326 (29.0%)	936 (20.5%)	37.6
CT 219.04	4,904	1,276 (26.0%)	1,008 (20.6%)	41.9
CT 221.03	5,860	1,726 (29.5%)	1,151(19.6%)	33.6
CT 221.04	11,504	5,368 (46.7%)	427 (3.7%)	20.4
CT 235.03	8,795	3,559 (40.5%)	574 (6.5%)	26.2
CT 235.07	9,036	3,094 (34.2%)	730 (8.1%)	26.6
CT 235.11	10,570	4,878 (46.1%)	513 (4.9%)	22.3
CT 235.12	5,148	76 (1.5%)	76 (1.5%)	32.9
CT 235.13	8,907	3,675 (41.3%)	461 (5.2%)	21.5
CT 235.14	8,257	2,951 (35.7%)	596 (7.2%)	23.9
CT 235.15	12,502	4,228 (33.8%)	628 (5.0%)	26.9
CT 243.01	1,137	367 (32.3%)	171 (15.0%)	36.6
CT 243.02	1,002	299 (29.8%)	246 (24.6%)	40.2

Sources:

(1) U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016, Table B01001.

(2) U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016, Table B01002.

Abbreviations: CT, Census Tract; BG, Block Group

4
5 The U.S. Census Bureau collects data on the population with disabilities at the county and city
6 level. **Table 3-14** shows the percentage of the population with disability for the census
7 geographies within the community study area. According to the U.S. Census Bureau data, the
8 percentage of the population with disability is similar among the State of Texas, Hidalgo
9 County, and the census geographies within the community study area.

10

1 **Table 3-14. Disability Status of Civilian, Non-Institutionalized Population in the Community**
2 **Study Area**

Census Geography	Population for Whom Disability is Determined	With Disability	Percentage with Disability
Texas	26,478,868	3,083,141	11.6%
Hidalgo County	820,004	109,678	13.4%
City of Alamo	19,021	2,559	13.5%
City of Donna	16,349	2,493	15.2%
Doolittle CDP	3,463	272	7.9%
City of Edinburg	83,953	8,808	10.5%
Faysville CDP	499	16	3.2%
Hargill CDP	543	161	29.7%
La Blanca CDP	2,170	349	16.1%
Muniz CDP	1,574	175	11.1%
San Carlos CDP	3,112	514	16.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016, Table DP02.
Abbreviation: CDP, Census Designated Place

3 **4.0 ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES**

4 In order to provide a concise assessment of the three reasonable alternatives, **Section 4.1**
5 analyzes the potential impacts on the local communities and on the socioeconomic/EJ
6 locations within the community study area. Specific information regarding community impacts
7 examines ROW and potential displacements, community cohesion, as well as access and
8 travel patterns. Specific information regarding socioeconomic examines, EJ areas, LEP
9 populations, as well as economic and employment conditions. **Section 4.2** analyzes the
10 potential impacts of the No Build Alternative regarding the local communities and
11 socioeconomic/EJ locations.

12 **4.1 Potential Right-of-Way and Displacements**

13 The proposed ROW for each of the three reasonable alternatives is 350 feet wide, widening
14 to 400 feet wide at anticipated interchanges. The 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM
15 Alternative would occur almost entirely on new location, whereas the FM 1423 PSM
16 Alternative generally follows the existing FM 1423/Val Verde Road roadway to FM
17 1925/Monte Cristo Road before merging with the 2014 PSM Alternative on new location. The
18 estimated ROW requirements for each of the three reasonable alternatives is identified in
19 **Table 4-1.**

1 **Table 4-1. Estimated Potential ROW**

2014 Modified 2 Alternative (acres)	2014 PSM Alternative (acres)	FM 1423 PSM Alternative (acres)
1,057	1,067	1,061

2

3 Potential displacements are identified in **Table 4-2. Exhibits 7, 7-1 through 7-13** in **Attachment**
4 **A** provide the location of the potential building displacements for the three reasonable
5 alternatives.

6 **Table 4-2. Estimated Potential Building Displacements**

Building Type	2014 Modified 2 Alternative		2014 PSM Alternative		FM 1423 PSM Alternative	
	Within ROW	Within 50- feet of ROW	Within ROW	Within 50- feet of ROW	Within ROW	Within 50- feet of ROW
Primary Building						
Residential – Single-Family	102	30	90	27	119	27
Commercial Facility	8	4	5	3	29	5
Industrial Facility	2	--	1	--	2	--
Waste Management Facility	--	--	--	--	1	--
Subtotal	112	34	96	30	151	32
Outbuildings						
Residential Outbuildings	178	52	158	43	156	43
Commercial Outbuildings	15	5	10	4	35	16
Industrial Outbuildings	4	2	1	2	3	2
Waste Management Outbuildings	--	--	--	--	3	--
Public Uses						
Public Use – Transformer	1	--	--	--	1	--
Public Use – Irrigation Feature	--	--	--	--	1	1
Public Use – Irrigation Outfall	12	4	10	10	7	5
Subtotal	210	63	179	59	206	67
Total	322	97	275	89	358	99

7

8 As shown in **Table 4-2**, the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative would potentially displace an
9 estimated 102 residences and eight businesses, the 2014 PSM Alternative would potentially
10 displace an estimated 90 residences and five businesses, and the FM 1423 PSM Alternative

1 would potentially displace an estimated 119 residences and 29 businesses. Because
2 sections of proposed ROW for the three reasonable alternatives overlap in some areas,
3 potential displacements shared among them include:

- 4 • 68 primary residential structures and five primary commercial structures between the
5 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative;
- 6 • 11 primary residential structures between the 2014 PSM Alternative and FM 1423
7 PSM Alternative; and
- 8 • One primary commercial structure among all three reasonable alternatives.

9 Residential displacements consist of single-family dwellings. No multi-family residential units
10 would be displaced by any of the three reasonable alternatives. Potential displacements occur
11 throughout the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative. For the 2014 PSM Alternative, potential
12 displacements are generally concentrated between I-2/US 83 and FM 2812. The majority of
13 potential displacements for the FM 1423 PSM Alternative occur between I-2/US 83 and SH
14 107, along the existing FM 1423 facility.

15 In accordance with 23 United States Code 139, specific mitigation measures for potentially
16 displaced residences and businesses would be developed for the preferred alternative and
17 disclosed in the FEIS. TxDOT would confirm if any of the potential building displacements
18 qualify as U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 8 low-income housing
19 for the preferred alternative and disclosed in the FEIS. Hidalgo County Appraisal District data
20 would be collected to determine relative cost impacts of potential ROW acquisition and
21 potential building displacements. Additionally, available internet data for comparable homes
22 or businesses for sale would be conducted to determine the relative costs impacts of the
23 potential building displacements.

24 To ensure that decent, safe, and sanitary housing would be available to all displaced persons,
25 TxDOT's Relocation Assistance Program would be made available to all eligible individuals and
26 families impacted by any of the three reasonable alternatives. For those identified properties
27 and/or buildings, TxDOT would negotiate with the owner on a case-by-case basis to reach an
28 agreed compensation. The acquisition of properties and/or buildings would be conducted in
29 accordance with the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition
30 Policies Act of 1970 (49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 24), as amended, and Texas
31 Administrative Code, Title 10 Subtitle E Chapter 2206 – Subchapter A to ensure that each
32 property and/or building owner is treated fairly, consistently, and equitably. Relocation
33 resources would be made available to all eligible displaced persons without discrimination,
34 and consistent with the requirements of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Housing and
35 Urban Development Act of 1974 (12 United States Code 1706e). TxDOT staff would conduct

- 1 individual interviews with residents to be displaced during the ROW acquisition phase to
2 determine if any special accommodations would need to be made to facilitate relocation.
- 3 Tenants renting an apartment or duplex unit for a minimum of 90 days are entitled to rental
4 assistance payments for monthly rent and the estimated average monthly cost of utilities.
5 Rental assistance for low-income tenants is provided for those who qualify for the U.S.
6 Department of Housing and Urban Development's Annual Survey of Income Limits for the
7 Public Housing and Section 8 Programs (HUD 2005). Considerations for renters receiving a
8 Section 8 Existing Housing Certificate or a Housing Voucher are offered through TxDOT Rental
9 Assistance Program. Displaced tenants would have the opportunity to discuss program
10 eligibility options with a TxDOT relocation counselor.
- 11 Housing data was collected to determine the make-up of Hidalgo County and the community
12 study area, versus the specific areas affected by the three reasonable alternatives regarding
13 potential building displacements. According to U.S. Census Bureau 2012-2016 ACS data, 12
14 census tracts and 16 block groups within the community study area have a percentage of
15 vacant housing units above 10 percent (see **Table 4-3**). The percentage of vacant housing
16 units for the community study area (13.8 percent) is slightly higher in comparison to the State
17 of Texas (11.0 percent) and Hidalgo County (13.0 percent). Many of the vacant housing units
18 found within the community study area could be used to accommodate displaced residents
19 or be re-purposed for business uses.

Table 4-3. Housing Units and Vacancy Rates in the Community Study Area

Census Geography	Total Housing Units ¹	Occupied Housing Units ¹	Owner-Occupied Housing Units ²	Renter-Occupied Housing Units ²	Vacant Housing Units ¹	Percentage of Vacant Housing Units ¹
Texas	10,441,643	9,289,554	5,747,458	3,542,096	1,152,089	11.0%
Hidalgo County	261,496	227,477	154,244	73,233	34,019	13.0%
Community Study Area	23,704	20,422	18,667	5,178	3,282	13.8%
CT 219.01	2,955	2,372	2,056	316	583	19.7%
BG 1	767	363	--	--	404	52.7%
BG 2	711	646	--	--	65	9.1%
BG 3	725	686	--	--	39	5.4%
BG 4	752	677	--	--	75	10.0%
CT 219.03	1,593	1,410	987	423	183	11.5%
BG 1	395	358	--	--	37	9.4%
BG 3	617	521	--	--	96	15.6%
CT 219.04	1,696	1,489	1,151	338	207	12.2%
BG 1	731	633	--	--	98	13.4%
BG 3	633	613	--	--	20	3.2%
CT 221.03	2,395	1,901	1,067	834	494	20.6%
BG 1	515	441	--	--	74	14.4%
BG 2	1,217	1,136	--	--	81	6.7%
BG 3	663	324	--	--	339	51.1%
CT 221.04	2,675	2,286	2,022	264	389	14.5%

Table 4-3. Housing Units and Vacancy Rates in the Community Study Area

Census Geography	Total Housing Units ¹	Occupied Housing Units ¹	Owner-Occupied Housing Units ²	Renter-Occupied Housing Units ²	Vacant Housing Units ¹	Percentage of Vacant Housing Units ¹
BG 1	1,882	1,600	--	--	282	15.0%
BG 2	793	686	--	--	107	13.5%
CT 235.03	2,493	2,202	1,639	563	291	11.7%
BG 1	907	806	--	--	101	11.1%
CT 235.07	2,621	2,272	1,719	553	349	13.3%
BG 1	903	816	--	--	87	9.6%
BG 2	864	704	--	--	160	18.5%
BG 3	854	752	--	--	102	11.9%
CT 235.11	2,571	2,227	1,856	371	344	13.4%
BG 1	1,229	1,131	--	--	98	8.0%
BG 2	853	751	--	--	102	12.0%
CT 235.12	151	132	111	21	19	12.6%
BG 1	151	132	--	--	19	12.6%
CT 235.13	2,119	2,058	1,714	344	61	2.9%
BG 1	616	572	--	--	44	7.1%
BG 3	595	578	--	--	17	2.9%
CT 235.14	2,214	2,035	1,549	486	179	8.1%
BG 1	1,168	1,076	--	--	92	7.9%
BG 2	331	304	--	--	27	8.2%
BG 3	715	655	--	--	60	8.4%
CT 235.15	3,072	2,744	2,253	491	328	10.7%
BG 1	1,153	937	--	--	216	18.7%
BG 2	1,919	1,807	--	--	112	5.8%
CT 243.01	535	368	261	107	167	31.2%
BG 1	535	368	--	--	167	31.2%
CT 243.02	510	349	282	67	161	31.6%
BG 1	510	349	--	--	161	31.6%

Sources:
(1) U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016, Table B25002.
(2) U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016, Table DP04.

Notes:
a) Community study area is based on all included census block groups.
b) Owner-occupied housing and renter-occupied housing unit data is not available at the block group level for U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2012-2016.

Abbreviations: CT, Census Tract; BG, Block Group

1 4.2 Community Cohesion

2 There can be many barriers to community cohesion, including wide roadways, railroad tracks,
3 airports, rivers, mountains, etc. The most common barrier to community cohesion within the
4 community study area are roadways, such as I-2/US 83, I-69C/US 281, FM 1925/Monte
5 Cristo Road, SH 107, FM 3461/Earling Road, and SH 495/Kansas Road. The second most
6 common barrier to community cohesion within the community study area are the irrigation
7 canals/drainage ways that convey water within Hidalgo County. Traditional residential
8 neighborhoods and colonias occur throughout the community study area. Most residential
9 development consists of subdivided large-acre lots fronting along the local roadway network,
10 including collector and arterial roadways. Using HCAD data and historic aerial photography

1 (1980 to 2017), traditional residential neighborhoods, including colonias, were identified as
 2 subdivided tracts of land consisting of low-density single-family residences with demonstrated
 3 unifying characteristics, including similar housing styles, lot size, and shared access along a
 4 dedicated local street within the subdivision. Identified neighborhoods and colonias crossed
 5 by the three reasonable alternatives are identified in **Table 4-4**, with potential impacts to
 6 community cohesion discussed below. The location of potentially impacted neighborhoods,
 7 including colonias, is depicted on **Exhibits 4, 4-1** through **4-3** in **Attachment A**.

Table 4-4. Neighborhoods Crossed

Communities Crossed	2014 Modified 2 Alternative		2014 PSM Alternative		FM 1423 PSM Alternative	
	Displacements within ROW	Impact	Displacements within ROW	Impact	Displacements within ROW	Impact
Pastos Verdes	--	--	--	--	0 of 16	Clip
Valverde Heights	1 of 36	Clip	1 of 36	Clip	--	--
Overland Park, Phase 1	--	--	--	--	7 of 43	Clip
San Joaquin	--	--	--	--	1 of 208	Clip
Miaz Acres	--	--	--	--	1 of 5	Clip
Alve	--	--	--	--	12 of 23	Bisect
San Pablo	4 of 42	Clip	4 of 42	Clip	--	--
Palmito Estates, Unit 1	--	--	--	--	4 of 30	Clip
Palmito Estates, Unit 2	--	--	--	--	8 of 52	Clip
Bally's Estates	1 of 66	Clip	1 of 66	Clip	--	--
San Martin	--	--	--	--	0 of 3	Clip
Iowa Gardens, Phase 2	0 of 51	Clip	0 of 51	Clip	--	--
Holly Estates, No. 2	9 of 33	Bisect	9 of 33	Bisect	--	--
Magnolia Village	12 of 46	Bisect	12 of 46	Bisect	--	--
San Carlos Estates, Unit 2	10 of 36	Bisect	10 of 36	Bisect	--	--
Rincon de Ecinos, No. 4	--	--	5 of 28	Bisect	--	--
Cardinal Reef	--	--	13 of 34	Bisect	--	--
Cardinal Point	0 of 31	Clip	--	--	--	--
Santa Cruz Ranches	11 of 61	Bisect	--	--	--	--
Rancho los Papalotes, No. 1	3 of 23	Bisect	--	--	--	--
Border Town, No. 2 (Permitted)	--	--	27 of 116 ¹	Bisect	22 of 116 ¹	Bisect
Val Verde North (Colonia)	--	--	--	--	9 of 18	Clip
Ebony Acres (Colonia)	--	--	--	--	0 of 12	Clip

Note: (1) Permitted Parcels

8 The 2014 Modified 2 Alternative would bisect five of the 10 neighborhoods crossed, and clip
 9 the remaining five. No colonias would be affected by the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative. The
 10 2014 PSM Alternative would bisect six of the 10 neighborhoods crossed, and clip the
 11 remaining four. No colonias would be affected by the 2014 PSM Alternative. The FM 1423
 12 PSM Alternative would bisect two of the 11 neighborhoods crossed and clip the remaining
 13 nine, including two colonias. The FM 1423 PSM Alternative would clip the Val Verde North and
 14 Ebony Acres colonias. Those neighborhoods that are bisected by any of the three reasonable
 15 alternatives would likely result in community cohesion impacts since access across residential
 16 areas would be severed. However, those neighborhoods that are clipped by any of the three
 17 reasonable alternatives, including two colonias clipped by the FM 1423 Alternative, would not

1 likely experience community cohesion impacts since access across residential areas would
2 be preserved. As a part of the public involvement/outreach efforts conducted, local residents
3 expressed concerns regarding property access and building displacements, which are related
4 to community cohesion (see **Section 7** for additional detail).

5 **4.3 Community Facilities**

6 None of the three reasonable alternatives would result in relocations of community facilities.
7 Existing access to these facilities would be maintained and the three reasonable alternatives
8 would provide additional access by providing an alternative route to existing roadways.

9 **4.4 Access and Travel Patterns**

10 **4.4.1 Roadway Access and Travel Patterns**

11 Construction of any of the three reasonable alternatives would require temporary detours
12 during various phases of construction. Detours and/or road closures could result in a
13 temporary increase in travel times for local residents. However, access to adjacent properties
14 would be maintained during construction.

