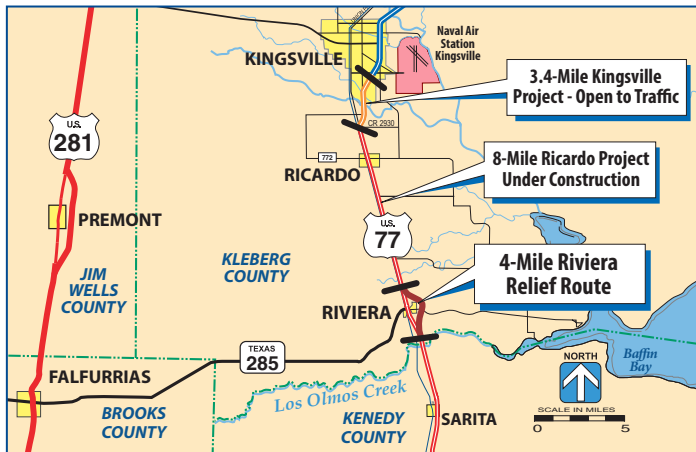


April 7, 2025

FOLLOWING THE LEGISLATURE – The 2025 session of the Texas Legislature is getting busy. This week the House will take up SB 1, the Senate-passed budget. SB 1 includes TxDOT’s overall request of \$40 billion for the 2026-2027 biennium with \$35.8 billion dedicated to highway projects. Last week the House Subcommittee on Transportation Funding heard testimony on HB 1288 by Rep. Brooks Landgraf that would expand the Transportation Commission’s flexibility in project funding. The commission currently has discretion on up to 10% of the current biennial budget. The bill would increase that to 20% which would allow TxDOT to fund very large urban projects in a given year without impacting projects in other regions.



RIVIERA RELIEF ROUTE NEXT UP – The Riviera Relief Route on US 77 in Kleberg County is scheduled to go to bid in July. The four mile long project will allow traffic to avoid the last traffic light between Corpus Christi and Brownsville. That busy intersection of US 77 and SH 285 is a key connection to US 281 carrying border trade traffic north and south from the Rio Grande. Right-of-way has been acquired and utility adjustments are underway in preparation for the estimated \$178 million roadway on the east side of Riviera. The relief route will complete the extension of I-69E south from I-37 at Corpus Christi to near the Kleberg-Kenedy County Line, a total of 49.5 miles. It will connect to two ongoing projects. The first is the 3.4-mile Kingsville South project (\$55 million) which is now open to traffic and substantially complete. The second is the 8-mile Ricardo South project (\$177 million) which is about 45% complete and projected for completion in 2027.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS – Gov. Greg Abbott has reappointed Alex Meade III of Mission and Robert Vaughn of Dallas to six year terms on the Transportation Commission ending in February 2031. Meade, who was appointed to the commission in 2023, is executive vice president of Texas Regional Bank. He is the former CEO of the Mission EDC, former Pharr city manager and a former I-69 Alliance board member. Vaughn, appointed to the commission in 2019, is the owner

of Vaughn Capital Partners, LLC. He serves as chairman of the commission’s Audit Subcommittee. Commission Chairman Bruce Bugg was recently recognized for his 10 years of service.

GROWTH MEANS MORE DEMAND – State Demographer Alan Potter reports that Texas population growth continues to trend upward at a rate of about 1,500 people per day. That equals adding the population of Austin (pop. 980,000) every 21 months to the state’s total population. The cars and commerce that come with it mean there is a relentless need for more roadway capacity. Potter told the Transportation Commission in March that much of the future growth will be in suburbs and counties that ring the state’s biggest cities. Commissioner Alvin New observed that the Potter’s data shows that the I-69 corridor runs through numerous counties that are projected to have significant growth rates over the next 35 years.

HIGHWAY COST INDEX - TxDOT awarded another \$1.2 billion in projects in March and is on track to award \$12 billion in FY 2025. That funding is buying fewer projects with a Highway Cost Index running at an annual rate of 6.24%. Brienne Glover of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute testified last week that a \$500 million project in 2012 would now cost more than \$1 billion. She noted that the 20 cent state gasoline tax set in 1991 now has a highway construction buying power equal to about 2.4 cents.

LEADERS HIGHLIGHT I-69 IN DC – I-69 Alliance leaders were joined by representatives from several I-69 corridor states to participate in the annual I-69 DC Fly-In. The group met with congressional members and staff in March to discuss funding for I-69 projects through the appropriations process, as well as to explore ways to secure greater federal support of I-69 development through the next federal surface transportation authorization bill. While the current bill expires in September 2026, congressional committees are beginning the process by seeking input from stakeholders and Members of Congress. You can download a copy of our [8-state update HERE](#).



Part of the I-69 delegation meets with Congressman Nathaniel Moran of Longview whose district includes 135 miles of the I-69 System route in East Texas.

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I-69 Alliance DC Fly-In 2025



Thanks to Our Fly-In Sponsors



Delegation meetings with Congressman Michael Cloud of Victoria (top left), Congressman Brian Babin of Woodville (top right); Congressmen Henry Cuellar of Laredo and Pete Sessions of Waco (center left). Multi-state delegation dinner with representatives of the Embassies of Mexico and Canada (center right). A sunny day in DC for Nelda Olivo, Judge Sydney Murphy, Rush Harris and Larissa Philpot-Brown (above).



Alliance for I-69 Texas

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