

APPROVAL OF I-69 CORRIDOR PRIORITIES

Background

In 2009, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) embarked on a new planning and project development process for the I-69 Corridor. The new process employs increased local participation by local officials and the public as its cornerstone and contains three (3) major components:

1. Future I-69 segments should be developed as needed to meet local transportation demands and should also be compatible with corridor-wide mobility;
2. The use of existing rights-of-way, wherever possible, should be carefully considered first before the purchase of any additional rights-of-way are purchased; and
3. Communities should be fully engaged in the planning and decision-making process.

In keeping with this new approach, TxDOT formed the I-69 Corridor Segment Committees and the statewide I-69 Corridor Advisory Committee were created to provide more locally-focused input along the proposed corridor and to articulate local priorities for improvements in the proposed corridor. Members of I-69 Corridor Segment Committees represent metropolitan planning organizations, counties and other entities with an interest in transportation such as cities, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations and others. The segment committee meetings are also advertised in the local communities in advance and are open to the public. The greater Houston region is represented on the Segment 2 and Segment 3 Corridor Committees as well as the I-69 Corridor Advisory Committee.

Current Situation

The two committees have identified the upgrade of existing US 59 to interstate standards to the north and west of Houston as its' primary priority. The Segment 2 and 3 Corridor Committees have also identified specific locations for improvements in the I-69 Corridor. The improvements include a variety of connectors, bypass loops, grade separations, additional lanes, etc. The committees have also reviewed a southern alignment that is intended to provide a connection between ports.

The Texas Transportation Commission was given an update on the activities of the I-69 Corridor Committees at its regular monthly meeting on November 18, 2010. The committees will continue to meet in 2011 to further refine potential planning concepts.

Action Requested

For information only