15 The *SH 68 Traffic Forecasting Technical Memo* anticipates increased traffic volumes on nearly
16 all of the north/south parallel facilities and east/west cross street facilities in the community
17 study area by year 2035. Average annual growth rates range from -0.5 to 5.9 percent, with an
18 average growth rate of 2.4 percent, for the north/south parallel facilities. Average annual
19 growth rates range from -1.2 to 6.8 percent, with an average growth rate of 2.5 percent, for
20 the east/west cross street facilities (TxDOT 2015b).

21 An analysis of the three reasonable alternatives was performed to identify potential impacts
22 to existing access and travel patterns within the community study area. (see **Table 4-5**).

23

Table 4-5. Potential Changes to Access and Travel Patterns in the Community Study Area

Roadway	Functional Classification ¹ / Capacity	Existing Access	2014 Modified 2 Alternative	2014 PSM Alternative	FM 1423 PSM Alternative
I-2/US 83	Interstate Six-lane Divided	East/West From FM 493 to FM 907	Direct Access via Flyover	Direct Access via Flyover	Direct Access via Flyover
Ferguson/Kansas Road	Major Collector Two-lane Undivided Transitioning to Four-lane Undivided	East/West From Billman Road to FM 907	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained
Sioux Road	Major Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From Goolie Road to FM 907	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to Ferguson Road. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.0 mile to Nolana Loop.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to Ferguson Road. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.0 mile to Nolana Loop.	Access Maintained
Earling Road/Nolana Loop	Major Collector/Minor Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From Goolie Road to FM 907	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained
Minnesota Road	Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From Goolie Road to FM 907 Current through access severed by irrigation canal.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to Nolana Loop. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to Owassa Road.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to Nolana Loop. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to Owassa Road.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to Earling Road. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to Roosevelt Road.
Roosevelt/Owassa Road	Major Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to FM 907	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained
Alberta Road	Minor Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From irrigation canal to FM 907	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained

Table 4-5. Potential Changes to Access and Travel Patterns in the Community Study Area

Roadway	Functional Classification ¹ / Capacity	Existing Access	2014 Modified 2 Alternative	2014 PSM Alternative	FM 1423 PSM Alternative
Trenton Road	Minor Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From CR 5861 to FM 907	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained
Wisconsin Road	Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From CR 5861 to FM 907 Current through access severed by irrigation canal.	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained
Canton Road	Proposed Major Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to FM 907 Current through access severed by irrigation canal.	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained
Mile 15 North Road	Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to FM 907 Current through access severed by irrigation canal.	Access Maintained Current through access severed by existing irrigation canal.	Access Maintained Current through access severed by existing irrigation canal.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to Canton Road. Westbound access rerouted via CR 5861 approximately 0.5 mile to Canton Road.
Texas Road	Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From South 83 rd Street to FM 907 Current through access severed by irrigation canal.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.0 mile to Canton Road. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.1 miles to SH 107.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.0 mile to Canton Road. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.1 miles to SH 107.	Access Maintained

Table 4-5. Potential Changes to Access and Travel Patterns in the Community Study Area

Roadway	Functional Classification ¹ / Capacity	Existing Access	2014 Modified 2 Alternative	2014 PSM Alternative	FM 1423 PSM Alternative
East Curve Road	Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From irrigation canal to FM 907	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.2 miles to Canton Road. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.0 mile to SH 107.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.2 miles to Canton Road. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.0 mile to SH 107.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.0 mile to Canton Road. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.7 mile to SH 107.
East Curry Road	Minor Collector	East/West From CR 5871 to FM 907	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via Tower Road approximately 0.75 mile to SH 107. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.6 mile to SH 107.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via Tower Road approximately 0.75 mile to SH 107. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.6 mile to SH 107.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via 83 rd Street approximately 0.7 mile to SH 107. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.6 mile to SH 107.
Tex-Mex Road	Minor Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From Sunflower Road to SH 107	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted approximately 0.3 mile to SH 107. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.3 mile to SH 107.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted approximately 0.3 mile to SH 107. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.3 mile to SH 107.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via Villarreal Street approximately 0.3 mile to SH 107. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.3 mile to SH 107.
SH 107	Principal Arterial Four-lane Divided	East/West From FM 493 to FM 907	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained

Table 4-5. Potential Changes to Access and Travel Patterns in the Community Study Area

Roadway	Functional Classification ¹ / Capacity	Existing Access	2014 Modified 2 Alternative	2014 PSM Alternative	FM 1423 PSM Alternative
Mile 17 North Road	Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From Sunflower Road to FM 907	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to SH 107. Westbound access rerouted via 83 rd Street approximately 0.5 mile to SH 107.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to SH 107. Westbound access rerouted via 83 rd Street approximately 0.5 mile to SH 107.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to SH 107. Westbound access rerouted via Skinner Road approximately 0.5 mile to SH 107.
Mile 17 ½ Road	Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From Sunflower Road to FM 907	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.0 mile to SH 107. Westbound access rerouted via 83 rd Street approximately 1.0 mile to SH 107.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.0 mile to SH 107. Westbound access rerouted via 83 rd Street approximately 1.0 mile to SH 107.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via Val Verde Road approximately 1.0 mile to SH 107. Westbound access rerouted via Skinner Road approximately 1.0 mile to SH 107.
Rogers Road	Minor Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to FM 907	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via Tower Road approximately 0.5 mile to FM 1925. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to FM 1925.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via Sharp Road approximately 0.5 mile to FM 1925. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to FM 1925.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via 83 rd Street approximately 0.5 mile to FM 1925. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.5 mile to FM 1925.
FM 1925 (Monte Cristo Road)	Principal Arterial Two-lane Undivided Transitioning to Four-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to Doolittle Road	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained

Table 4-5. Potential Changes to Access and Travel Patterns in the Community Study Area

Roadway	Functional Classification ¹ / Capacity	Existing Access	2014 Modified 2 Alternative	2014 PSM Alternative	FM 1423 PSM Alternative
Mile 19 Road	Minor Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to Brushline Road	Access Maintained	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.25 miles to FM 1925. Westbound access rerouted via Val Verde Road approximately 1.0 mile to FM 1925.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.1 miles to FM 1925. Westbound access rerouted via Val Verde Road approximately 1.0 mile to FM 1925.
Davis Road	Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From Skinner Road to Doolittle Road Discontinuous between Sharp Road and Brushline Road	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.5 miles to FM 1925. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.5 miles to FM 2812.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via Brushline Road approximately 1.5 miles to FM 2812. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.5 miles to FM 2812.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via Brushline Road approximately 1.5 miles to FM 2812. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.5 miles to FM 2812.
Mile 20/Ramseyer Road	Minor Collector/Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to Doolittle Road	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via Terry Road approximately 1.3 miles to FM 2812. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.2 miles to FM 2812.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via 3 rd Street approximately 1.0 mile to FM 2812. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.0 mile to FM 2812.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via 3 rd Street approximately 1.0 mile to FM 2812. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 1.0 mile to FM 2812.
Benito Ramirez Road	Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From Brushline Road to Doolittle Road	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted via Terry Road approximately 0.8 mile to FM 2812. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.6 mile to FM 2812.	Access Maintained	Access Maintained

Table 4-5. Potential Changes to Access and Travel Patterns in the Community Study Area

Roadway	Functional Classification ¹ / Capacity	Existing Access	2014 Modified 2 Alternative	2014 PSM Alternative	FM 1423 PSM Alternative
FM 2812	Major Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to I-69C/US 281	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained
East Ingle Road	Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 2812 to Doolittle Road	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted approximately 0.25 mile via Terry Road to FM 2812. Westbound access rerouted approximately 0.9 mile to FM 2812.	Access Maintained	Access Maintained
Vista Bonita Road	Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From Brushline Road to FM 2812	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted approximately 0.15 mile via frontage road to FM 2812. Westbound access rerouted via Brushline Road approximately 0.35 mile to FM 2812.	Access Maintained	Access Maintained
Mile 22 ½ Road	Local Two-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to dead end at 0.9 mile west of Brushline Road	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted approximately 0.8 mile via frontage road to FM 2812. Westbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 3 miles to FM 490.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted approximately 1.0 mile via frontage road to FM 2812. Westbound access rerouted via Val Verde Road approximately 1.0 mile to FM 2812.	Existing east/west access severed. Eastbound access rerouted approximately 1.0 mile via frontage road to FM 2812. Westbound access rerouted via Val Verde Road approximately 1.0 mile to FM 2812.

Table 4-5. Potential Changes to Access and Travel Patterns in the Community Study Area

Roadway	Functional Classification ¹ / Capacity	Existing Access	2014 Modified 2 Alternative	2014 PSM Alternative	FM 1423 PSM Alternative
FM 490	Major Collector Two-lane Undivided	East/West From FM 493 to I-69C/US 281	No impact to existing westbound access from Brushline Road to I-69C/US 281. Eastbound access severed. Existing eastbound access to Brushline Road rerouted approximately 1.0 mile via frontage road.	No impact to existing westbound access from Brushline Road to I-69C/US 281. Eastbound access severed. Existing eastbound access to Brushline Road rerouted approximately 1.0 mile via frontage road.	No impact to existing westbound access from Brushline Road to I-69C/US 281. Eastbound access severed. Existing eastbound access to Brushline Road rerouted approximately 1.0 mile via frontage road.
FM 493 (La Blanca Road)	Minor Arterial/Major Collector Four-lane Undivided Transitioning to Two-lane Undivided	North/South From I-2/US 83 to FM 490	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained
FM 1423 (Val Verde Road)	Major Collector Two-lane Undivided	North/South From I-2/US 83 to SH 107	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained Along Existing Alignment
FM 907 (North Alamo Road)	Minor Arterial Two-lane Undivided	North/South From I-2/US 83 to FM 1925	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained
Brushline Road	Minor Collector/Local Two-lane Undivided	North/South From FM 1925 to FM 490	Northbound access from FM 1925 maintained. Southbound access to FM 1925 severed. Southbound access to FM 1925 rerouted via Sharp Road approximately 0.3 mile.	Existing north/south access near FM 490 severed. Southbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.75 mile. Access north via frontage road from FM 2812 (rerouted approximately 1.0 mile at FM 2812).	Existing north/south access near FM 490 severed. Southbound access rerouted via frontage road approximately 0.75 mile. Access north via frontage road from FM 2812 (rerouted approximately 1.0 mile at FM 2812).
Doolittle Road	Major Collector Two-lane Undivided	North/South From FM 1925 to FM 2812	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained
Air Cargo Drive	Local Two-lane Undivided	North/South From South Texas International Airport to FM 490	Access Maintained	Access Maintained	Access Maintained

Table 4-5. Potential Changes to Access and Travel Patterns in the Community Study Area

Roadway	Functional Classification ¹ / Capacity	Existing Access	2014 Modified 2 Alternative	2014 PSM Alternative	FM 1423 PSM Alternative
I-69C/US 281	Interstate Four-lane Divided	North/South From FM 2812 to FM 490	Direct Access via Flyover	Direct Access via Flyover	Direct Access via Flyover

Source: (1) HCMPO 2017

1

1 For each of the three reasonable alternatives, access across the principal arterials and major
2 collectors would be maintained with the exception of Sioux Road, which would be severed by
3 the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative because of the proposed roadway
4 geometry at the Sioux Road crossing. Otherwise, the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative would sever
5 existing access along 17 roadways, the 2014 PSM Alternative would sever existing access
6 along 15 roadways, and the FM 1423 PSM Alternative would sever existing access along 14
7 roadways. Generally, the affected roadways do not impact through access within the
8 community study area, as most of the affected roadways are local streets or minor collectors
9 currently severed by existing irrigation/drainage canals, or otherwise do not traverse the entire
10 community study area. The difference in impacts across the three reasonable alternatives is
11 largely a result of geography, as the local transportation network is more developed closer to
12 I-69C/US 281 (western part of the community study area), becoming less developed moving
13 east.

14 In the more densely populated area south of Canton Road, crossings along east/west arterials
15 and collectors would be spaced approximately 0.5 mile to 1 mile apart. North of Canton Road
16 and SH 107, where the population begins to transition to a less dense, more rural
17 environment, the distance between the existing principal east/west connectors widens to
18 approximately 2 miles to 3 miles apart. With the exception of SH 107, FM 1925, and FM 2812,
19 the existing east/west facilities north of Canton Road are generally narrow two-lane
20 discontinuous roadways serving various pockets of residential subdivisions and large-acre
21 parcels. Typically, these facilities do not provide direct access to local community resources
22 or to the resources located within the larger communities to the west, including the cities of
23 Edinburg, McAllen, and Pharr. Although the FM 1423 PSM Alternative would use a majority of
24 the existing FM 1423 facility between I-2/US 83 and FM 1925, existing north/south facilities
25 within the community study area would remain largely unaffected by the three reasonable
26 alternatives.

27 Apart from FM 493/La Blanca Road, no major north/south collectors exist within the
28 community study area north of FM 1925/Monte Cristo Road. For local traffic in this more rural
29 area, the three reasonable alternatives are anticipated to provide more direct access to local
30 resources and the major east/west arterials and collectors.

31 Although each of the three reasonable alternatives would cause minor changes to existing
32 travel patterns and access within the community study area, these changes are not
33 anticipated to reduce mobility or restrict access to local government services, churches, and
34 schools. The three reasonable alternatives are anticipated to enhance mobility and decrease
35 travel time within the community study area by providing more direct access to destinations
36 both north and south, as well as to destinations east and west by reducing trip times between
37 the major east/west collectors.

1 4.4.2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Access

2 The existing bicycle facility on FM 495/Kansas Road between FM 907/Alamo Road and FM
3 1423/Val Verde Road would be unaffected by any of the three reasonable alternatives, as
4 access would continue as it does today. Similarly, the striped shoulders along Alamo Road,
5 FM 1423 Val Verde Road, FM 493/La Blanca Road, SH 107, FM 1925/Monte Cristo Road,
6 and FM 2812 would remain under the three reasonable alternatives.

7 The existing sidewalk facilities found in the community study area would be unaffected by any
8 of the three reasonable alternatives, as access would continue as it does today.

9 SH 68 is proposed as a high-speed, controlled-access facility. Frontage roads would consist
10 of two 12-foot wide travel lanes, with an 8-foot wide outside shoulder with curb and gutter.
11 For each of the three reasonable alternatives, no new bike and pedestrian facilities are
12 currently proposed. However, the frontage road shoulders could be used for bicycle and
13 pedestrian activities.

14 The operation of bicycles and pedestrian use is generally prohibited on controlled-access
15 facilities because of high traffic speeds, which creates hazardous conditions for bicyclists and
16 pedestrians. Bicycles and pedestrians typically operate more safely on streets with low traffic
17 volumes or designated pathways along arterial streets. TxDOT would coordinate with local
18 officials to accommodate future bicycle and pedestrian facilities that would use any of the
19 three reasonable alternatives. A bicycle and pedestrian analysis would be conducted for the
20 preferred alternative and disclosed in the FEIS. All of the three reasonable alternatives would
21 comply with the *2011 TxDOT Guidelines Emphasizing Bicycle and Pedestrian*
22 *Accommodations* and the *2010 U.S. Department of Transportation Policy Statement on*
23 *Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations, Regulations and Recommendations*.

24 4.4.3 Agricultural Access

25 Within agricultural areas of the community study area, the three reasonable alternatives
26 would cut through numerous fields and pastures. In some cases, this would segment or divide
27 agricultural operations, impacting access. The 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM
28 Alternative would divide agricultural operations on approximately 22 parcels and 25 parcels,
29 respectively. The FM 1423 PSM Alternative would divide agricultural operations on
30 approximately 12 parcels, mostly north of SH 107. In some instances, travel across a formerly
31 undivided parcel may be hampered by restricting access for farm equipment and livestock.
32 Suitable nearby roadway connections are available throughout the community study area to
33 provide connections to divided parcels, with most connections being a total of 0.5 mile to 1
34 mile away in the southern portion of the community study area and a total of 2 miles to 3
35 miles away in the northern portion of the community study area.

1 4.5 Economic and Employment

2 In accordance with the guidelines established in FHWA's *Guidance for Preparing and*
3 *Processing Environmental and Section 4(F) Documents Technical Advisory 6640.8A (1987)*,
4 foreseeable economic impacts as a result of the three reasonable alternatives were assessed.
5 The following economic and employment impacts were considered and discussed below:

- 6 • Impacts related to transportation infrastructure improvements and the relationship of
7 an alignment's location relative to established business districts;
- 8 • Impacts related to business displacements and employment opportunities;
- 9 • Impacts related to tax revenue loss; and
- 10 • Regional economic effects from construction of transportation infrastructure.

11 4.5.1 **Transportation Infrastructure Improvements and Alignment Location**

12 Implementation of any of the three reasonable alternatives would serve to reduce congestion
13 and improve travel-time reliability, which are both benefits to local business activity. Reduced
14 congestion and improved travel time reliability represents increased efficiency and revenue
15 opportunities for transportation-dependent industries, including freight trucking and tourism-
16 related businesses, such as hotels/motels, restaurants, and service stations. Based on an
17 analysis of similar new location controlled-access facilities, beneficial impacts to local
18 transportation-depending industries are anticipated as a result of the three reasonable
19 alternatives.

