

October 7, 2025



**I-69 MILES ADDED TO INTERSTATE** – Eight more miles of the I-69 Corridor in Texas have been added to the national Interstate Highway System bringing the total to 228 miles. The section in Liberty County has been complete and open to traffic for more than two years. The federal approval process was completed in August and the Texas Transportation Commission voted in September to complete the process. The 8 miles start at the Montgomery County line and extend to the north side of Cleveland. Alliance Executive Director Jennifer Shepard appeared before the commission and applauded the work of the TxDOT staff at all levels for moving I-69 projects forward. She thanked the Commission for the robust investment TxDOT continues to make in I-69. A ceremony unveiling the first I-69 sign in Liberty County is being planned for November 13th.

**FEDERAL FUNDING INITIATIVE** – Organizations across the state are strongly encouraged to pass resolutions or issue support letters before **October 21st**, our Future Interstates Advocacy Day in Washington, DC. These expressions of community support for the proposed Future Interstate Highway Formula Program are being collected and bundled for presentation to congressional and administration officials during the event. The Alliance is working with backers of 13 congressionally authorized Future Interstates across the country to demonstrate support for new funding for multi-state interstate corridors in the next surface transportation authorization bill. (See map, Page 2). The delegation heading to DC will include representatives of the I-69 Alliance, the I-14 Coalition and the I-27 Ports-to-Plains Alliance plus participants from several other states. Sample resolutions and letters can be **downloaded at [www.i69TexasAlliance.com](http://www.i69TexasAlliance.com)**.

**BIDDING MORE COMPETITIVE** – In recent months TxDOT has received much more competitive bidding on highway projects. For September, 75 highway improvement project bids

came in at \$590 million, 22% under the total pre-bid estimate of \$759 million. This trend is expected to continue, allowing TxDOT to fund more projects than previously projected with available funding. Already 27 ready-to-go projects have been moved forward to an earlier letting date. The latest national highway cost index for August reflected a 4.7% increase in construction costs from a year ago, a substantial moderation in the cost increase trend compared to recent years. In FY 2025, which ended in August, TxDOT awarded 2,023 projects with a total bid cost of \$12.01 billion.

**BEAUMONT DISTRICT ENGINEER** – Ana Mijares is the new TxDOT district engineer for the Beaumont District. She began her TxDOT career in 1993 and was a long-time leader in the Lufkin District including time as the Director of Transportation Planning and Development. Ana became the Beaumont deputy district engineer in 2022. Both the Lufkin and Beaumont district include substantial miles of the I-69 corridor.



Ana Mijares

**ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COUNTIES** – The FY 2026 list of counties that qualify as “economically disadvantaged” includes 28 of the 34 Texas counties on the I-69 System. Counties are selected by the Comptroller based on a statutory formula. By law, TxDOT may adjust the minimum local matching funds requirements on highway projects in those counties. As the interstate highway is developed through every county on the corridor it will help attract new investment and economic opportunities.

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING** – The I-69 Alliance annual meeting will be held Friday, **December 5th**, at the headquarters of the Greater Houston Partnership. We are honored to have Congressman Brian Babin, senior member of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as our keynote speaker. With a major surface transportation bill on the horizon, Babin will share insights on how Texas’s priorities are being championed in Washington. You will soon receive information on making Annual Meeting reservations. We continue to encourage organizations to be event sponsors. You can download the [Sponsorship Form HERE](#).

