



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



## SH 48 (BOCA CHICA BLVD) RAISED MEDIAN PUBLIC MEETING

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July 17, 2018





# SH 48 (BOCA CHICA BLVD) RAISED MEDIAN PROJECT

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From I-69E to SH 4 (International Blvd)

# Public Meeting Agenda

- **Welcome & Introductions**

*Octavio Saenz – TxDOT Public Information Officer*

- **Technical Overview**

*Javier Martinez, Jr. P.E. – TxDOT Pharr Central Design  
Project Manager*

- **Next Steps in Project Development**

*Octavio Saenz – TxDOT Public Information Officer*

- **Public Comment**

- **Adjournment**

## **Public Meeting Purpose**

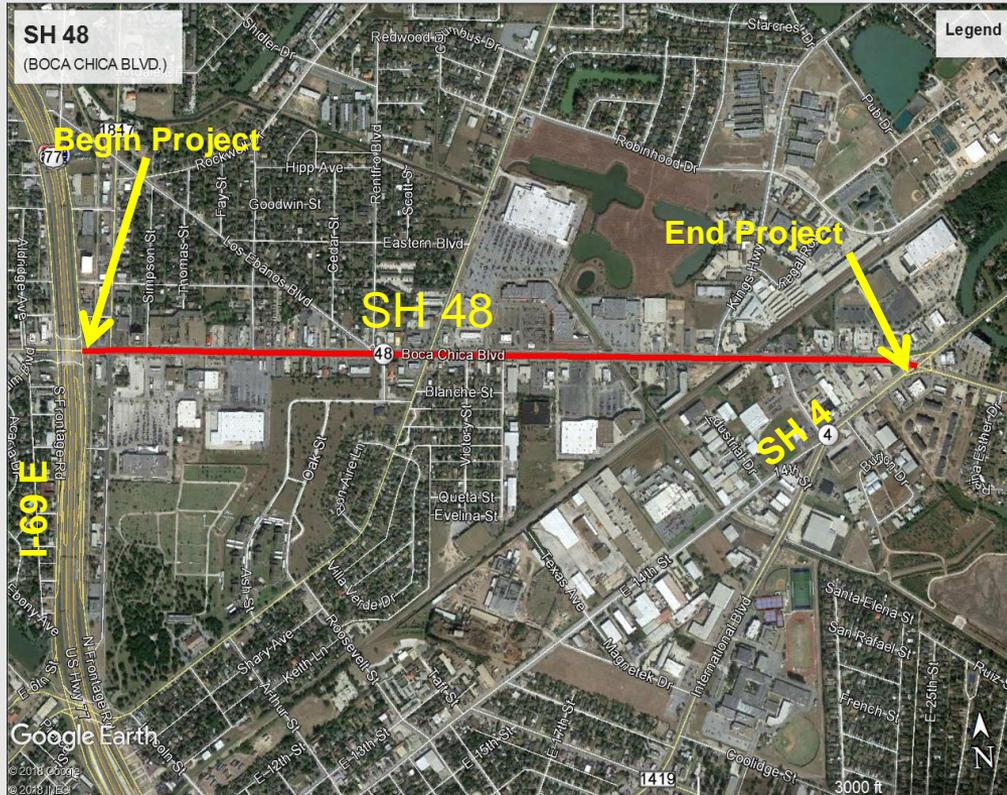
- **Encourage and maintain effective communication with the public**
- **Provide project information**
- **Important step in environmental process**
- **Receive input and comments**

- Elected Officials Present
- TxDOT Representatives

# Meeting Format

- Purpose of the Public Meeting: To solicit feedback from the community regarding proposed improvements
  
- Options for Commenting:
  - Verbal comments will commence after presentation
  - Written comments can be placed in the comment box
  - E-Mail comments to: [Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov](mailto:Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov)
  - Fax comments to: 956-702-6110
  - Mail comments to: TxDOT Pharr District  
600 W. Interstate 2  
Pharr, Texas 78577
  