20 4.5.2 **Business Displacements and Employment Opportunities**

21 As seen in **Table 4-2**, each of the three reasonable alternatives would displace businesses.
22 The 2014 Modified 2 Alternative would potentially displace an estimated eight businesses.
23 Another four businesses within 50 feet of the proposed ROW could also potentially be
24 displaced, depending on the orientation of the affected businesses to the 2014 Modified 2
25 Alternative.

- 1 • Within ROW
- 2 ○ Rivera's Machinery (repair shop), 800 East US 83, Pharr, TX
- 3 ○ El Camaleon Wholesale Nursery, LLC (retail sales), 8217 Iowa Road, Edinburg, TX
- 4 ○ RGV Texas Drive Thru (convenience store), 7783 SH 107, San Carlos, TX
- 5 ○ Moncivia's Masonry (retail sales), 7801 SH 107, San Carlos TX
- 6 ○ Small Office Building (office space), 7828 East Mile 17 1/2, San Carlos TX
- 7 ○ Mercado Superstore & Meat Market (convenience store), 7425 East Monte Cristo
- 8 Road, Edinburg, TX
- 9 ○ Small Office Building (office space), 7425 East Monte Cristo Road, Edinburg, TX
- 10 ○ EMP Propane Station (retail sales), 6810 Ingle Road, Edinburg, TX
- 11 • Within 50 feet of the proposed ROW
- 12 ○ Rock & Roll Cafe (dining establishment), 7821 SH 107, San Carlos TX
- 13 ○ Lee's Automotive/Full EFX Auto Truck Body Work (repair shop), SH 107 west of
- 14 San Carlos Circle, San Carlos, TX
- 15 ○ Alondra's Raspas (dining establishment), 7425 East Monte Cristo Road, Edinburg,
- 16 TX
- 17 ○ Rod Robertson Auto Auction (retail sales), 1003 FM 490, Edinburg, TX

18 The 2014 PSM Alternative would potentially displace an estimated five businesses. Another
19 three businesses within 50 feet of the proposed ROW could also potentially be displaced,
20 depending on the orientation of the affected businesses to the 2014 PSM Alternative.

- 21 • Within ROW
- 22 ○ Rivera's Machinery (repair shop), 800 East US 83, Pharr, TX
- 23 ○ El Camaleon Wholesale Nursery, LLC (retail sales), 8217 Iowa Road, Edinburg, TX
- 24 ○ RGV Texas Drive Thru (convenience store), 7783 SH 107, San Carlos, TX
- 25 ○ Moncivia's Masonry (retail sales), 7801 SH 107, San Carlos TX
- 26 ○ Small Office Building (office space), 7828 East Mile 17 1/2, San Carlos TX
- 27 • Within 50 feet of the proposed ROW
- 28 ○ Rock & Roll Cafe (dining establishment), 7821 SH 107, San Carlos TX
- 29 ○ Lee's Automotive/Full EFX Auto Truck Body Work (repair shop), SH 107 west of
- 30 San Carlos Circle, San Carlos, TX
- 31 ○ Rod Robertson Auto Auction (retail sales), 1003 FM 490, Edinburg, TX

32 The FM 1423 PSM Alternative would potentially displace an estimated 29 businesses.
33 Another five businesses within 50 feet of the proposed ROW could also potentially be
34 displaced, depending on the orientation of the affected businesses to the FM 1423 PSM
35 Alternative.

- 1 • Within ROW
- 2 ○ Texas Wood Supply (retail sales), 940 West US 83, Alamo, TX
- 3 ○ Valley Girls (entertainment), 911 South Val Verde Road, Alamo, TX
- 4 ○ Studio 54 & TZ Fashion (retail sales), 915 South Val Verde Road, Alamo, TX
- 5 ○ J. Webber Mobile Home Sales & Transport (retail sales), Val Verde Road north of
- 6 IH-2, Alamo, TX
- 7 ○ Garzez's Modern Welding (retail sales, 2 buildings), 4201 South Val Verde Road,
- 8 Donna, TX
- 9 ○ Mike's Tire Shop (retail sales), 6108 Browning Street, Donna, TX
- 10 ○ Sarahi Cabinet Shop and Trim (retail sales), 6210 Browning Street, Donna, TX
- 11 ○ Creaciones Angel & Asadas (retail sales), 6214 Browning Street, Donna, TX
- 12 ○ Sanchez Meat Market & Food Store (convenience store), 6214 Browning Street,
- 13 Donna, TX
- 14 ○ The Beer House Drive Thru (convenience store), 6218 Browning Street, Donna, TX
- 15 ○ Streetime Custom (retail sales), FM 1423/Val Verde Road north of Earling Road,
- 16 Donna, TX
- 17 ○ Small Office Building (office space), 6417 North Val Verde Road, Donna, TX
- 18 ○ Barnyard Buddies Daycare- Learning Center (daycare, 2 buildings), 6601 North
- 19 Val Verde Road, Donna, TX
- 20 ○ Small Office Building (office space), FM 1423/Val Verde Road south of Roosevelt
- 21 Road, Donna, TX
- 22 ○ Triplets Country Store (convenience store), southeast corner of Roosevelt Road
- 23 and FM 1423/Val Verde Road, Donna, TX
- 24 ○ Fruteria Sanchez, A&A Produce (convenience store), FM 1423/Val Verde Road
- 25 north of Alberta Road, Donna, TX
- 26 ○ Rico's Pollos Y Costillas (dining establishment), FM 1423/Val Verde Road north of
- 27 Alberta Road, Donna, TX
- 28 ○ Vaquerita's Drive Thru (convenience store), FM 1423/Val Verde Road north of
- 29 Alberta Road, Donna, TX
- 30 ○ El Gallo Auto Sales (car sales), Alberta Road east of FM 1423/Val Verde Road,
- 31 Donna, TX
- 32 ○ El Grano de Oro (convenience store), 9202 North Val Verde Road, Donna, TX
- 33 ○ Llantera el Gallito Gonzalez Tire Shop (repair shop), 9202 North Val Verde Road,
- 34 Donna, TX
- 35 ○ Campos Auto Service (repair shop), 9402 North Val Verde Road, Donna, TX
- 36 ○ Topez Drive Thru #2 (convenience store), 8904 North Val Verde Road, Donna, TX
- 37 ○ Small Office Building (office space), Anderson Road east of FM 1423/Val Verde
- 38 Road, Donna, TX
- 39 ○ Stripes/Valero (gas station), 9224 East SH 107, Edinburg, TX

- 1 o Yireh Mexican Restaurant (dining establishment), 9404 East TX-107, Edinburg, TX
- 2 o Unnamed Auto Repair (repair shop), 1924 North Val Verde Road, Edinburg, TX
- 3 o Unnamed Auto Repair (repair shop), 2520 North Val Verde Road, Edinburg, TX
- 4 o Cruz Used Auto Parts, FM 1423/Val Verde Road south of east Rogers Road,
- 5 Edinburg, TX
- 6 • Within 50 feet of the proposed ROW
- 7 o Unnamed Auto Repair (repair shop), 845 West Roosevelt Road, Donna, TX
- 8 o Catarina’s Flowers & Balloons (retail sales), FM 1423/Val Verde Road north of
- 9 Curve Road, Donna, TX
- 10 o El Gallito Ballroom Inc. (entertainment), FM 1423/Val Verde Road north of SH
- 11 107, Edinburg, TX
- 12 o Small Office Building (office space), 3335 North Val Verde Road, Edinburg, TX
- 13 o Rod Robertson Auto Auction (retail sales), 1003 FM 490, Edinburg, TX

14 None of these businesses would be classified as major regional employers, such as those
15 described in **Section 3.2.7**. None of these businesses appear to require special zoning or
16 access. As of this writing, a detailed analysis of potential business displacements within and
17 adjacent to the ROW has not been conducted. A refined potential business displacement
18 analysis would be conducted for the preferred alternative and disclosed in the FEIS. Using
19 HCAD data and historic aerial photography (1980 to 2017), it was determined that none of
20 the identified businesses are unique within the community study area (i.e., there are
21 innumerable auto repair, salvage facilities, used-tire shops throughout). These businesses
22 equally serve both minority/low-income populations as well as non- minority/low-income
23 populations.

24 **4.5.3 Tax Revenues Loss**

25 Implementation of any of the three reasonable alternatives would require the acquisition of
26 new ROW for a public transportation use, impacting current property tax revenue from taxable
27 properties. The potential tax revenue loss is not expected to vary across the three reasonable
28 alternatives, and the projected amount would be calculated for the preferred alternative and
29 disclosed in the FEIS. Public entities, such as Hidalgo County, City of Donna, City of Edinburg,
30 Edinburg Consolidated ISD, and Donna ISD, would lose projected tax revenue from these
31 properties and/or buildings. The estimated loss of projected tax revenue would be calculated
32 for the for the preferred alternative and disclosed in the FEIS. Given the large amount of
33 acreage to potentially be acquired and high number of potential building displacements, an
34 impact is anticipated regarding the loss of projected tax revenue under any of the three
35 reasonable alternatives.

1 4.5.4 Construction

2 Implementation of any of the three reasonable alternatives would generate new construction
3 jobs within the community study area, which would benefit the local economy through
4 increased sales tax revenue and increased purchases of local goods and services. The
5 number of new construction jobs and increased sales tax revenue is not expected to vary
6 across the three reasonable alternatives. Construction cost estimates would be calculated for
7 the preferred alternative and disclosed in the FEIS. Once construction costs have been
8 calculated, the anticipated number of new construction jobs and projected increases in sales
9 tax revenue would be estimated.

10 4.6 Community Impacts Assessment

11 The three reasonable alternatives would likely have adverse community impacts regarding the
12 potential building displacements, community cohesion, and access and travel patterns. Each
13 of the three reasonable alternatives would result in a large number of displacements,
14 neighborhoods being bisected, and altering the regional access and travel patterns.

15 4.7 Identification of Minority and Low-Income Populations

16 As defined by CEQ, a minority population is identified as an area where the population exceeds
17 50 percent minority or the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully
18 greater than the general population. As seen in **Table 3-10**, all census tracts within the
19 community study area contains a minority population exceeding 50 percent, with 27 of 29
20 block groups containing a minority population exceeding 50 percent. Therefore, the presence
21 of minority populations have been identified throughout the entire community study area (see
22 **Exhibit 6** in **Attachment A**).

23 As defined by FHWA, a low-income population is identified as a population whose median
24 household income is at or below the DHHS poverty guidelines. For this analysis, the 2017
25 DHHS Poverty Guidelines are used for the reasons explained in **Section 2.2.2**. The 2017
26 national poverty level is \$24,600 (DHHS, 2017) for a family of four. As seen **Table 3-11**, two
27 of 14 census tracts within the community study area contain a low-income population, while
28 seven of 29 block groups contain a low-income population when compared against the 2017
29 DHHS Poverty Guidelines. Therefore, the presence of low-income populations have been
30 identified throughout the entire community study area (see **Exhibit 6** in **Attachment A**).

31 4.8 Consideration of Impacts to EJ Populations

32 As seen in **Table 3-10**, all census tracts within the community study area contains a minority
33 population exceeding 50 percent, with 27 of 29 block groups containing a minority population
34 exceeding 50 percent. As seen **Table 3-11**, two of 14 census tracts within the community

1 study area contain a low-income population, while six of 29 block groups contain a low-income
2 population when compared against the 2017 DHHS Poverty Guidelines (see **Exhibit 6** in
3 **Attachment A**). Regardless of the location of the three reasonable alternatives, avoiding a
4 minority or low-income population is considered low. Since minority populations are present
5 throughout the community study area, and low-income populations are located in the
6 southern and northern portions of the community study area, impacts of the three reasonable
7 alternatives would be shared.

8 It is important to note that the three reasonable alternatives have been purposely designed
9 to avoid has many building and property impacts as feasible. Thus, the three reasonable
10 alternatives are not expected to have a disproportionately high and adverse human health
11 and environmental effect on minority and low-income populations. Based on the number of
12 potential building displacements, it is anticipated that minority and low-income populations
13 would be affected. Similarly, impacts to community cohesion as described in **Section 4.2**
14 would affect minority and low-income populations. The impacts of the three reasonable
15 alternatives are not directed at any one particular group, and are dispersed over the entire
16 length of the community study area.

17 The three reasonable alternatives would potentially increase traffic noise, which would impact
18 noise-sensitive receivers along the proposed ROW. However, traffic noise impacts would occur
19 along the entire length of the proposed ROW and would not disproportionately impact minority
20 and low-income populations as compared to non-EJ populations within the community study
21 area.

22 Short-term, localized effects to air quality (e.g., increase in dust) and noise levels (e.g.,
23 generated by construction equipment and activities) may occur in the immediate area
24 adjacent to the three reasonable alternatives during construction. However, short-term
25 impacts would occur along the entire length of the proposed ROW and would not
26 disproportionately impact minority and low-income populations as compared to non-EJ
27 populations within the community study area.

28 On the other hand, the three reasonable alternatives would provide benefits to the community
29 study area in the form of increased mobility, improved travel times, and improved system
30 connectivity. EJ travelers and non-EJ travelers alike would benefit from the improved
31 connectivity and mobility to the area's transportation network.

32 Therefore, the three reasonable alternatives would not cause disproportionately high and
33 adverse effects on minority and low-income populations and is consistent with EO 12898.

1 4.9 Access to Information and Participation for Limited English Proficiency Populations

2 Proactive efforts to ensure meaningful opportunities for public participation in the SH 68
3 decision-making process have been pursued since the initial public meetings conducted by
4 the Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority in 2008 and 2009. On September 25, 2014,
5 TxDOT held their first public meeting to solicit input from the public for the SH 68 project.
6 Comments received at this meeting focused on properties access and potential building
7 displacements. On March 15, 2016, TxDOT conducted a public scoping meeting to solicit
8 public input on the full range of nine proposed alternatives being evaluated. Comments
9 received at this meeting focused on a preference for a particular route, effects to
10 properties access, and effects on natural land features. On January 3, 2017, TxDOT held a
11 public meeting to solicit further public input on the three proposed reasonable alternatives.
12 Comments received at this meeting focused on a preference for a particular route, effects to
13 properties access, increased traffic noise, effects to community facilities (e.g., schools,
14 churches, cemeteries), cost of the proposed project, effects to brushland, drainage, and
15 flooding, and potential building displacements. The meetings were advertised throughout the
16 study in both English and Spanish, and invitations were sent to stakeholders, including
17 minority and low-income residents.

18 Since the initial public meeting in September 2014, the SH 68 project team continued to
19 engage the public through small stakeholder meetings in the community. As part of this public
20 involvement, the team recorded 17 instances in which members of the public and other
21 entities suggested other routes or options for the SH 68 project. Based on the comments
22 received, the project team developed six study corridors, including the 2014 PSM Alternative
23 and FM 1423 PSM Alternative, for presentation at the March 2016 agency and public scoping
24 meetings. Based on agency and public comments received following the March 2016 public
25 scoping meetings, four additional study corridors were developed, including the 2014
26 Modified 2 Alternative. TxDOT has maintained a project office at 4711 South Alamo Road in
27 Edinburg to further facilitate communication with local residents. Additional detail regarding
28 the public involvement/outreach efforts is found in **Section 7**.

29 Public involvement materials were provided in both English and Spanish, and translators were
30 provided to accommodate LEP populations. Public involvement materials were also made
31 available on the TxDOT project website at [http://www.txdot.gov/inside-](http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/pharr/sh68.html)
32 [txdot/projects/studies/pharr/sh68.html](http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/pharr/sh68.html).

33 4.10 No Build Alternative

34 Under the No Build Alternative, the proposed SH 68 facility would not be constructed.
35 Community impacts regarding potential ROW and building displacements would not occur.
36 The vacant housing units found within the community study area would likely remain vacant

1 or be occupied by other residents moving into the community study area. Also, neighborhoods,
2 including colonias, would not be bisected and property access would remain unaffected. The
3 No Build Alternative would not affect access to existing community facilities. Additionally,
4 impacts to access and travel patterns would not occur. Bicycle facilities and sidewalks would
5 not be affected by the No Build Alternative. However, as the population of the community
6 study area increases mobility would likely be reduced and traffic congestion would increase
7 on regional and local roadways under the No-Build Alternative.

8 Since no construction would occur under the No Build Alternative, economic and employment
9 conditions would not change. The likelihood for increased efficiency and revenue
10 opportunities for transportation-dependent industries that are related to congestion and
11 travel time reliability would not be realized under the No Build Alternative. Also, business
12 displacements would not occur, meaning that existing employees would not need to relocate.
13 Additionally, the anticipated tax revenue losses associated with acquisition of ROW and/or
14 building displacements would not occur, meaning that public entities such as Hidalgo County,
15 Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD, Edinburg Consolidated ISD, and Donna ISD would not lose the tax
16 revenue from these properties and/or buildings. On the other hand, since there is no
17 construction under the No Build Alternative, the community study area would not benefit from
18 increased sales tax revenue and the purchase of local goods and services. Therefore, no
19 adverse impacts are anticipated regarding economic and employment impacts under the No
20 Build Alternative.

21 EJ impacts regarding the identified minority and low-income populations within the community
22 study area would not occur under the No Build Alternative. Also, the short-term, localized
23 effects to air quality and noise levels during construction would not occur. The mobility,
24 improved travel times, and improved system connectivity benefits described for the three
25 reasonable alternatives would not be realized under the No Build Alternative. Therefore, it is
26 anticipated the No Build Alternative would not cause disproportionately high and adverse
27 effects on minority or low-income populations and is consistent with EO 12898 regarding EJ.

