



Working to Better Connect Texas Communities and Create Economic Opportunities

March 10, 2025



Part of the I-69 delegation making the rounds at the Texas Capitol

PRODUCTIVE DAY IN AUSTIN – I-69 supporters had a busy day in Austin meeting with legislators, staff members in state leadership offices, Transportation Commission members and TxDOT staff. On Feb. 27, participants in I-69 Austin Day events started the morning attending the Commission’s monthly meeting. Alliance Chairman Sydney Murphy thanked the commissioners and staff for the commitment the department has shown in moving I-69 projects forward. Kent Britton, CEO of the Port of Corpus Christi and an Alliance officer, reminded those attending that economic development follows interstate highways. He noted that port-related industries view additional interstate highway capacity in South Texas as an important logistics resource now and for the future success of their operations. He asked that TxDOT continue to place a high priority on funding I-69 projects.

The delegation also met with staffers for Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dustin Borrows. There were also meetings in the offices of Sen. Robert Nichols, long-time Transportation Committee chair, Rep. Tom Craddick, new chair of House Transportation, and Rep. Terry Canales, chair of the new Subcommittee on Transportation Funding. More photos on Page 2.

DOWNLOAD - The Austin Day leave-behind folder can be downloaded at our website ([HERE](#)). I-69 supporters are encouraged to share a copy with their state legislators.

HEADING TO WASHINGTON – Community leaders supporting I-69 development from Texas and seven other corridor states will be in Washington this week to meet with Members of Congress, committee staffers and federal highway officials. The annual I-69 DC Fly-In is an opportunity

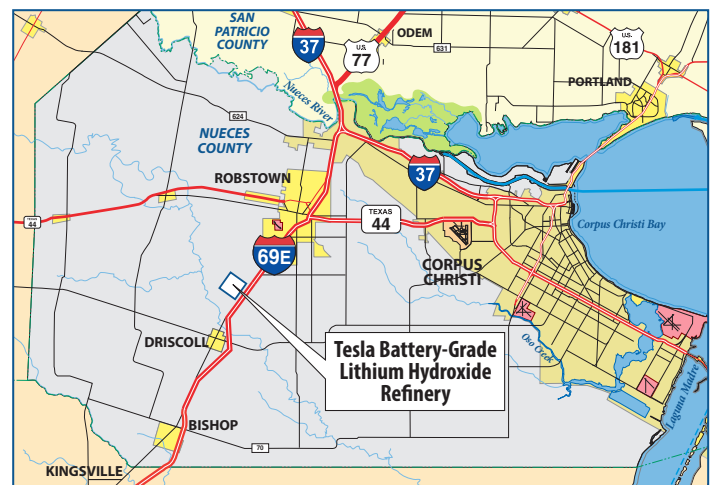
to stress the need for significant federal funding to help accelerate I-69 construction in order to better cope with current and growing traffic.

WASHINGTON REPORT – Committees have taken shape in the new Congress. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas is now chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. Other senators from the I-69 Corridor on the committee are Todd Young of Indiana, Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee and Gary Peters of Michigan. Two Texans are on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee – Brian Babin of Woodville and Troy Nehls of Richmond, both with districts on I-69. Babin has been on the committee for a decade. Sean Duffy, formerly a congressman from Wisconsin, is the new Secretary of Transportation.

INTERSTATE 2 EXTENSION – Work is now substantially complete and open to traffic on a 10 mile extension of I-2 west of McAllen and Mission in Hidalgo County. The upgrade project of US 83 extends the highway through Palmview and creates a new La Joya-Penitas Relief Route. I-2 in the Rio Grande Valley is an important connector in the region’s I-69 System. TxDOT is seeking federal approval for designation and signing of the new interstate highway section.

JACKSON COUNTY PROJECT – TxDOT has awarded a \$2.5 million contract for US 59 safety projects in Jackson County including widening of overpass bridges at FM 822 in Edna.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON I-69 – Tesla has begun startup testing of a lithium refinery under construction beside I-69E in Nueces County near Corpus Christi. The plant is located on a 1,200 acre site and is expected to ultimately represent an investment of \$1 billion. The plant, the first in the US, will make battery-grade lithium hydroxide for Tesla’s use and for the North American market.



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Kent Britton addresses Transportation Commission



Delegation discussing I-69 progress with staff of Rep. Terry Canales, chair of Subcommittee on Transportation Funding



Importance of continued state funding for I-69 was a topic in exchange with Governor's Office staff



Trent Thomas, TxDOT Director of Government Affairs, outlines the department's 2026-2027 appropriations requests

Upcoming Transportation Commission Meetings

- March 27 (Thursday)
- April 24 (Thursday)
- May 21 (Wednesday)



Alliance for I-69 Texas

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