- Deadline for comments: August 1, 2018

# Project Overview

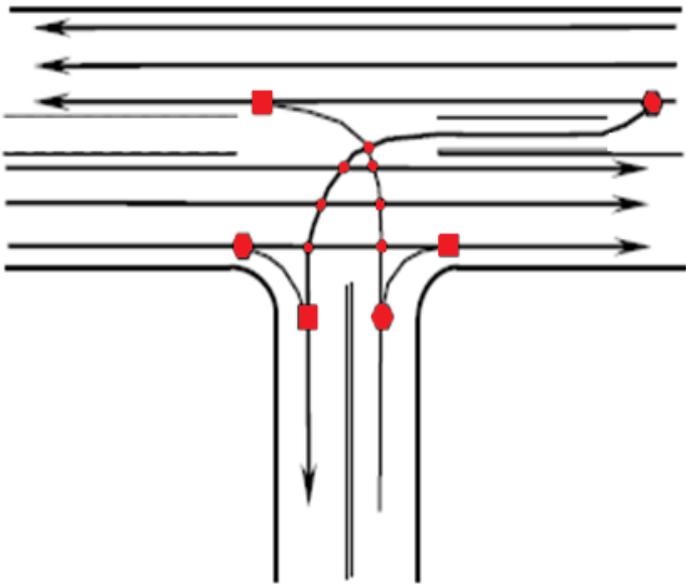


- From I-69E to SH 4 (International Blvd)
- Project Length: Approx. 1.5 Miles
- Construct raised median and sidewalks
- No right of way needed
- Project cost is estimated about \$3 million

- **Need – What problems are we trying to address?**
  - Increased congestion
  - Decreased mobility
  - Increased accident rate
  
- **Purpose – What are we trying to do?**
  - Enhance safety
  - Reduce congestion
  - Improve mobility