28 5.0 CONCLUSION

29 Based on an evaluation of the three reasonable alternatives and the No Build Alternative,
30 adverse impacts are anticipated regarding potential acquisition of ROW, building
31 displacements, community cohesion, roadway access and travel patterns, business
32 displacements and employment opportunities, and tax revenues loss. Beneficial impacts are
33 anticipated regarding transportation infrastructure improvements and alignment location.
34 See **Table 5-1** for a summary of the impacts of the three reasonable alternatives.

Table 5-1. Impact Summary Table

	2014 Modified 2 Alternative	2014 PSM Alternative	FM 1423 PSM Alternative
Potential ROW	1,057 acres	1,067 acres	1,061 acres
Potential Building Displacements	322 within ROW 97 within 50 feet of ROW	275 within ROW 89 within 50 feet of ROW	358 within ROW 99 within 50 feet of ROW
Community Cohesion	5 of 10 neighborhoods are bisected 5 of 10 neighborhoods are clipped	6 of 10 neighborhoods are bisected 4 of 10 neighborhoods are clipped	2 of 11 neighborhoods are bisected 9 of 11 neighborhoods are clipped, including two colonias
Community Facilities	No community facilities would be displaced or have access altered		
Roadway Access and Travel	Through access severed at 17 roadways	Through access severed at 15 roadways	Through access severed at 14 roadways
Bicycle/Pedestrian Access and Travel	No change to existing bicycle/pedestrian facilities		
Emergency Services Access and Travel	Emergency services access and travel would be maintained.		
Agricultural Access	22 agricultural parcels bisected 3 parcels clipped	22 agricultural parcels bisected 3 parcels clipped	12 agricultural parcels bisected
Transportation Infrastructure Improvements and Alignment Location	Beneficial impacts	Beneficial impacts	Beneficial impacts
Business Displacements and Employment Opportunities	8 within ROW 4 within 50 feet of ROW	5 within ROW 3 within 50 feet of ROW	29 within ROW 5 within 50 feet of ROW
Tax Revenues Loss	Tax revenue loss because of high ROW and building displacements		
Environmental Justice	Minority populations present Low-income populations present No disproportionate high and adverse effects		

1

2 **6.0 REFERENCES CITED**

3 ChurchFinder 2016a. City of Edinburg Churches.

4 <http://www.churchfinder.com/churches/tx/edinburg>. Website accessed December 5,
5 2016.6 _____. 2016b. City of Pharr Churches. <http://www.churchfinder.com/churches/tx/pharr>.
7 Website accessed December 5, 2016.8 _____. 2016c. City of Donna Churches. <http://www.churchfinder.com/churches/tx/donna>.
9 Website accessed December 5, 2016.

- 1 City of Alamo 2016. Parks.
2 [http://www.alamotexas.org/index.asp?Type=B_LOC&SEC={E1152818-F2E7-4788-](http://www.alamotexas.org/index.asp?Type=B_LOC&SEC={E1152818-F2E7-4788-A3A9-D7BD06BCD20C})
3 [A3A9-D7BD06BCD20C}](http://www.alamotexas.org/index.asp?Type=B_LOC&SEC={E1152818-F2E7-4788-A3A9-D7BD06BCD20C}). Website accessed December 2, 2016.
- 4 _____. 2017. City Department List and Locations.
5 [http://www.alamotexas.org/index.asp?Type=B_DIR&SEC={CB0FA43C-ECF2-4133-](http://www.alamotexas.org/index.asp?Type=B_DIR&SEC={CB0FA43C-ECF2-4133-B1A7-9430B244BD8C})
6 [B1A7-9430B244BD8C}](http://www.alamotexas.org/index.asp?Type=B_DIR&SEC={CB0FA43C-ECF2-4133-B1A7-9430B244BD8C}). Website accessed June 8, 2017.
- 7 City of Edinburg 2016. Parks.
8 <https://edinburg.recdesk.com/recdeskportal/Facilities/tabid/7217/Default.aspx>.
9 Website accessed December 2, 2016.
- 10 _____.2017. City Department List and Locations. <http://www.cityofedinburg.com/>. Website
11 accessed March 28, 2016.
- 12 Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) 1997. Environmental Justice Guidance Under the
13 National Environmental Policy Act. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/CEQ/>. December 10.
- 14 Donna ISD 2016. Year 2016 School Directory.
15 <http://www.donnaisd.net/AboutUs/ContactUs/tabid/50671/Default.aspx>. Website
16 accessed December 1, 2016.
- 17 Edinburg Consolidated ISD 2016. Year 2016 School Directory. [http://www.ecisd.us/K-](http://www.ecisd.us/K-12Directories/tabid/29175/Default.aspx)
18 [12Directories/tabid/29175/Default.aspx](http://www.ecisd.us/K-12Directories/tabid/29175/Default.aspx). Website accessed December 1, 2016.
- 19 Federal Register 1997. Vol. 62, No. 210. U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Revisions
20 to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity. October
21 30. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-1997-10-30/pdf/97-28653.pdf>. Website
22 accessed June 8, 2017.
- 23 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) 1987. Guidance for Preparing and Processing
24 Environmental and Section 4(F) Documents, Technical Advisory 6640.8A. October
25 30. <https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/projdev/impTA6640.asp>. Website
26 accessed June 14, 2014.
- 27 _____.2010. U.S. Department of Transportation Policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian
28 Accommodations, Regulations and Recommendations. March 11.
29 [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/policy_accom.](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/policy_accom.cfm)
30 [cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/policy_accom.cfm). Website accessed June 14, 2017.
- 31 _____.2012. FHWA Order 6640.23A - Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority
32 Populations and Low-Income Populations.
33 <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/directives/orders/664023a.cfm>. Website
34 accessed November 16, 2016.

- 1 _____.2018. Community Impact Assessment: A Quick Reference for Transportation.
2 https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability/cia/quick_reference/chapter01.cfm. Website
3 accessed February 5, 2018.
- 4 Google 2016. Hidalgo County, Texas Private School Search. www.google.com. Website
5 accessed December 2, 2016.
- 6 _____.2017a. Hidalgo County, Day Care Center Search. www.google.com. Website accessed
7 February 10, 2017.
- 8 _____.2017b. Hidalgo County, Day Care Center Search. www.google.com. Website accessed
9 February 10, 2017.
- 10 Hidalgo County 2010. Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Hidalgo
11 County 2011-2015. August.
- 12 _____. 2016a. Precinct 1 Parks. [https://tx-
13 hidalgocounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=393](https://tx-hidalgocounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=393). Website accessed December 2,
14 2016.
- 15 _____. 2016b. Precinct 2 Parks. <http://precinct2.net/27/Parks>. Website accessed
16 December 2, 2016.
- 17 _____. 2016c. Precinct 1 Parks. [https://tx-
18 hidalgocounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=378](https://tx-hidalgocounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=378). Website accessed December 2,
19 2016.
- 20 _____. 2017a. County Department List and Locations. [https://tx-
21 hidalgocounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=63](https://tx-hidalgocounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=63). Website accessed March 28,
22 2017.
- 23 _____. 2017b. WIC Program Clinic Information Directory. [https://tx-
24 hidalgocounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/23654](https://tx-hidalgocounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/23654). Website accessed
25 March 28, 2017.
- 26 Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO). 2017. U.M.A.P. Interactive
27 Map. http://www.hcmpo.org/gisapps/GIS_HCMPO/. Website accessed December
28 28, 2017.
- 29 Idea Public Schools 2016. Charter School Directory.
30 <http://www.ideapublicschools.org/contact-us>. Website accessed December 2, 2016.
- 31 National Affordable Housing Act 1990. Public Law 101-625, as amended, Section 916.
32 Colonias. <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Section-916-of-the->

- 1 [National-Affordable-Housing-Act-of-1990-As-Amended.pdf](#). Website accessed June 8,
2 2017.
- 3 PSJA ISD 2016. Year 2016 Middle School Directory. <http://www.psjaisd.us/Page/2430>.
4 Website accessed December 1, 2016.
- 5 Texas Attorney General 2017. Colonia Internet Viewer. <https://coloniadata.oag.state.tx.us/>.
6 Website accessed June 8, 2017.
- 7 Texas Demographic Center 2017. 2014 Texas Population Projections by Migration Scenario
8 Data Tool Result.
9 [http://demographics.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/Report?id=fef3bf603b474](http://demographics.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/Report?id=fef3bf603b474a149fa9ea9205c2e008)
10 [a149fa9ea9205c2e008](http://demographics.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/Report?id=fef3bf603b474a149fa9ea9205c2e008). Website accessed May 5, 2017.
- 11 Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) 2017. Facility List and Locations.
12 https://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/unit_directory/index.html. Website accessed March 28,
13 2017.
- 14 Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) 2011. Guidelines Emphasizing Bicycle and
15 Pedestrian Accommodations. March 23. [http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-](http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/env/toolkit/770.01.pol.pdf)
16 [info/env/toolkit/770.01.pol.pdf](http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/env/toolkit/770.01.pol.pdf). Website accessed June 14, 2017.
- 17 _____. 2015. Environmental Handbook: Community Impacts, Environmental Justice, Limited
18 English Proficiency, and Title VI Compliance. January.
- 19 Texas Education Agency 2016. 2015-2016 Texas Academic Performance Report. November
20 2016. https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/tapr/2016/glossary_1.18.pdf.
21 Website accessed May 5, 2017.
- 22 Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) 2017. Facility List and Locations.
23 <https://www.tjjd.texas.gov/programs/Default.aspx>. Website accessed March 28,
24 2017.
- 25 Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS) 2016. "oag_colonia_dd".
26 <https://tnris.org/order-data/>. Website accessed October 24, 2016.
- 27 U.S. Census Bureau 1990. Table CP-1-45. 1990 Census of Population, General Population
28 Characteristics. Texas. Website Accessed June 5, 2017.
- 29 _____. 2000. Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics, Census 2000
30 Summary File 1, 100-Percent Data. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>. Website Accessed
31 June 5, 2017.

- 1 _____. 2010. Table P9. Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race, Universe:
2 Total Population, 2010 Census Summary File 1. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.
3 Website Accessed October 23, 2017.
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2012-2016. Table B16004. Age by
5 Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and
6 Over. Universe: Population 5 Years and Over. 2012-2016 American Community
7 Survey 5-Year Estimates. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>. Website Accessed December
8 12, 2017.
- 9 _____. 2012-2016. Table B11016. Household Type by Household Size. Universe:
10 Households. 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.
11 <http://factfinder.census.gov/>. Website Accessed December 12, 2017.
- 12 _____. 2012-2016. Table B01002. Median Age by Sex. Universe: Total Population. 2012-
13 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.
14 Website Accessed December 12, 2017.
- 15 _____. 2012-2016. Table B03002. Hispanic or Latino by Race. Universe: Total Population.
16 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.
17 <http://factfinder.census.gov/>. Website Accessed December 21, 2017.
- 18 _____. 2012-2016. Table B19013. Median Household Income in the past 12 Months (in
19 2016 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars). Universe: Households. 2012-2016 American
20 Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>. Website
21 Accessed December 12, 2017.
- 22 _____. 2012-2016. Table B25002. Occupancy Status, Universe: Housing Units. 2012-2016
23 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.
24 Website Accessed December 8, 2017.
- 25 _____. 2012-2016. Table B17021. Poverty Status of Individuals in the Past 12 Months by
26 Living Arrangement. Universe: Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined.
27 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.
28 <http://factfinder.census.gov/>. Website Accessed December 12, 2017.
- 29 _____. 2012-2016. Table DP03. Selected Economic Characteristics. 2012-2016 American
30 Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>. Website
31 Accessed December 12, 2017.
- 32 _____. 2012-2016. Table DP04. Selected Housing Characteristics. 2012-2016 American
33 Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>. Website
34 Accessed December 8, 2017.

- 1 _____.2012-2016. Table DP02. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States. 2012-
2 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.
3 Website Accessed December 12, 2017.
- 4 _____.2012-2016. Table B01001. Sex by Age. Universe: Total Population. 2010-2014
5 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.
6 Website Accessed December 12, 2017.
- 7 U.S. Census Bureau 2011. Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010, 2010 Census
8 Briefs. March.
- 9 _____.2014. OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics
10 (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2002-2014).
11 <http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>. Website accessed August 4, 2017.
- 12 _____.2015. Cartographic Boundary Shapefiles – Places (Incorporated Places and Census
13 Designated Places). [https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/
14 data/cbf/cbf_place.html](https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_place.html). Website accessed October 2016.
- 15 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) 2017. Office List and Locations.
16 [https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/along-us-borders/border-patrol-sectors/rio-
17 grande-valley-sector-texas](https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/along-us-borders/border-patrol-sectors/rio-grande-valley-sector-texas). Website accessed March 28, 2017.
- 18
- 19 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).2017. Office of the Assistant
20 Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. 2017 Poverty Guidelines.
21 <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>. Website accessed March 10, 2017.
- 22 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2005. Relocation Assistance to
23 Tenants Displaced from Their Homes. Office of Community Planning and
24 Development.
25 <https://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/library/relocation/publications/1042.pdf>. Website
26 accessed June 14, 2017.
- 27 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) 1998. Final Guidance for Incorporation
28 Environmental Justice Concerns in EPA’s NEPA Compliance Analyses. April.
- 29 U.S. Postal Service (USPS) 2017a. Post Office List and Locations.
30 <https://tools.usps.com/go/POLocatorAction.action>. Website accessed March 28,
31 2017.

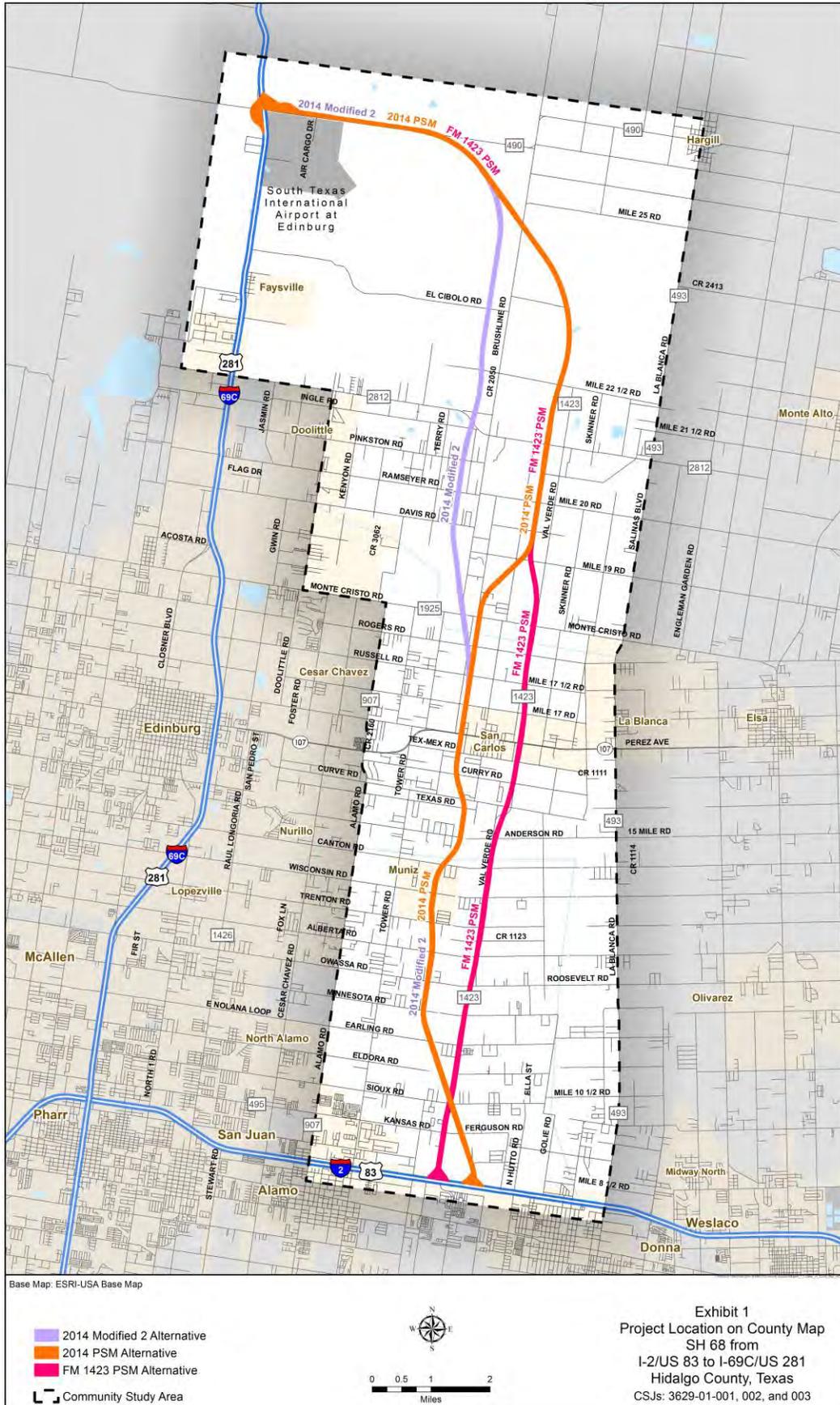
- 1 _____2017b. Post Office List and Locations.
2 <https://tools.usps.com/go/POLocatorAction.action>. Website accessed March 28,
3 2017.
- 4 White House 1994. Executive Order 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental
5 Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. February 11.
6 <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12898.pdf>. Website
7 accessed November 16, 2016.
- 8 _____2000, Executive Order 13166 Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited
9 English Proficiency. August 16.
10 <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2010/12/14/eolep.pdf>.
11 Website accessed November 16, 2016.
- 12
- 13

