

August 22, 2023

EARLY SPONSORS FOR ANNUAL MEETING - The Alliance is seeking early sponsors for this year's Alliance Annual Meeting and luncheon. The event will be held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Houston on Thursday, November 30th. Mark your calendar and watch for registration information coming your way. Transportation Commission Member Alex Meade will be the keynote speaker. The widely attended event is an excellent opportunity to learn details of progress and plans for further development of I-69. If you want to be an early-bird sponsor, please contact Executive Director Jennifer Shepard (Jennifer@jgshepard.com).

CONGRESSMAN CUELLAR HONORED - The I-69 Alliance and a host of Laredo area community leaders honored **Congressman Henry Cuellar** for his work on behalf of transportation during a luncheon August 3. The Alliance and others thanked Cuellar for his long-standing commitment to transportation infrastructure improvements to meet the state's growing need for added highway capacity and safety improvements.

As chairman of the I-69 Congressional Caucus, Cuellar has led a coalition of U.S. House members from Texas and seven other I-69 Corridor states in support of I-69 development. Laredo is one of the three points where the I-69 System connects to the Texas-Mexico border. Laredo Mayor Victor Trevino thanked Cuellar for his work in bringing federal funding to Laredo area highway projects. Texas Transportation Commissioner Alvin New joined in with remarks thanking Congressman Cuellar for supporting TxDOT in dealing with federal policy and funding. New also provided the local audience with an update on I-69 funding and projects including the coming



(L-R) Jennifer Shepard, Mayor Victor Trevino, Lauren Garduno, Congressman Henry Cuellar, Transportation Commissioner Alvin New, Cheri Huddleston, and Melisa Montemayor

conversion of the US 59 Laredo Loop to interstate status. Other sponsors included the Ports to Plains Alliance and LJA Engineering. (More photos on Page 2)

MORE I-69 SIGNS COMING IN 2024 - Traffic is flowing, all work is complete and the process of final approval has started for two more I-69 additions to the Interstate Highway System. The first is a 12-mile extension of I-69 in Fort Bend County stretching from Rosenberg to Kindleton and the Wharton County line. This freeway was built in segments over a period of more than a decade. The second is a 4-mile extension of I-69 from the Montgomery County line north to Cleveland in Liberty County. TxDOT is working to confirm that all construction meets interstate standard as part of a designation request to the Federal Highway Administration. A signing application will go to AASHTO's route numbering committee in the spring and we should be holding signing celebrations for both sections by next summer.



UTP ALLOCATES \$100 BILLION - The Transportation Commission has approved the FY 2024 UTP which allocates a decade of projected revenue to thousands of projects statewide. It provides \$100.6 billion for new construction. Those projects require an estimated \$34 billion in project development costs. TxDOT will also spend an additional \$7.5 billion on routine maintenance for a total 10-year total of \$142 billion. Commissioners pointed out that these are historic levels of investment with most of the funding coming from state resources. In the final UTP presentation TxDOT highlighted three included I-69 projects: (1) US 77 upgrades in San Patricio County; (2) US 59 upgrades at Nacogdoches; and the \$150 million allocated to a new freeway connecting I-69C and I-69E in the Rio Grande Valley. The UTP includes allocation of \$19 billion to the 11 TxDOT districts classified as rural. That compared to only \$2.2 billion in 2016. The Atlanta, Lufkin and Yoakum districts on the I-69 System are classified as rural. The Alliance submitted a public comment on the UTP thanking TxDOT for more than \$8 billion in allocations to I-69 projects. We stressed the importance of continuing to prioritize relief routes in future funding decisions. Relief routes are the early building blocks for completing continuous interstate highway segments.

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Proposed 2024 UTP Estimated Funding by Category

- The final 2024 UTP includes a total of **\$100.6 billion** distributed across the 12 UTP funding categories for construction
- Projects in the UTP are selected by TxDOT Districts, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), or the Texas Transportation Commission using performance-based selection process
- The UTP guides and authorizes the development of projects estimated to let over the next 10 years, which totals **\$34.2 billion**
- The estimated **\$142.3 billion** total represents a historic investment in Texas' transportation system

Category and Description		2023 UTP Distribution (\$B)	Draft 2024 UTP Distribution (\$B)
1	Preventive Maintenance & Rehabilitation	\$16.6	\$18.7
2	Metro and Urban Corridor Funding	\$10.8	\$11.5
4R	Statewide Connectivity (Rural)	\$6.9	\$10.0
4U	Statewide Connectivity (Urban)	\$5.3	\$7.8
5	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	\$2.3	\$2.3
6	Bridge	\$4.2	\$4.7
7	Federal Metropolitan Mobility	\$5.7	\$5.8
8	Safety	\$3.7	\$3.7
9	Transportation Alternatives	\$1.7	\$1.7
10	Supplemental Transportation Projects	\$0.7	\$1.2
10CR	Carbon Reduction Program	-	\$1.3
11	District Discretionary	\$1.4	\$1.5
11ES	Energy Sector	\$2.5	\$3.5
11SF	District Safety	\$0.5	\$1.2
11CO	Cost Overruns/Change Orders	-	\$0.8
12	Strategic Priority	\$12.7	\$14.0
12CL	Strategic Priority (Texas Clear Lanes)	\$5.0	\$6.0
<i>Sub-Total</i>		\$80.1	\$95.6
3	Non-traditional	\$4.9	\$5.0
Total Estimated UTP Funding		\$85.1	\$100.6
Estimated Development Costs		\$24.8	\$34.2
Estimated Routine Maintenance Contracts		\$7.0	\$7.5
Total Ten-Year Estimated Investment in Projects		\$116.9	\$142.3

Alliance Honors Congressman Henry Cuellar



Congressman Henry Cuellar (District 28)



Families of Mayor Trevino and Congressman Cuellar participated in the event



TxDOT Commissioner Alvin New



Melisa Montemayor, Alliance board member and retired TxDOT Laredo District Administrator, recalls Congressman Cuellar's leadership on transportation



Alliance for I-69 Texas

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