# Conflict Points

## Left Turn Lane



### Conflict points

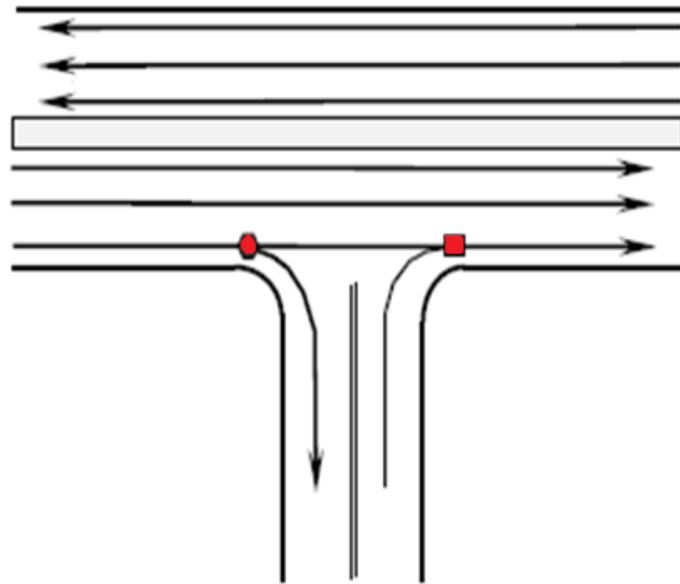
● 7 Crossing

■ 3 Merging

◆ 3 Diverging

Total 13 conflict points