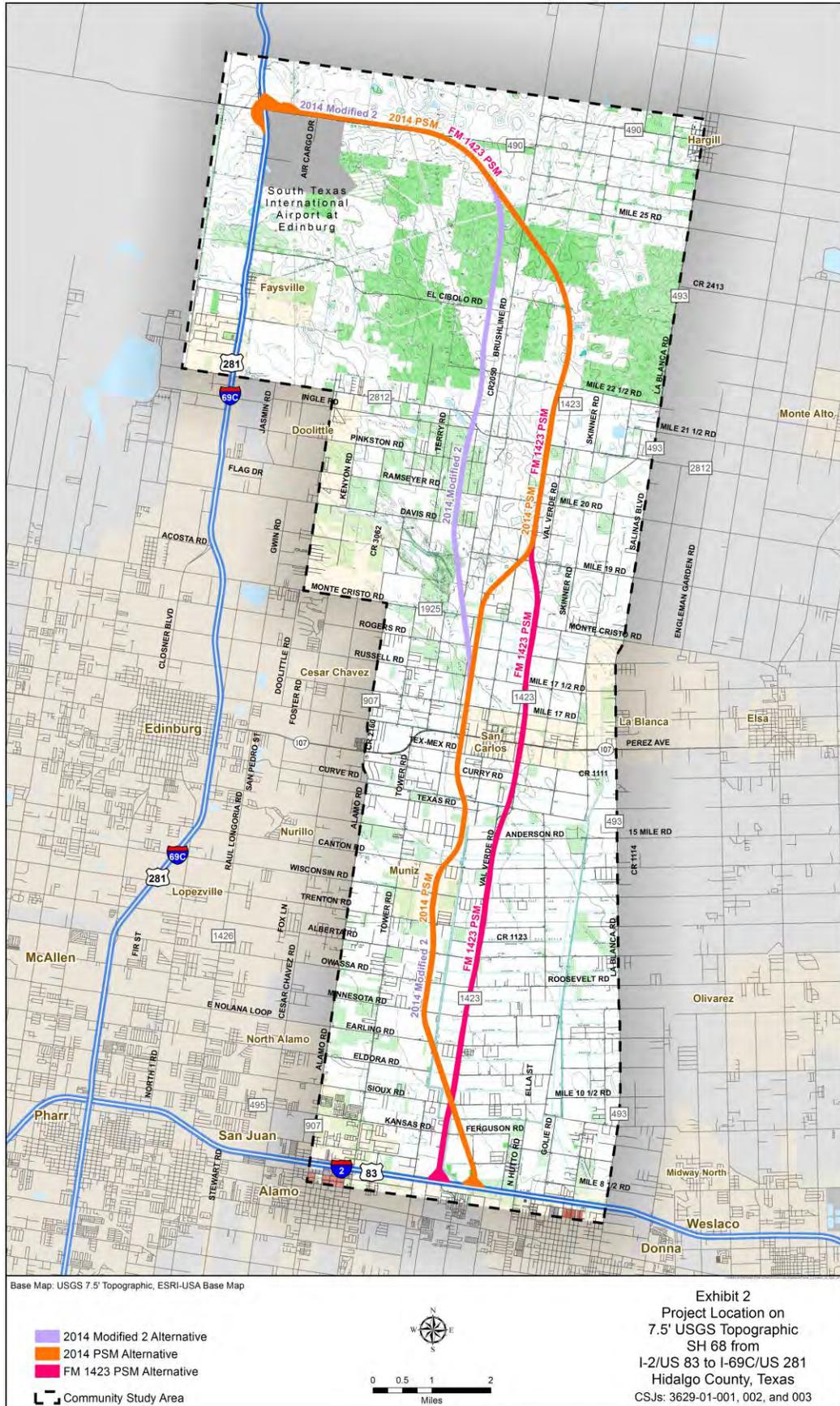
1

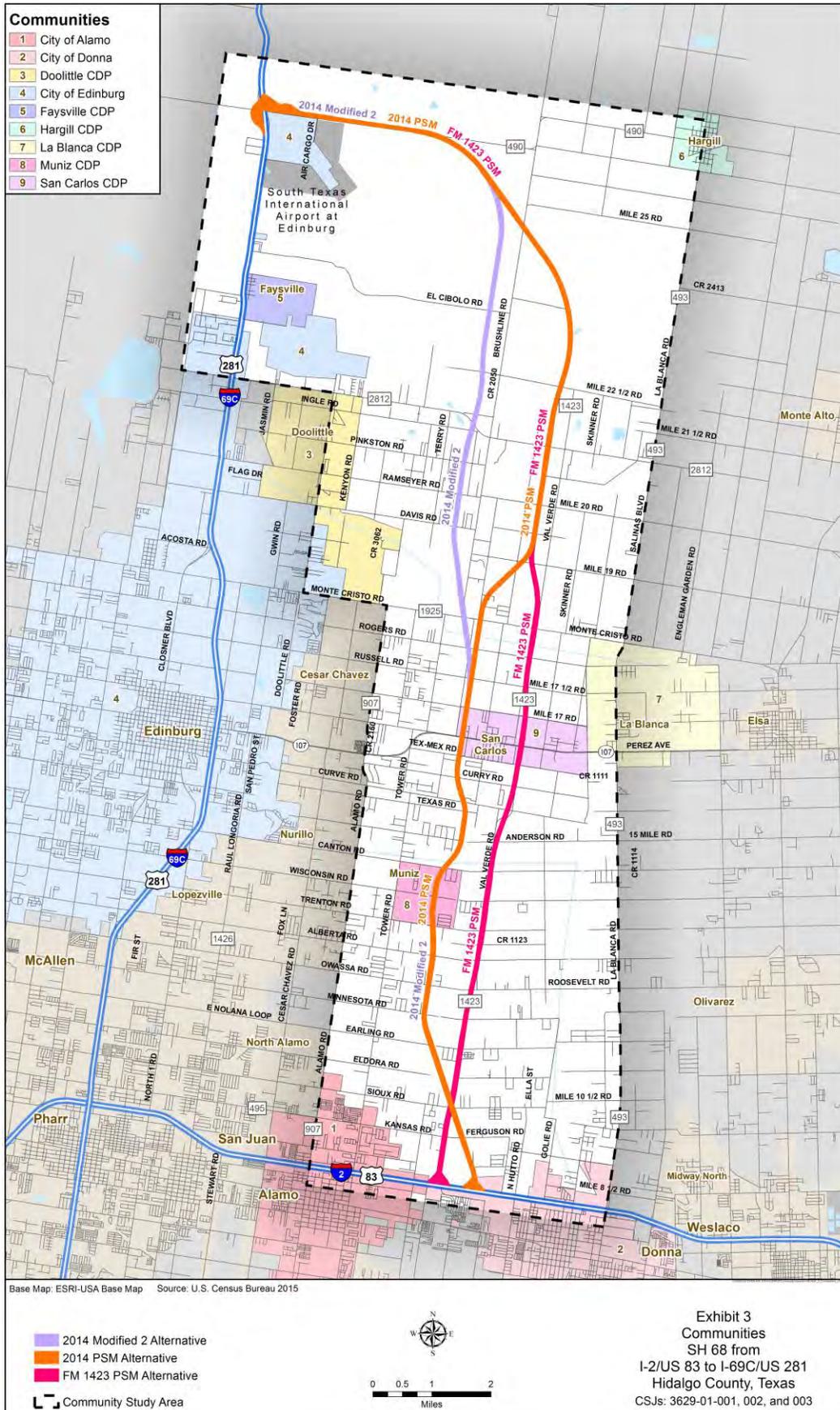
ATTACHMENT A

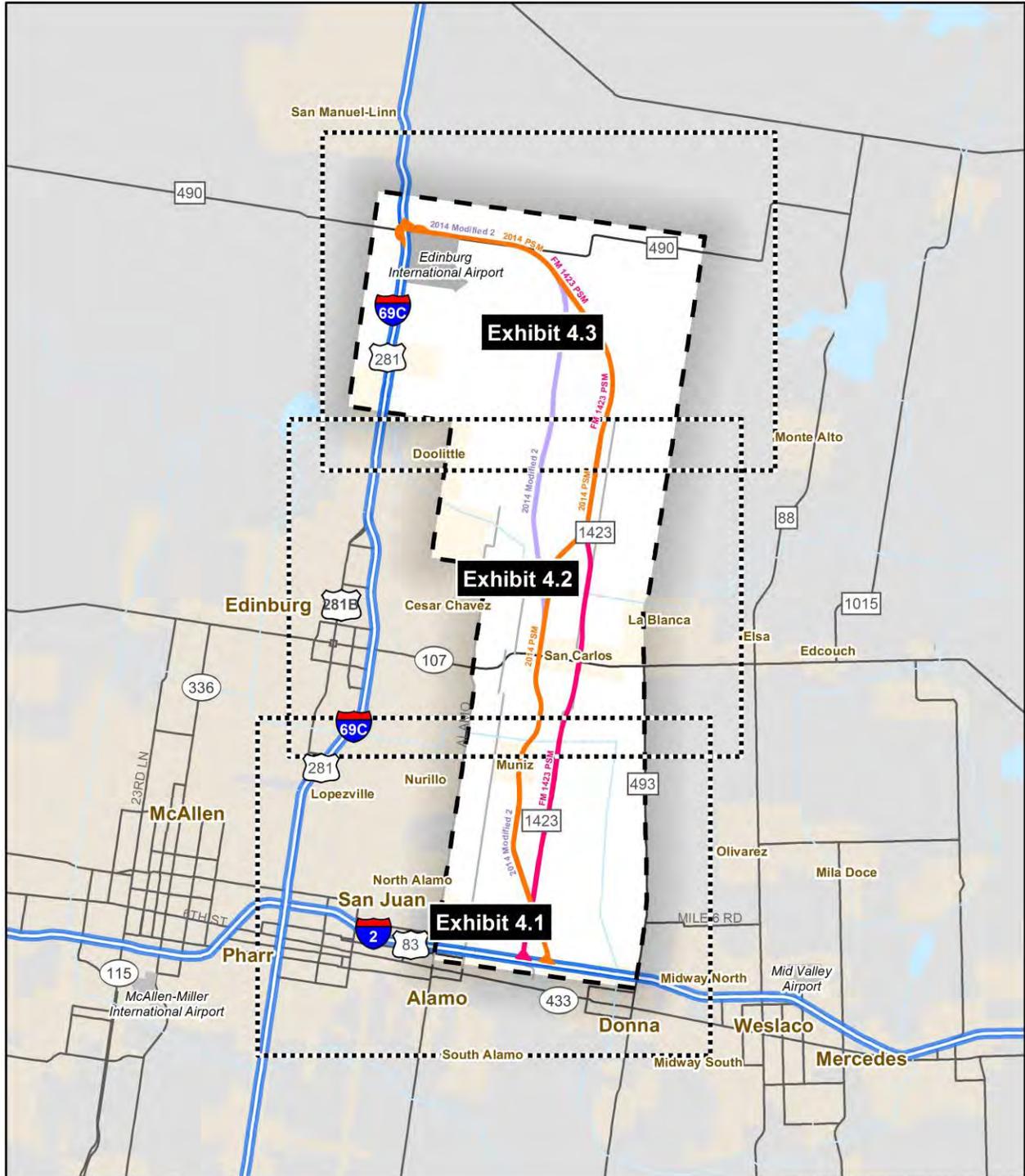
2

EXHIBITS









Base Map: ESRI-USA Base Map

- 2014 Modified 2 Alternative
- 2014 PSM Alternative
- FM 1423 PSM Alternative

Community Study Area

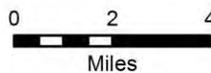
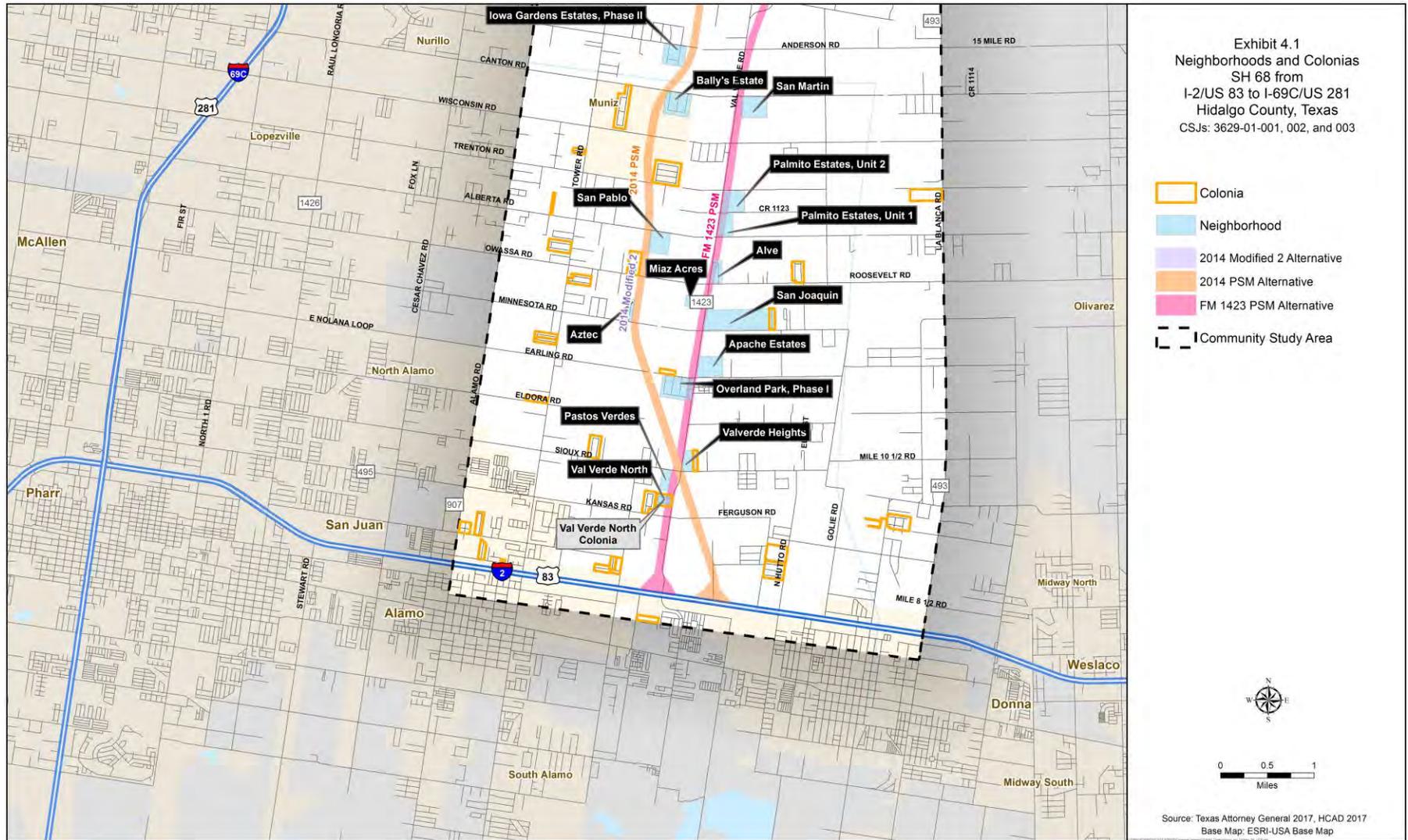


Exhibit 4 Index
 Neighborhoods and Colonias
 SH 68 from
 I-2/US 83 to I-69C/US 281
 Hidalgo County, Texas
 CSJs: 3629-01-001, 002, and 003



