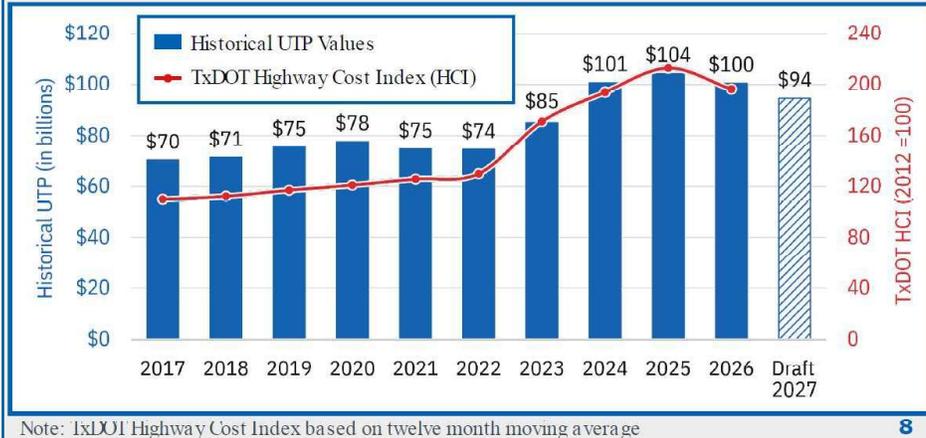




February 17, 2026

Historical UTP Investment



Note: TxDOT Highway Cost Index based on twelve month moving average

TEXAS FACING HIGHWAY FUNDING SLOWDOWN – A significant slowdown in contract lettings for new highway projects is underway. TxDOT’s future annual lettings are anticipated to be at or below \$10 billion per year. The department has already had to delay more than \$20 billion in projects that could have been delivered over the next few years. By 2028 lettings are expected to be 26% less than in 2024. Work is underway on assembling the 2027 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) which is TxDOT’s 10-year plan that guides the development of transportation projects statewide. January is the month that the department must produce a cash flow forecast for the next 10 years, a number which serves as the limit on how much funding can be allocated to new work. The 2027 limit is \$94 billion which is a sharp drop from each of the past 3 years but is still substantial compared to the \$35 billion total in 2016, before Prop 1 and 7 funding started. This chart shows the decline in projected available funds since the peak in the 2025 UTP as growth in transportation revenues has slowed.

FEDERAL FUNDING PROPOSAL – The I-69 Alliance and groups from other I-69 corridor states participated in an early February DC fly-in along with representatives of several other Congressionally Authorized Future Interstates that are part of the **Congressionally Authorized Future Interstate Coalition (CAFI)**. They met collectively with 20 congressional offices as well as with FHWA Administrator Sean McMaster to show support for the creation of a dedicated federal funding program to be included in the next surface transportation authorization bill. Such funding would help build I-69. The Alliance and other coalitions will continue to press for the proposal as Congress develops the bill this year. CAFI’s specific ask on Capitol Hill was for



members to sign a support letter that was submitted to House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee leadership, an important demonstration of bipartisan multi-state support for the program to establish a dedicated and predictable source of federal funding to construct congressionally authorized Future Interstates. Representatives of the I-69 Alliance, the I-14 Coalition and the I-27 Ports-to-Plains Alliance were among the delegation.

SIGN UP FOR DC FLY-IN – Registration is now open for the upcoming I-69 DC Fly-In being held March 18 and 19. The event registration form, including

event sponsorship opportunity information, is available on our website ([FORM](#)). Community leaders supporting I-69 development from Texas and seven other corridor states will participate in meetings with Members of Congress, committee staffers and federal highway officials. The annual event is an opportunity to stress the need for significant federal funding to continue building I-69.

PROJECT FUNDING APPROVED – Federal FY26 Appropriations legislation recently approved by Congress includes pre-construction funding for two I-69 projects. Approved were \$3 million requested by Rep. Pete Sessions for future improvements between Lufkin and Nacogdoches and \$2 million requested by Rep. Nathaniel Moran for the upcoming I-369 Marshall Relief Route. The Alliance assisted local communities in making the initial funding requests.

WOODSBORO/REFUGIO PROJECT – TxDOT has issued a final environmental assessment for the Future I-69E relief route in Refugio County. The project will cover 13 miles of US 77 starting at Woodsboro and extending to north of Refugio.

NEW BOARD MEMBER – Paco Sanchez, new president and CEO of the Rio Grande Valley Partnership, is the newest member of the Alliance Board of Directors. Sanchez is a lawyer with two decades of state legislative experience, most recently serving as chief of staff to State Rep. Oscar Longoria. The RGV Partnership is the Valley’s regional chamber of commerce and has been an Alliance member since the 1990s.

GOLD MEMBER - Kimley-Horn is a new Gold Member of the I-69 Alliance. Kimley-Horn is a national consulting firm providing comprehensive planning, design, and engineering services for public infrastructure and private development.



ANGELINA COUNTY CELEBRATION – I-69 Alliance representatives joined community leaders, TxDOT roadhands and contractors in celebrating the completion of the 8.2-mile Diboll Relief Route south of Lufkin. The US 59 facility was built to interstate standard and will be part of I-69 running north from Houston. During the event Alliance Chair Sydney Murphy praised legislators and others who have worked to fund and prioritize I-69 Corridor projects.



FUTURE INTERSTATES ADVOCACY DAY IN WASHINGTON – A multi-state delegation representing Future Interstates that have been authorized by Congress urged support of new dedicated funding. Participants were hosted by the Hance Scarborough team which represents the I-69 Alliance in Washington and Texas.



Alliance for I-69 Texas

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