## Raised Median



### Conflict points

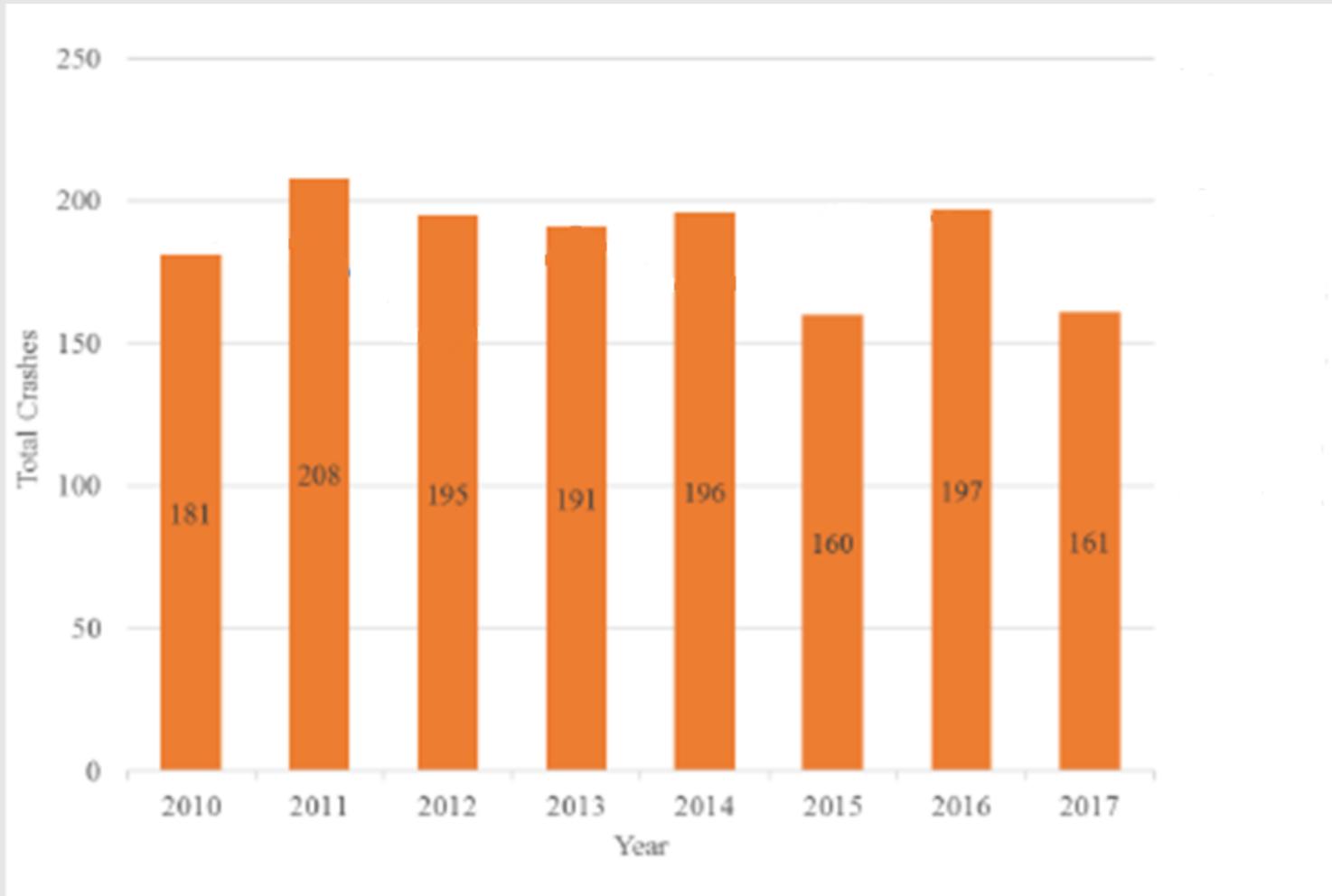
● 0 Crossing

■ 1 Merging

◆ 1 Diverging

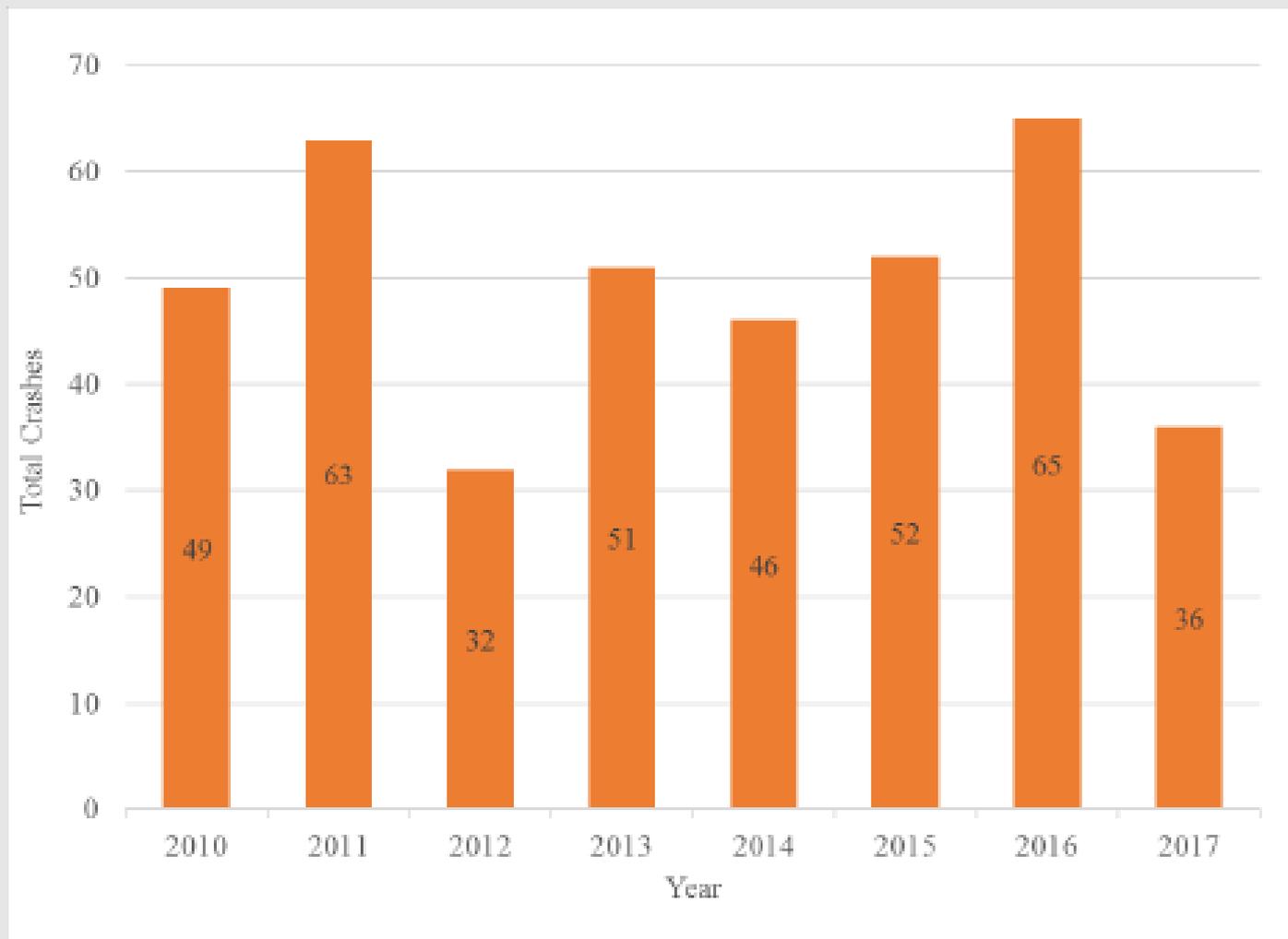
Total 2 conflict points