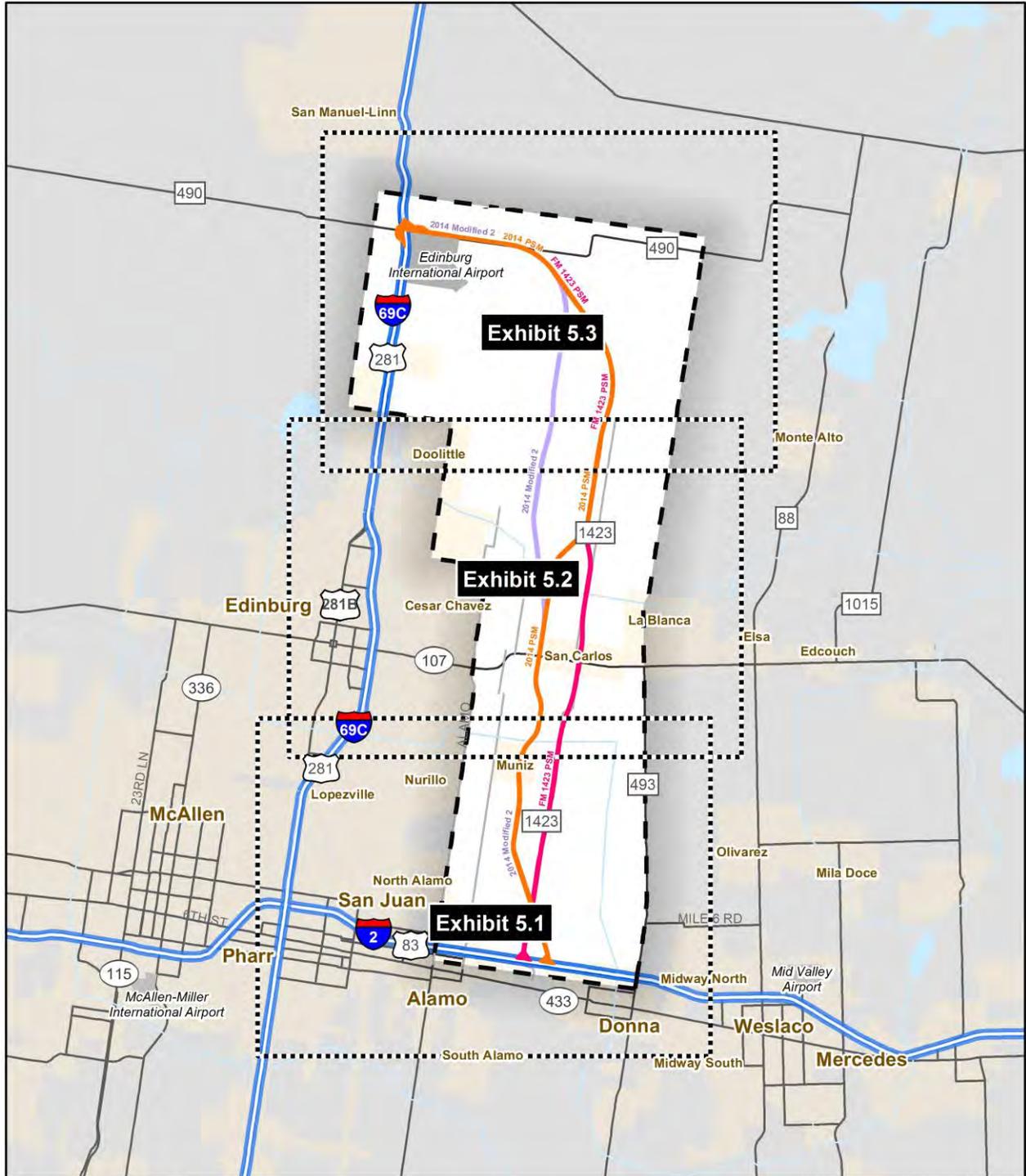
1



1

Exhibit 4.3
Neighborhoods and Colonias
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 to I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, 002, and 003





Base Map: ESRI-USA Base Map

- 2014 Modified 2 Alternative
- 2014 PSM Alternative
- FM 1423 PSM Alternative

Community Study Area

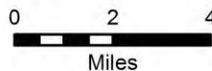
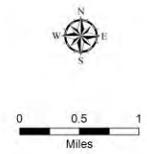


Exhibit 5 Index
Community Facilities and
Public Resources
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 to I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, 002, and 003

Exhibit 5.1
Community Facilities and
Public Resources
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 to I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, 002, and 003

- Community Facilities and Public Resources**
- Early Childhood Day Care Center
 - Health Care Facility
 - Park
 - Place of Worship
 - School
 - City Government Facility
 - County Government Facility
 - State Government Facility
 - Federal Government Facility
 - Other
- Alternatives**
- 2014 Modified 2 Alternative
 - 2014 PSM Alternative
 - FM 1423 PSM Alternative
- Community Study Area**
- Community Study Area



Base Map: ESRI-USA Base Map

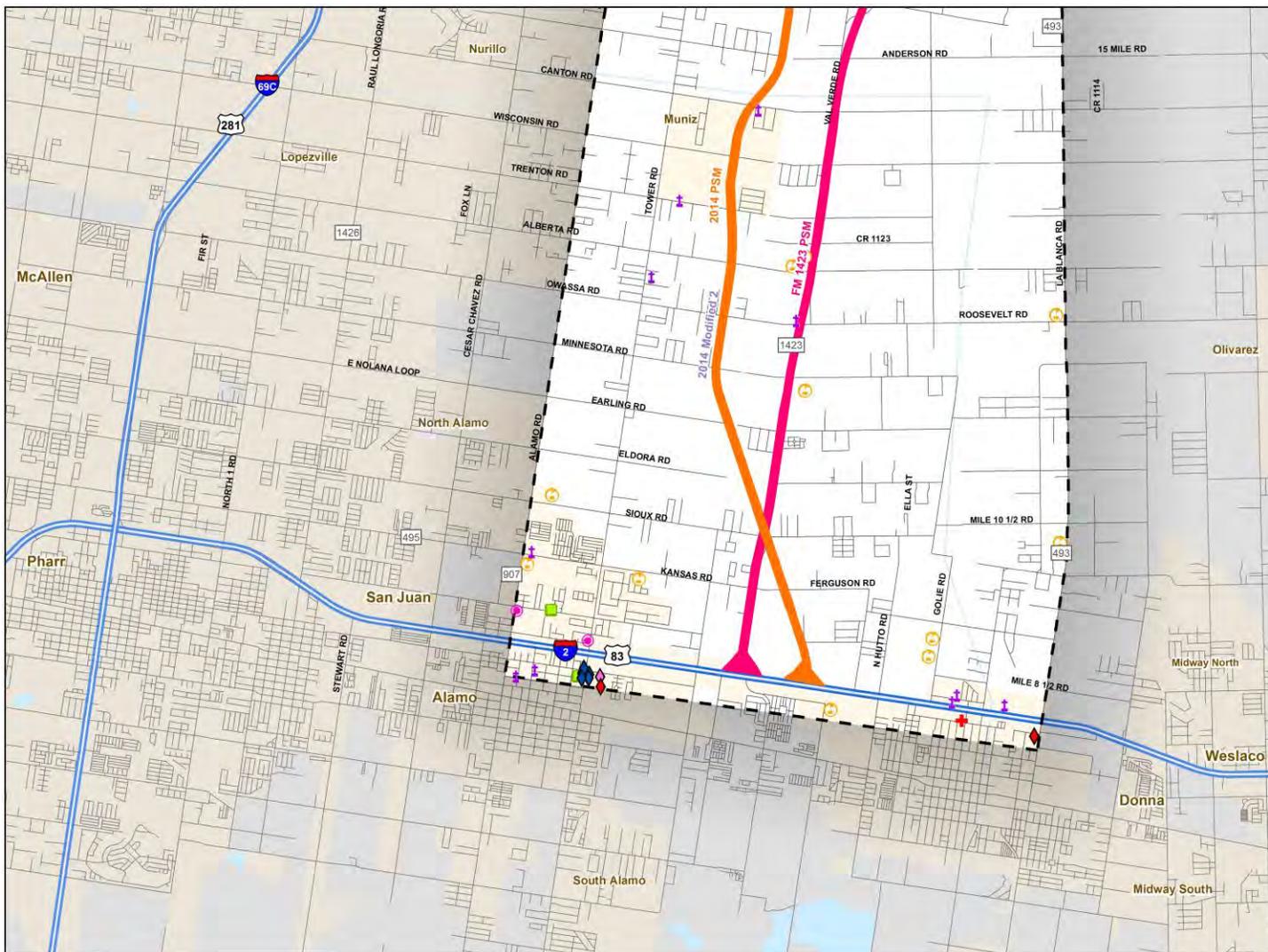
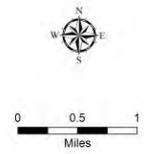


Exhibit 5.2
Community Facilities and
Public Resources
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 to I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, 002, and 003

- Community Facilities and Public Resources**
- Early Childhood Day Care Center
 - Health Care Facility
 - Park
 - Place of Worship
 - School
 - City Government Facility
 - County Government Facility
 - State Government Facility
 - Federal Government Facility
 - Other
- 2014 Modified 2 Alternative
 2014 PSM Alternative
 FM 1423 PSM Alternative
- Community Study Area



Base Map: ESRI-USA Base Map

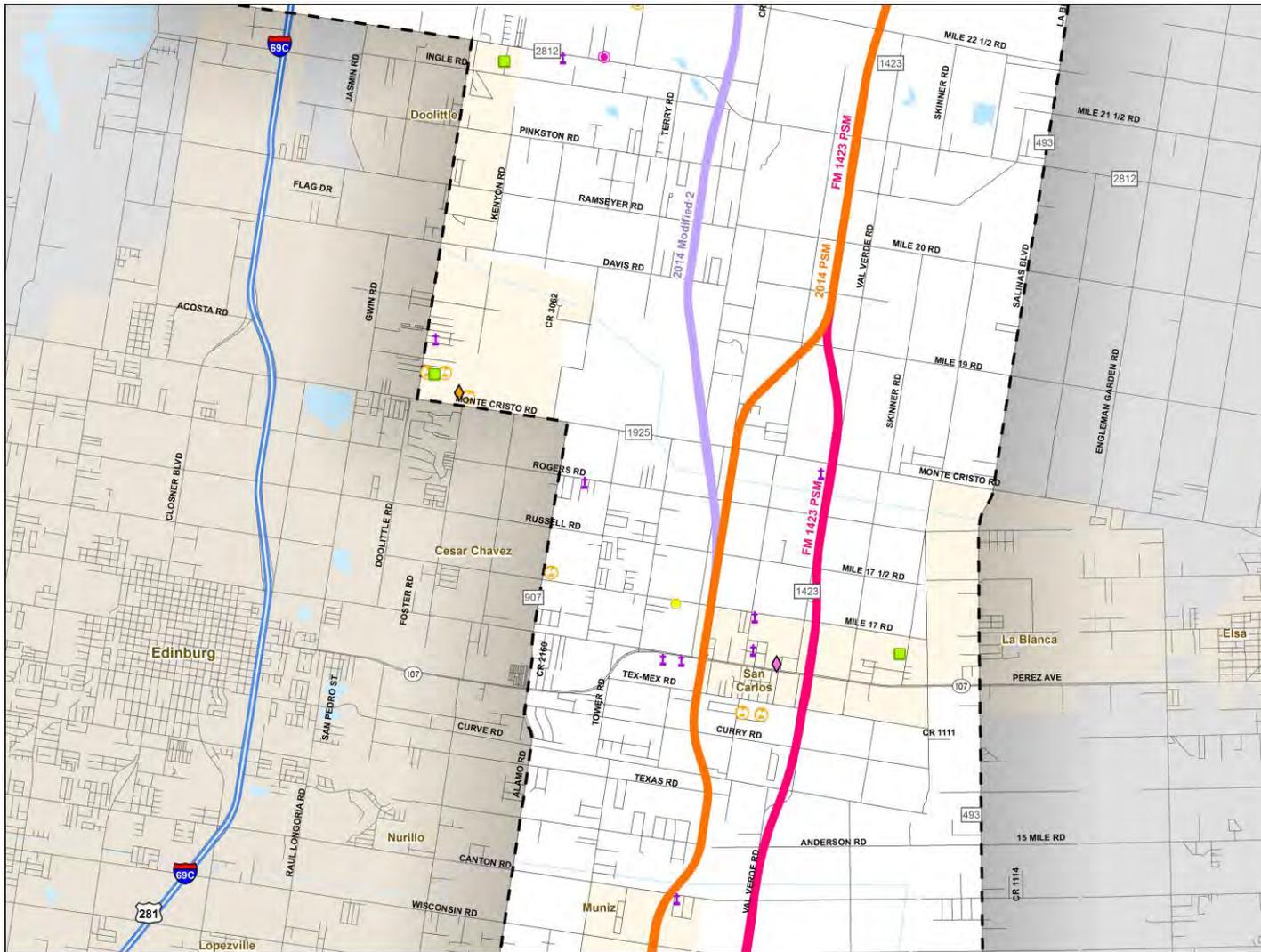
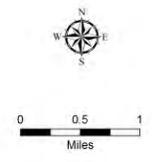


Exhibit 5.3
 Community Facilities and
 Public Resources
 SH 68 from
 I-2/US 83 to I-69C/US 281
 Hidalgo County, Texas
 CSJs: 3629-01-001, 002, and 003

- Community Facilities and Public Resources**
- Early Childhood Day Care Center
 - Health Care Facility
 - Park
 - Place of Worship
 - School
 - City Government Facility
 - County Government Facility
 - State Government Facility
 - Federal Government Facility
 - Other
- 2014 Modified 2 Alternative
- 2014 PSM Alternative
- FM 1423 PSM Alternative
- Community Study Area