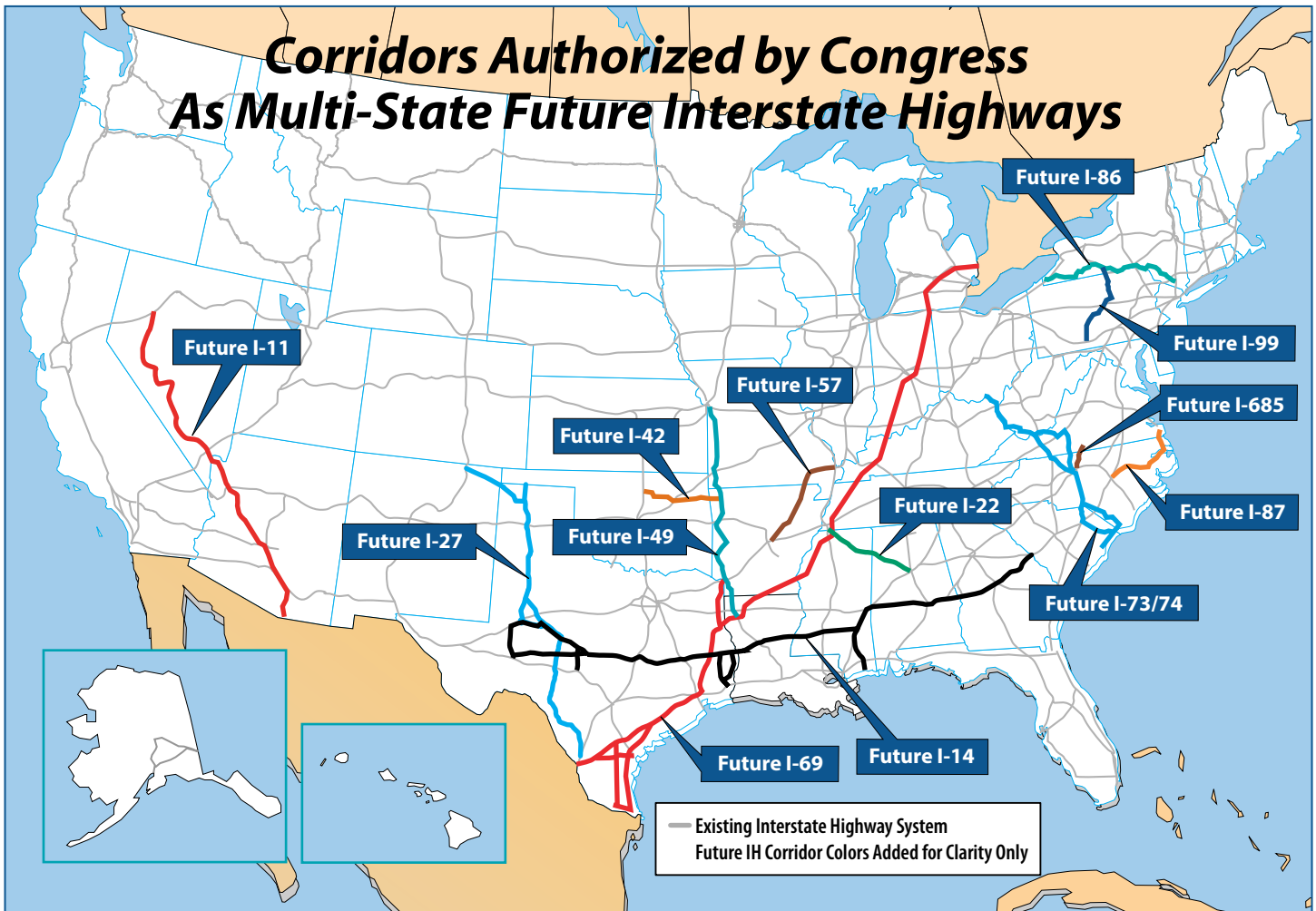
## Early Sponsors for Dec. 5th Annual Meeting



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## Corridors Authorized by Congress As Multi-State Future Interstate Highways



### Seeking Dedicated Federal Formula Funding Future Interstates

Work on the Interstate Highway System began in the 1950s with 90% guaranteed federal funding. The original system was largely complete by 1985 and officially ended in 1992. Since then Congress has recognized the need to expand the system but for three decades no dedicated federal funding has been forthcoming.

The Alliance for I-69 Texas is leading a broad coalition of community leaders working to spark a renewed federal commitment to expanding the Interstate System. A dedicated funding mechanism is essential to completing vital interstate corridors that address safety, demographic trends and growth in goods movement.

This illustration depicts the 13 multi-state future interstate corridors Congress has authorized over the past 35 years. Together they cover thousands of miles and will take years to plan, fund and construct.

### COMMISSIONER NEW HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE

During the Texas Transportation Commission meeting in September, Acting Chairman Alvin New called the grassroots effort to win new federal funding for Future Interstates “really important” for Texas.

“We have an I-27 group, an I-14 group and an I-69 group. But now we have an effort by those three to work together to get interstates developed in the state of Texas. And as we all know, when local efforts become regional efforts it really helps make things happen. And when something becomes a statewide effort to get some interstates built, and those folks are going to Washington in a combined way, that should be really good for the state of Texas,” New concluded.



Alliance for I-69 Texas

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