# Existing Crash Data



**SH 48 Crashes by Year, 2010-2017**

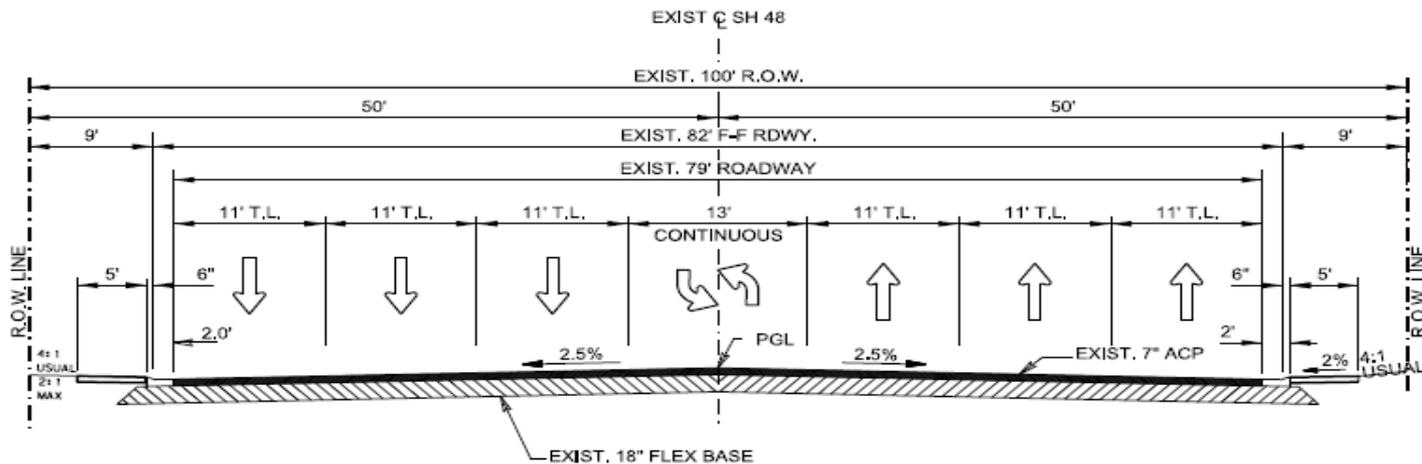
# Centerline Crash Data



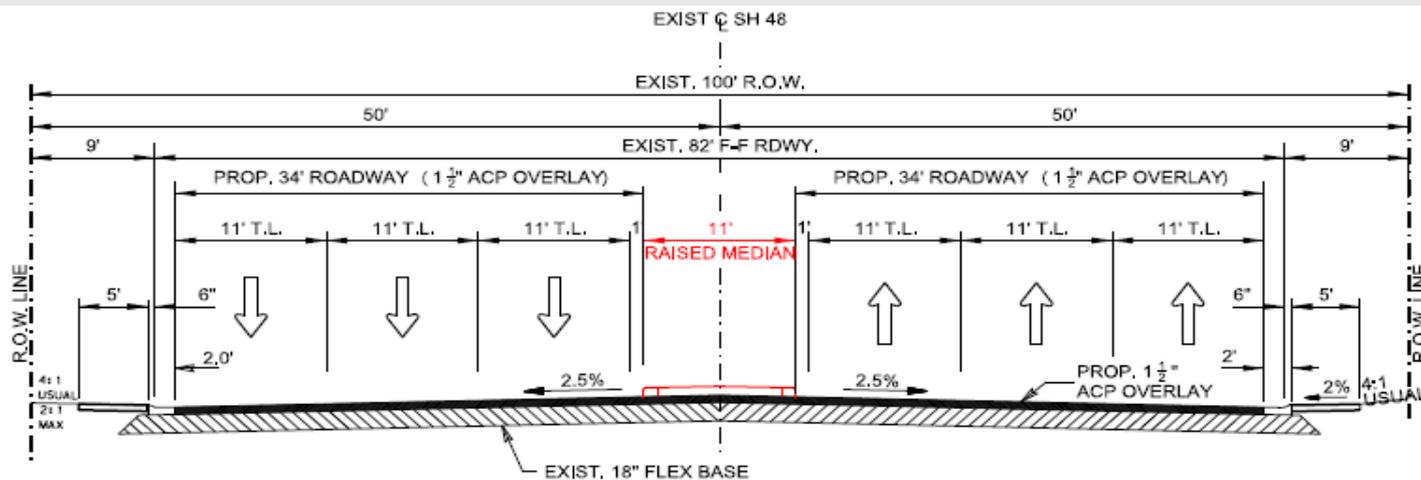
**SH 48 Centerline Crashes by Year, 2010-2017**