Base Map: ESRI-USA Base Map



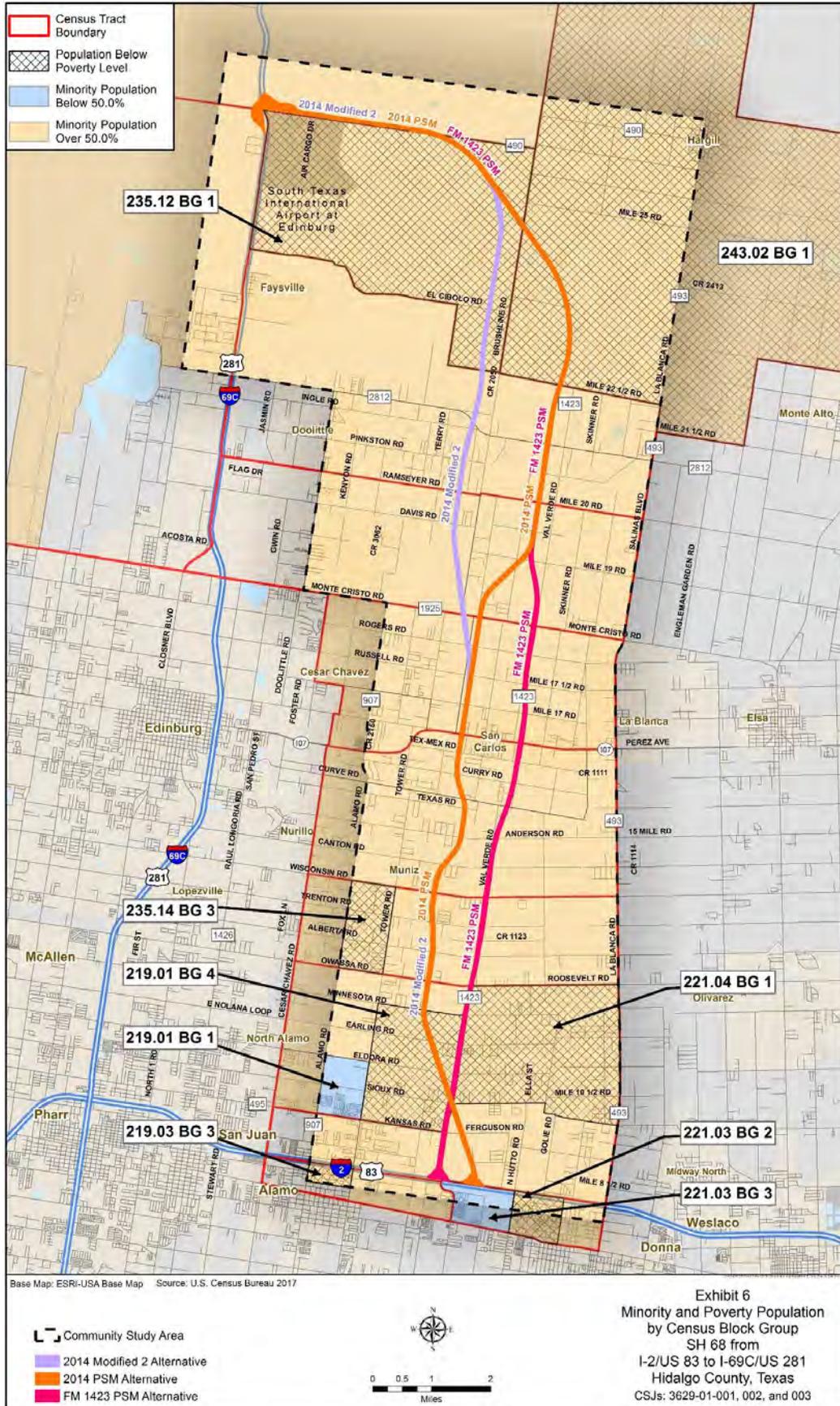
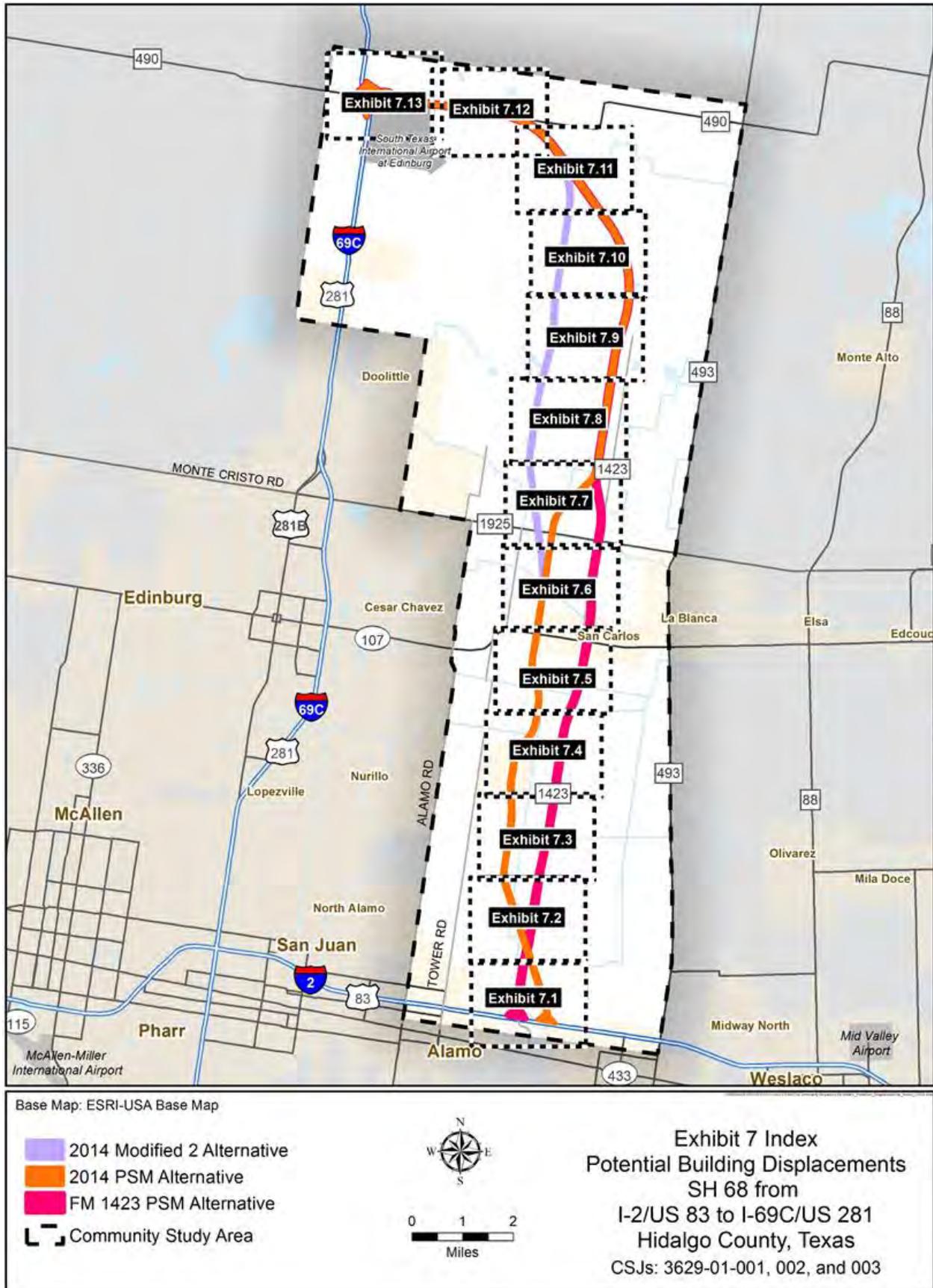
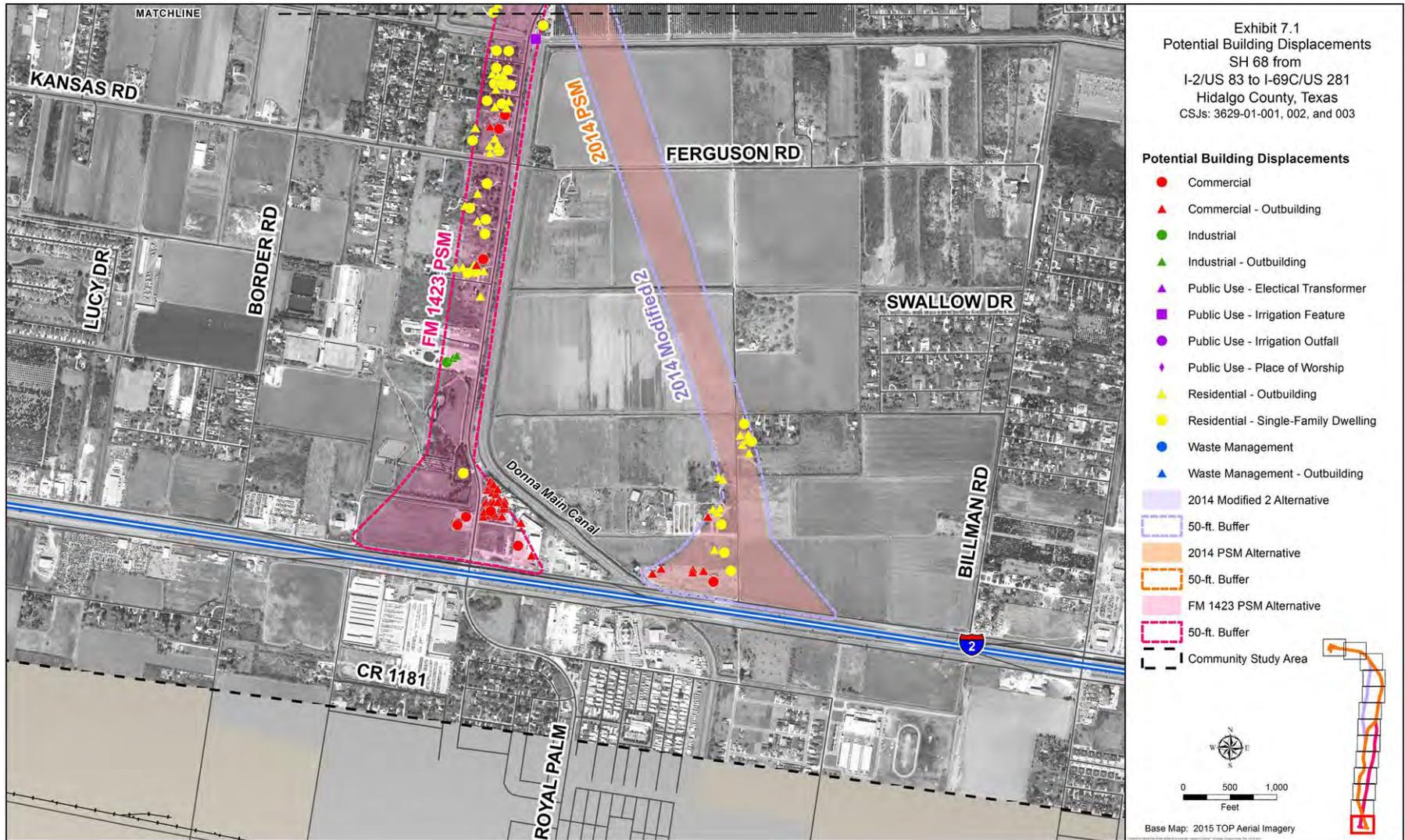


Exhibit 6
 Minority and Poverty Population
 by Census Block Group
 SH 68 from
 I-2/US 83 to I-69C/US 281
 Hidalgo County, Texas
 CSJs: 3629-01-001, 002, and 003





