



Working to Better Connect Texas Communities and Create Economic Opportunities

December 16, 2024



**TEXAS TARGETING ECONOMIC GROWTH** – Texas Transportation Commission member Steven Alvis said that Texas will soon be the 7th largest economy in the world surpassing France. In his remarks at the Dec. 6th Alliance Annual Meeting at the offices of Greater Houston Partnership, Alvis pointed to dozens of major companies that have moved to the state and 360 more companies are in the pipeline trying to get to Texas. “It is going to be so explosive. We are going to look back five or ten years from now to the infrastructure that is built in our state. It is already better than any state in the nation,” he said, highlighting that Dallas, for instance, is likely to become the country’s money and banking center larger than New York.

He noted that while the official prediction is that Texas will grow from the current 30 million population to 40 million in 2050, it is more likely to grow to 50 million. He pointed to TxDOT’s 2050 Plan which predicts a highway funding gap of about \$600 billion over the next 25 years. He called for Alliance members to focus on that funding need. He called expanded transportation capacity the key economic engine that will drive the state’s GDP growth.

**2024 WAS A YEAR OF I-69 PROGRESS** – Harrison County Judge Chad Sims was the host at the well- attended Annual Meeting Luncheon. He noted that the unwavering support of elected officials and local leaders along the I-69 route for the completion of a seamless I-69 corridor in Texas is what drives the success of the Alliance. He pointed out that 220 miles of the system are part of the Interstate Highway System and an additional 40 more miles are open to traffic and awaiting final interstate designation. He noted that the 2025

UTP includes about \$13 billion for more than 80 projects on the I-69 system over the next decade. In the past two year TxDOT has awarded \$2.4 billion in I-69 contracts including 11 major projects and 20 smaller system upgrades.

**I-69 ADVOCACY** - Alliance members are working collectively on all fronts to secure more funding to accelerate I-69 development. Board members approved a list of state and federal priorities for 2025. The Alliance will be encouraging members of the Texas Legislature to provide full allocation of constitutionally dedicated funding for TxDOT and to continue the policy of no diversions from the Highway Fund. We will urge state leaders to establish a Blue Ribbon Committee to identify the size of the annual shortfall in state highway funding. At the federal level the Alliance will support provisions in the next transportation authorization bill that will support accelerated I-69 development. We will also continue to encourage Members of Congress to seek community project funding for I-69 projects.

**SAVE THE DATES** – Please plan to be part of our delegations as we work in Austin and Washington in 2025. Join us on February 27th for I-69 Austin Day. And make sure your community is represented as we meet with Members of Congress and the new Administration in this year’s I-69 DC Fly-In on March 12-13.

**NEW MAILING ADDRESS** – The I-69 Alliance has a new mailing address: 101 N. Shoreline, Suite 500, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401.



Murphy

Sims

Schwebel

Britton

**ALLIANCE OFFICERS FOR 2025** – Alliance officers were elected at the Annual Meeting. Re-elected for another year were Chairman Sydney Murphy, County Judge of Polk County; Vice Chairman Chad Sims, County Judge of Harrison County; and Vice Chairman Gerry Schwebel, executive vice president of IBC Bank. Port of Corpus Christi Authority CEO Kent Britton was elected secretary-treasurer taking the place of Commissioner David Garza of Cameron County who served in that position for many years and continues as an active Alliance board member.

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Thanks to the Partners Who Helped Make Our Annual Meeting Possible



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Membership Opportunity

The Alliance is a membership-based organization. We are able to support the significant advancements on I-69 due to the financial support of members. We invite companies to participate in this effort as Alliance associate members. Please consider joining in. Scan this QR code for more membership information.



SCAN ME

GET MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.i69texasalliance.com/NewsUpdates/AssociateMembersWelcome.html>

In 2024 the Alliance Continued to Keep the Spotlight on I-69



I-69 Delegation Meeting With Sen. Ted Cruz During Alliance DC Fly-In



February Groundbreaking Ceremony Starting \$360 Million I-69W Project in Laredo



Local Officials Celebrate the Start of the \$343 Million Wharton Relief Route in May



South Texas Groundbreaking Ceremony Kicking Off Construction on 20 Miles of I-69E in Kenedy County



Houston and TxDOT Officials Mark Completion of the I-69/I-610 Interchange Expansion



2024 Alliance Annual Meeting Included Reports From TxDOT District Engineers and Planners



Alliance for I-69 Texas

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