

### PHARR DISTRICT

## Study Overview

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Pharr District is conducting a feasibility study for the SL 195 Extension and Connector from the junction of future SL 195 and FM 755 in Rio Grande City, TX, to I-69C/US 281 north of Edinburg as well as US 83 west of FM 2360. This study is part of TxDOT's initial planning efforts to further extend SL 195 east in the Rio Grande Valley as well as complete the SL 195 Roma-Rio Grande City relief route. The feasibility study is intended to:

- Establish the purpose and need for extending SL 195 farther east and completing the SL 195 Roma-Rio Grande City relief route.
- Characterize the environmental setting and identify environmental features that may influence the development and location of route options.
- Develop and screen controlled-access route options that meet interstate standards to determine which one(s) should be advanced for further detailed schematic design and environmental study.
- Engage and receive input from stakeholders and the public.

## Key Considerations

The SL 195 Extension and Connector Feasibility Study will consider a number of needs, issues and improvements, including but not limited to the following:



Safety



Interstate Design



Network Redundancy



Mobility and Congestion



Rural Connectivity



Freight Mobility



International Trade



Relief Route

## Schedule (Subject to Change)



## Importance of SL 195 within the US 83/I-2 Regional Transportation Corridor

The SL 195 Extension and Connector will bring essential transportation improvements to the western portion of the Rio Grande Valley between Rio Grande City and the Edinburg and McAllen metropolitan areas. The SL 195 Extension and Connector will:

- Enhance local and regional safety, mobility, and hurricane evacuation route efficiency.
- Compliment US 83 as a critical freight corridor on the Texas Highway Freight Network.
- Provide congestion relief and accessibility options to the US 83/I-2 corridor by adding east/west freeway network redundancy in the Rio Grande Valley, which enables there to be system resiliency in times of emergency.
- Support future economic development plans.

### Questions/Comments:

Contact Edgar O. Perez, P.E.,  
Transportation Engineer



[PHR\\_SL195\\_Extension@txdot.gov](mailto:PHR_SL195_Extension@txdot.gov)



956-702-6119



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## SL 195 Extension and Connector Route Option Development

SL 195 Extension and Connector route options are intended to function in tandem by providing a new freeway from Rio Grande City to I-69C/US 281 north of Edinburg and completing the SL 195 Roma-Rio Grande City Relief Route to US 83, avoiding the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Route option development involved:

- Meeting the interstate design standards established by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation officials.
- Avoiding and minimizing impacts to residences, businesses and environmental and community features at a reasonable cost.
- Coordinating with regional/local stakeholders including elected officials, regional planning representatives and transportation entities.

## SL 195 Extension and Connector Route Option Descriptions

As shown below, three extension route options and three connector route options were developed. They are comprised of the North, Central and South SL 195 Extension and Connector Route Options, respectively. The combination of the three extension and three connector route options form nine Planning Scenarios. The nine Planning Scenarios are being evaluated individually to determine which one(s) best meet the project's purpose and need and provide the greatest opportunity to minimize impacts to the natural and human environments, taking into consideration public review and input. The eastern portion of the three extension route options overlap as they approach I-69C/US 281. Likewise, the three connector route options overlap as they approach US 83.

## SL 195 Extension and Connector Route Options