1



1



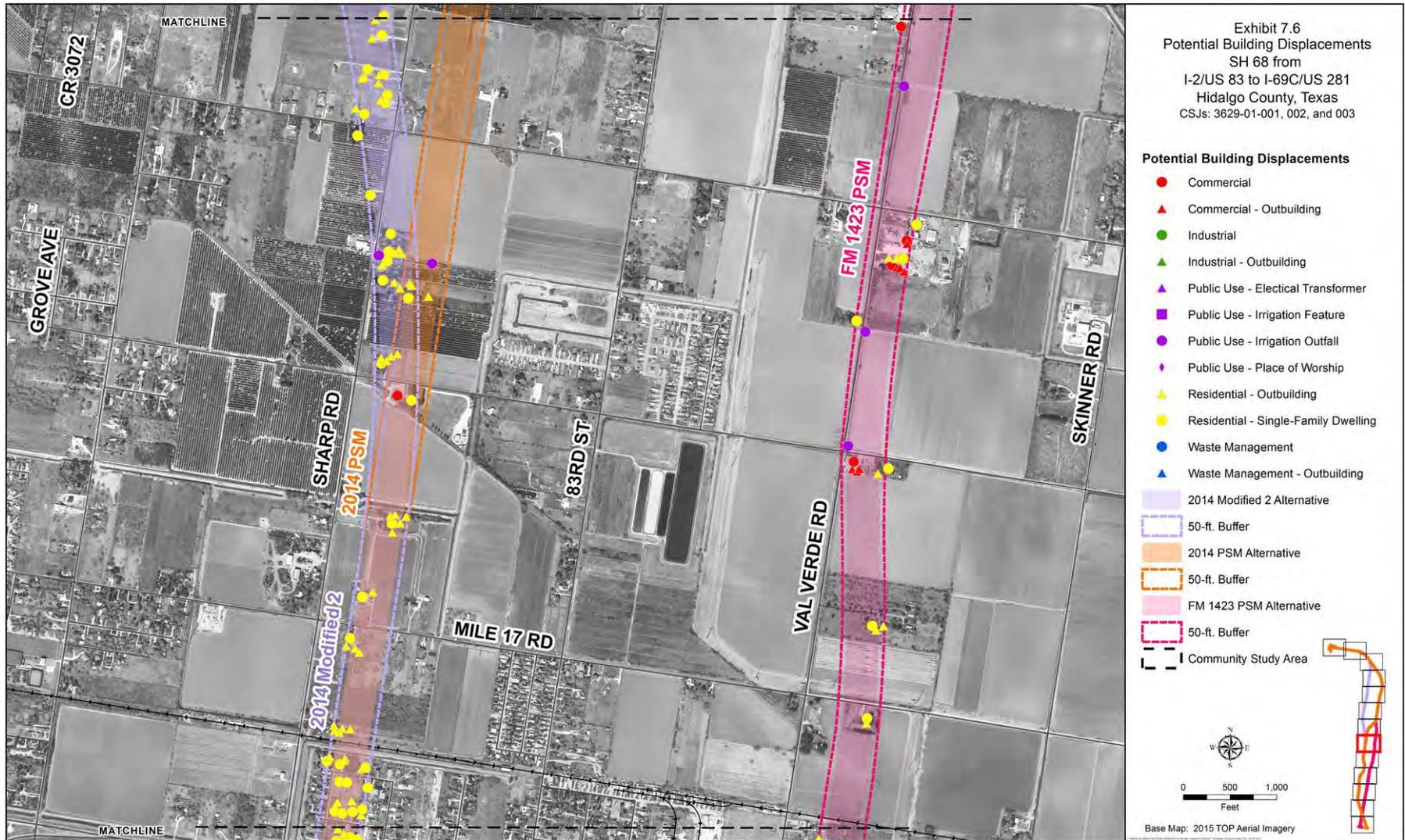
1



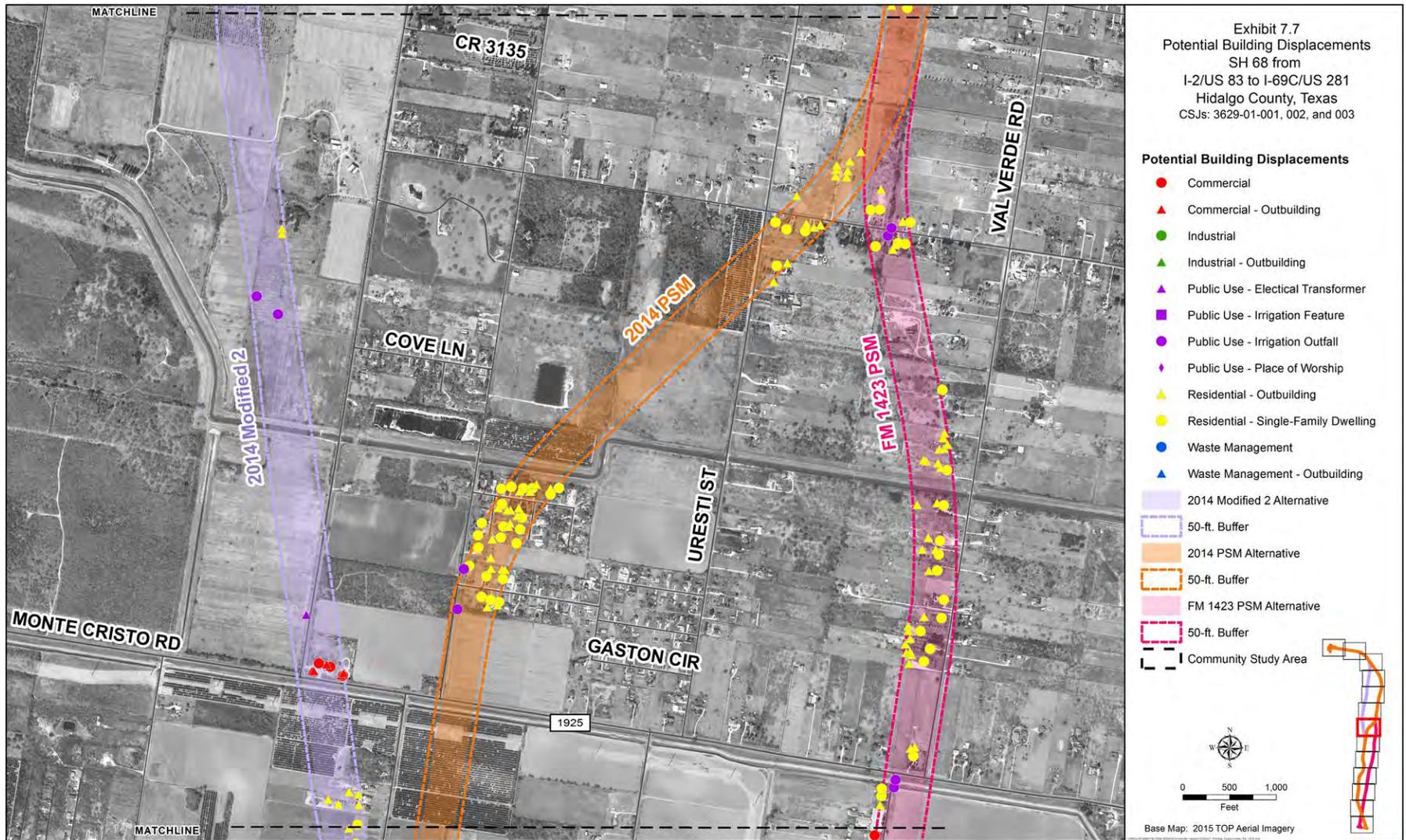
1



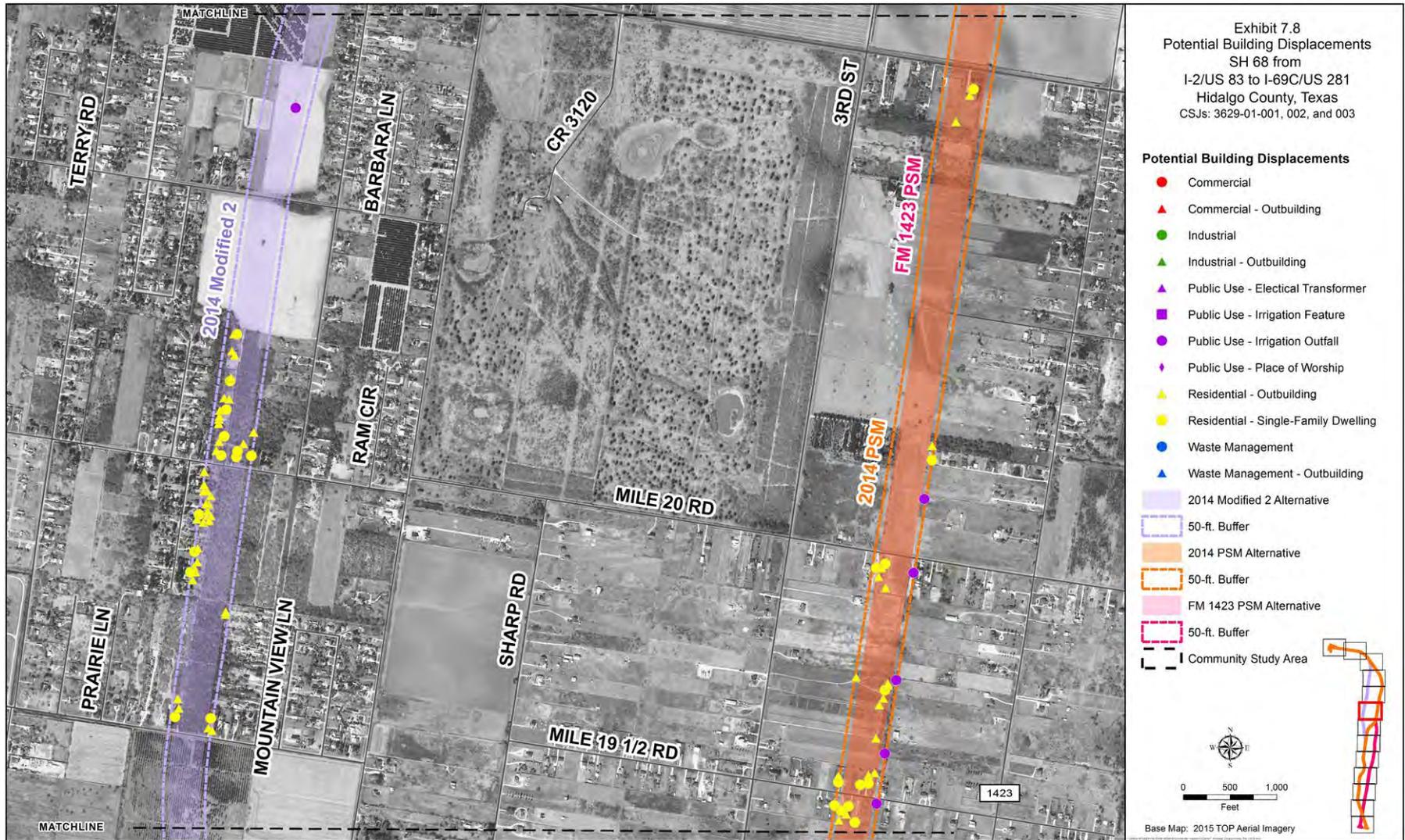
1



1



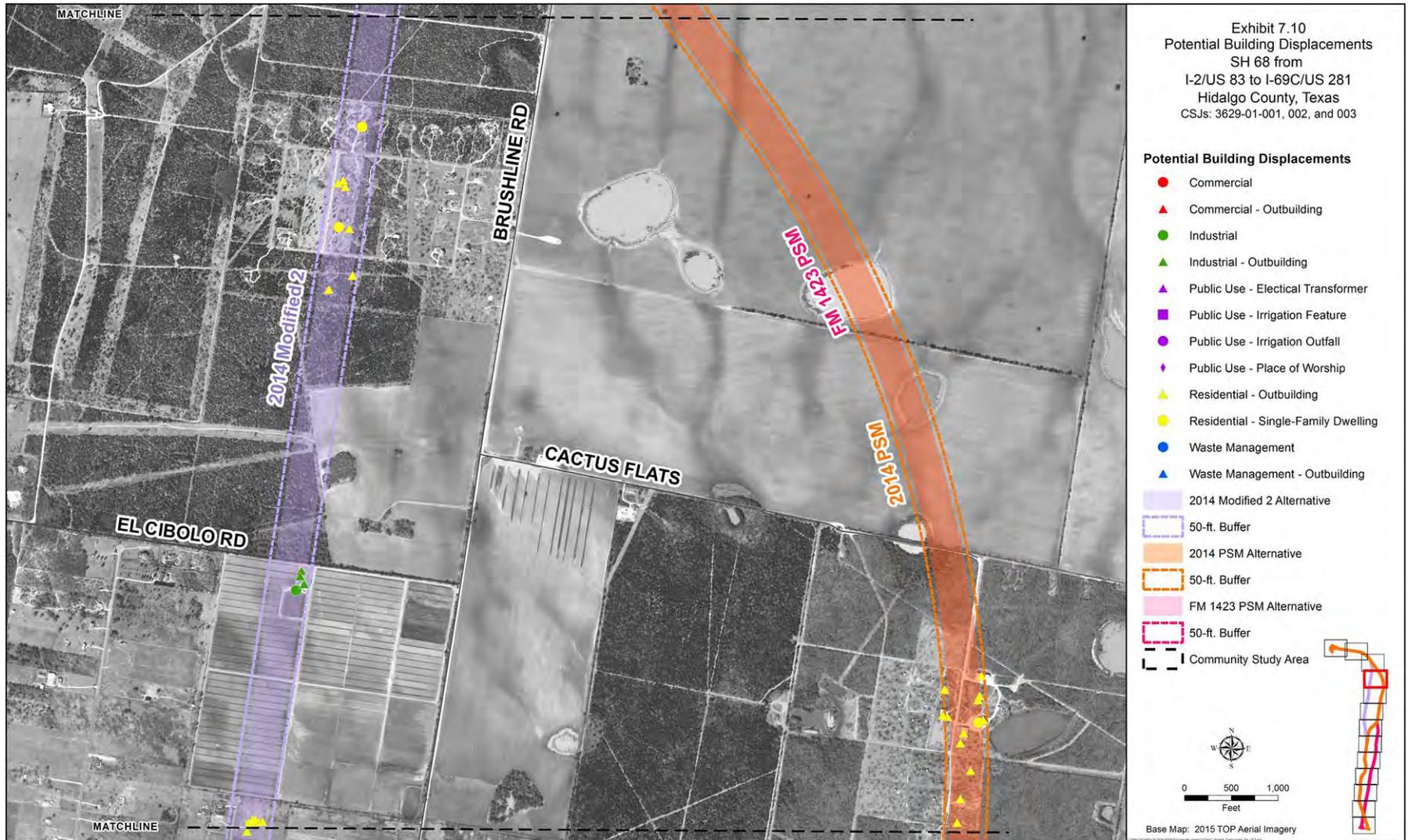
1



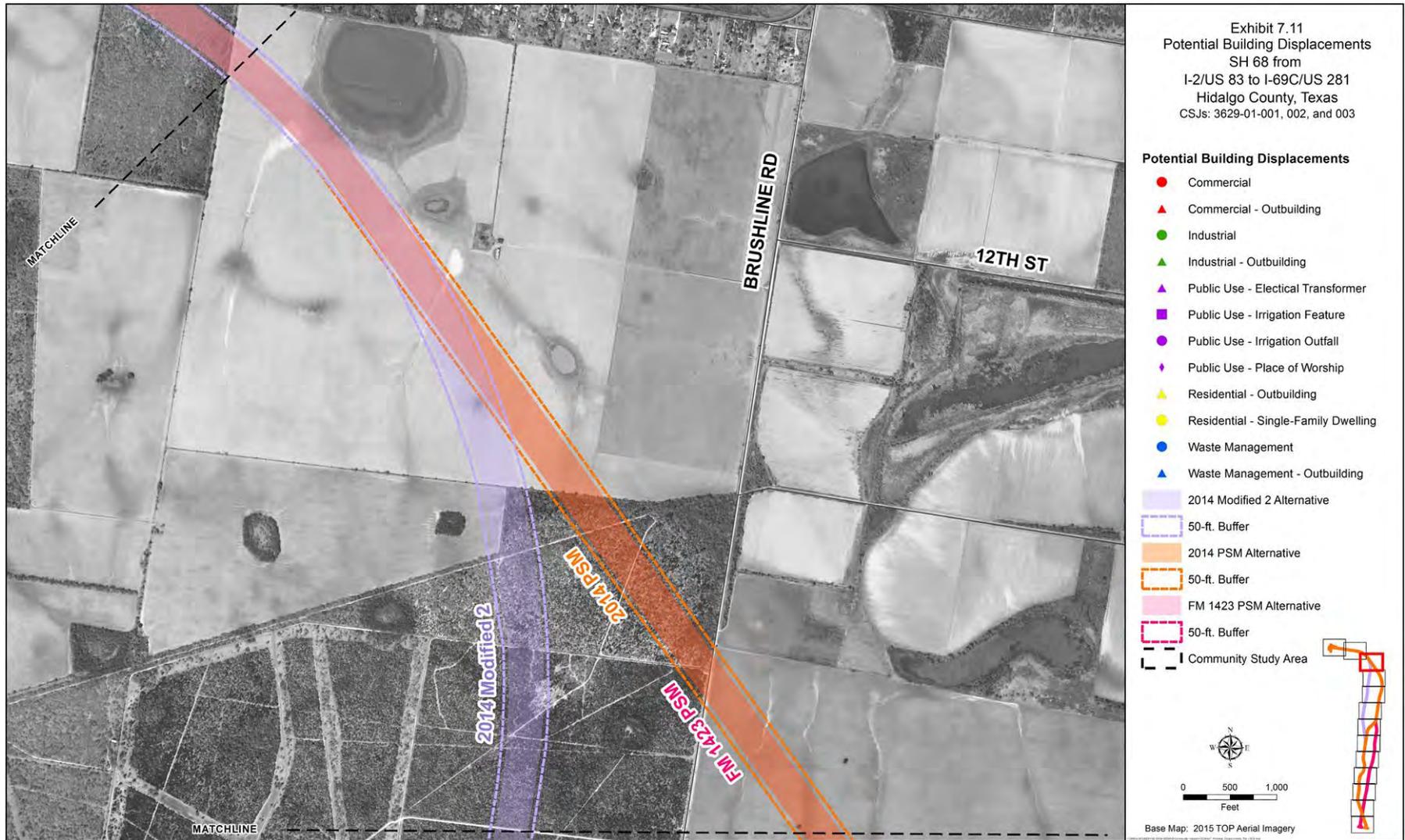
1



1



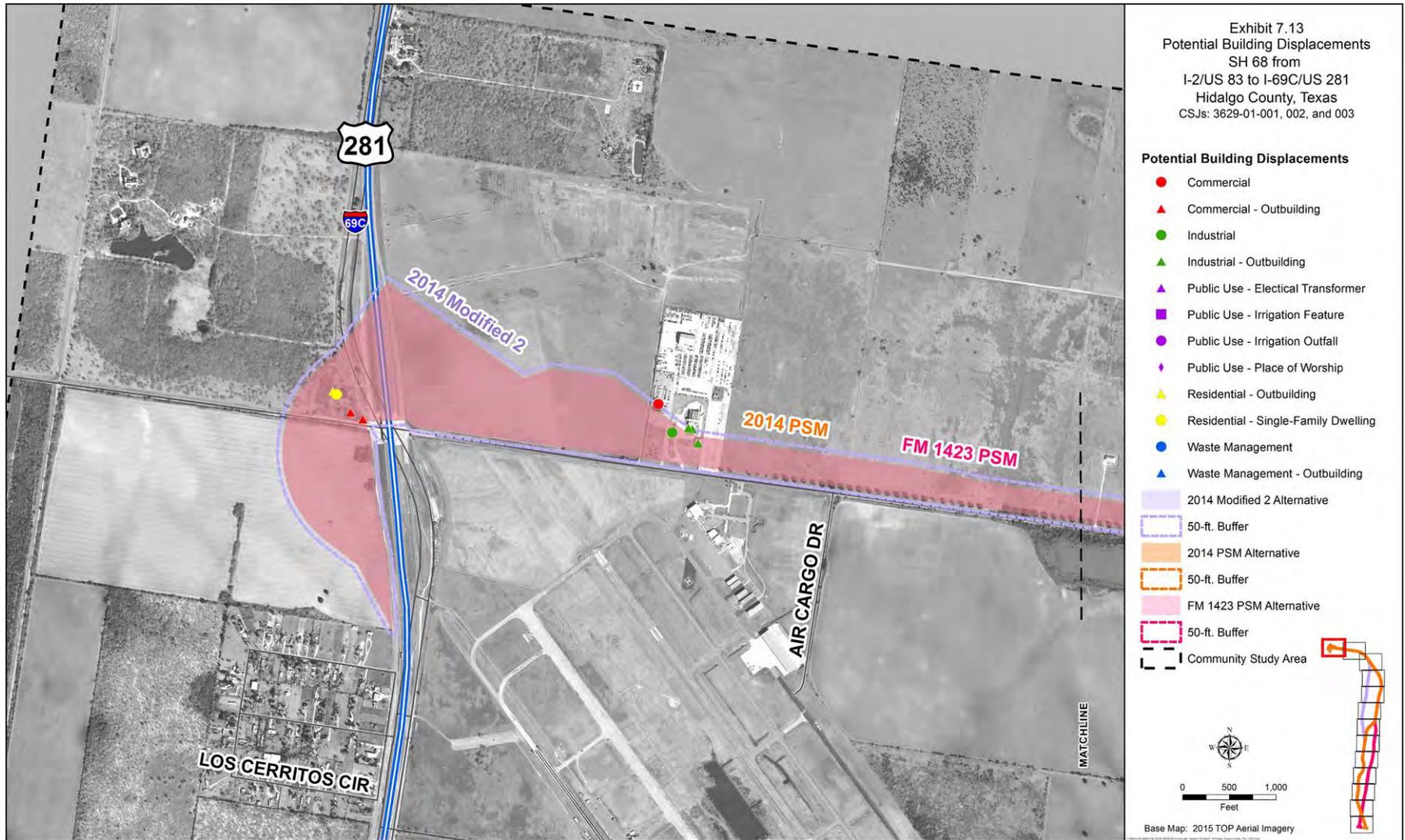
1



1



1



1

ATTACHMENT B

2

Project Area Photographs

3



Photograph 1: View of the northern project limit at the I-69C/US 281 and FM 490 intersection. View is to the east.



Photograph 2: View of FM 490 and Integrity Industries, Inc. View is to the north.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 1 of 20



Photograph 3: View from Mile 22 1/2 Road within the FM 1423 PSM Alternative proposed ROW. View is to the southwest.



Photograph 4: View from Mile 19 Road within the FM 1423 PSM Alternative proposed ROW. View is to the north.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 2 of 20



Photograph 5: View from Mile 22 1/2 Road within the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative proposed ROW. View is to the south.



Photograph 6: View of the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative crossing at FM 2812. View is to the southeast (Google Street View Image).

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 3 of 20



Photograph 7: View from Ramseyer Road within the 2014 PSM Alternative proposed ROW. View is to the north.



Photograph 8: View from Davis Road within the 2014 PSM Alternative proposed ROW. View is to the north.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 4 of 20



Photograph 9: View of the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative crossing at 6810 Ingle Road. View is to the southeast.



Photograph 10: View from Benito A Ramirez Road within the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative proposed ROW. View is to the north.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 5 of 20



Photograph 11: View of the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative crossing and Mercado Meat Market located at the intersection of FM 1925/Monte Cristo Road and Brushline Road. View is to the northeast (Google Street View Image).



Photograph 12: View of the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative ROW along Sharp Road. View is to the south (Google Street View Image).

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 6 of 20



Photograph 13: View of FM1423/Val Verde Road and a Hidalgo County Irrigation District Canal north of FM 1925/Monte Cristo Road. View is to the south.



Photograph 14: View of the FM 1423/Val Verde Road and FM 1925/Monte Cristo Road intersection. View is to the north.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 7 of 20



Photograph 15: View from SH 107 within the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative proposed ROW of DTS Building Supplies and GRV Texas Drive Thru. View is to the north.



Photograph 16: View from Curve Road within the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative proposed ROW of residential properties. View is to the north.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 8 of 20



Photograph 17: View from FM 1423/Val Verde Road and Cruz Used Auto Parts at the corner of Val Verde Road and East Rogers Road. View is to the east.



Photograph 18: View of Stripes/Valero located at the FM 1423/Val Verde Road and SH 107 intersection. View is to the south.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 9 of 20



Photograph 19: View of the FM 1423/Val Verde Road and SH 107 intersection. View is to the north.



Photograph 20: View from Curry Road within the FM 1423 PSM Alternative proposed ROW. View is to the south.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 10 of 20



Photograph 21: View of the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative proposed ROW at Iowa Road. View is to the east (Google Street View Image).



Photograph 22: View from Wisconsin Road within the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative proposed ROW. View is to the north.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 11 of 20



Photograph 23: View of Terra Firma Materials located at 9312 East Curve Road. View is to the east.



Photograph 24: View from FM 1423/Val Verde Road towards the Hidalgo County Irrigation District Canal located south of Curve Road. View is to the east.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 12 of 20



Photograph 25: View of the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative proposed crossing at Alberta Road. View is to the east (Google Street View Image).



Photograph 26: View from Owassa Road within the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative proposed ROW of a residential property. View is to the south.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 13 of 20



Photograph 27: View of FM 1423/Val Verde Road and All Valley Metal Recycling located 16100 North Val Verde Road . View is to the south.



Photograph 28: View from FM 1423/Val Verde Road towards the Hidalgo County Irrigation District canal located south of Canton Road Road. View is to the east.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 14 of 20



Photograph 29: View of the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative proposed ROW at Nolana Loop. View is to the east (Google Street View Image).



Photograph 30: View of the 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative proposed crossing at FM 1423/Val Verde Road Road. View is to the northwest.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 15 of 20



Photograph 31: View from FM 1423/Val Verde Road and the Hidalgo County Irrigation District Canal located south of Trenton Road. View is to the east.



Photograph 32: View of FM 1423/Val Verde Road and El Valle Used Auto Parts located north of West Roosevelt Road. View is to the south.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 16 of 20



Photograph 33: View from FM 1423/Val Verde Road and the Hidalgo County Irrigation District Canal located north of Wisconsin Road. View is to the west.



Photograph 34: View of FM 1423/Val Verde Road and Val Verde Memorial Gardens located south of Earling Road. View is to the north.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 17 of 20



Photograph 35: View of Val Verde Road located at 6218 Browning Street south of Earling Road. View is to the west.



Photograph 36: View of Val Verde Road located at 4201 South Val Verde Road. View is to the west.

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 18 of 20



Photograph 37: View of the southern project limits for 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative at the North Valley View Road and I-2/ US 83. View is to the south (Google Street View Image).



Photograph 38: View of the southern project limits for 2014 Modified 2 Alternative and 2014 PSM Alternative at the Red River Drive and I-2/ US 83 intersection. View is to the north (Google Street View Image).

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 19 of 20



Photograph 39: View of the southern project limits at the FM 1423/Val Verde Road and I-2/US 83 intersection. View is to the south.



Photograph 40: View of the southern project limits at the FM 1423/Val Verde Road and I-2/US 83 intersection. View is to the north (Google Street View Image).

Project Area Photographs
SH 68 from
I-2/US 83 To I-69C/US 281
Hidalgo County, Texas
CSJs: 3629-01-001, -002, and -003
Page 20 of 20

THIS REPORT WRITTEN ON BEHALF OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BY



8023 VANTAGE DRIVE, SUITE 1100
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78230
WWW.RJRIVERA.COM



5 LAKEWAY CENTRE COURT, SUITE 200
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78734
WWW.BLANTONASSOCIATES.COM



9500 AMBERGLEN BOULEVARD
BUILDING F, SUITE 125
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78729-1102
WWW.HALFF.COM