# Typical Roadway Section

## EXISTING TYPICAL SECTION



## PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION



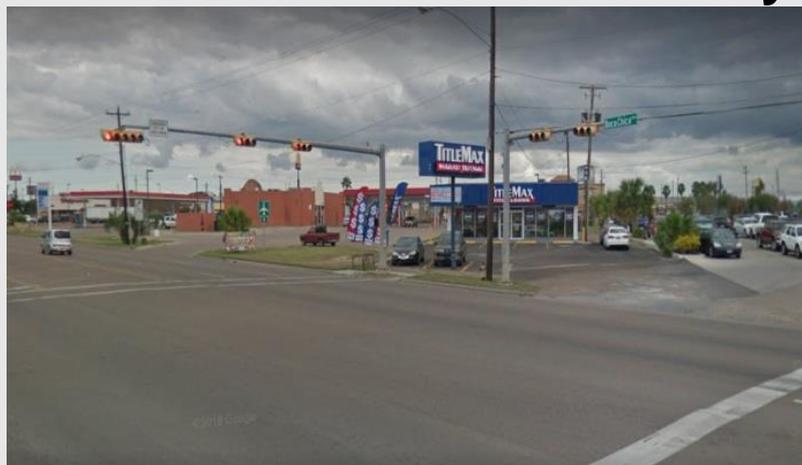
# Removal of Existing Traffic Signals



**Simpson Street Intersection**



**Brownsville Plaza /  
Strawberry Square Intersection**



**Boca Chica Crossing / Home Depot Intersection**

# Benefits of Raised Medians\*

Road	Average Daily Traffic	Crash Rate		
		Pre-raised median	Post-raised median	Percentage of crash rate decrease
Bus SH 6	41,000	4.3	1.8	<b>-58</b>
Loop 281	23,500	5.2	4.3	<b>-17</b>
71 <sup>st</sup> West	30,500	3.8	2.5	<b>-34</b>
71 <sup>st</sup> WC	29,500	3.8	1.8	<b>-53</b>
US 385	10,600	19.6	15.4	<b>-21</b>
Others	30,600	7.0	4.8	<b>-31</b>

- Research consistently finds safety benefits including:
  - Crash volume and rate reductions
  - Crash severity reduced
  - Decrease in fatalities and incapacitating injuries
- Constructing raised medians has decreased crash rates as much as 58%
- Raised medians used in Texas and many other states

\*Source: William E. Frawley, AICP  
Texas A&M Transportation Institute

# Economic Effects Related to Raised Medians\*

- **TTI Research Studies on economic impacts due to raised median implementation:**
  - *Economic Assessment of Access Management Projects in the Houston, Texas Region (2015).*
  - *Economic Impacts of Superstreet Implementation (2014).*
  - *A Methodology for Determining Economic Impacts of Raised Medians: Final Project Results (2000).*
  - *Economic Impacts of Raised Median Implementation in the Rio Grande Valley (2016).*
  - *FM 802 Raised Median Economic Impacts.*

# Environmental Study

An environmental study is being conducted for this proposed project. This study considers:

- Impacts to the human and natural environment
- Community Impacts
- Noise
- Air
- Vegetation
- Streams and Wetlands
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Cultural Resources
- Hazardous Materials

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

# Project Schedule\*



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

# Public Comment Period



- Use the microphone
- State your name
- State your interest in the project
- Give your comments on the project
- Please observe 3 minute rule

**Q = 3 MIN**

## Provide Your Comments

- Leave comments at registration table tonight
- Mail or drop off comments:

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

- Fax comments to (956) 702-6110
- Email comments to [Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov](mailto:Robin.Gelston@txdot.gov)

**Comment deadline August 1, 2018**

[TxDOT Website www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) **Keyword: SH 48**

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

