

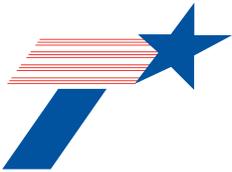
Information Center



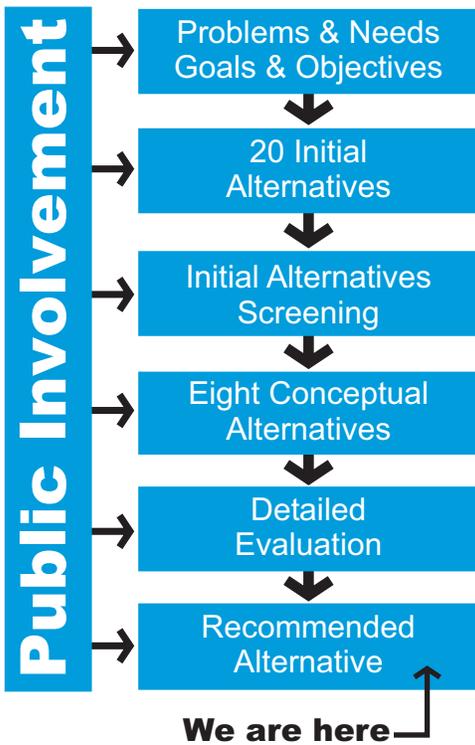
Sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation - El Paso District

November 1999

Volume 3



Major Investment Study Process



Alternative Recommended to Improve Corridor

For over a year and a half, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) along with its consultant team, led by Parsons Brinckerhoff, has evaluated various alternatives to determine what improvements will best meet the goals and objectives of the I-10 West Corridor Major Investment Study (MIS). Valuable comments from local, state, and federal transportation and environmental agencies, community organizations, and the public, helped formulate the final recommendation.

The MIS team provided a recommendation at two public meetings in October that incorporated an environmental constraints analysis, estimated costs, traffic estimates, and engineering constraints. At these meetings, the Modified Metropolitan Transportation Plan Alternative (Modified MTP) was recommended as the alternative that would meet the corridor's transportation needs through 2020.

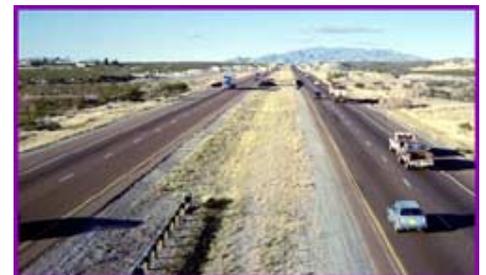
The Modified MTP will:

- Connect Doniphan, Paisano, and the Border Highway
- Provide an improved alternate route to I-10
- Improve conditions on Doniphan and Paisano
- Reduce congestion on I-10
- Improve Mesa, Sunland Park, and Executive Center
- Expand public transit service

The Modified MTP is recommended for implementation through 2020; however, certain components are already underway. The roadway capital cost for implementing the projects under the Modified MTP is estimated at \$320 million.

Recommended improvements under the Modified MTP include the following (see Figure 1 on page 2).

continued on page two



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I-10 Improvements

- Add one general use lane in each direction through widening
 - From New Mexico to Mesa widen from 4-to 6-lane freeway
 - From Mesa to Executive Center widen from 6-to 8-lane freeway.
 - From Prospect to Missouri, Downtown widen from 6-to 8-lane freeway
 - Consider express lane option beyond 2020

Doniphan/Paisano Improvements

- Doniphan
 - From I-10 at Transmountain to Doniphan (south of Canutillo): add 4-lane expressway connection
 - From South of Canutillo to Racetrack: add continuous left-turn lane to existing 4-lane arterial
 - At Doniphan/Paisano junction: construct an improved interchange
- Paisano
 - Convert to a 4-lane freeway and connect to the Border Highway

Transmountain Improvements

- Transmountain Road widening from 2 to 4 lanes between I-10 and the Franklin Mountains State Park

Mesa Improvements

- From I-10 (West) to Executive Center
 - 50 mph design speed
 - Interchanges at Resler and Sunland Park
 - Add continuous right turn lanes
 - Add bicycle lanes

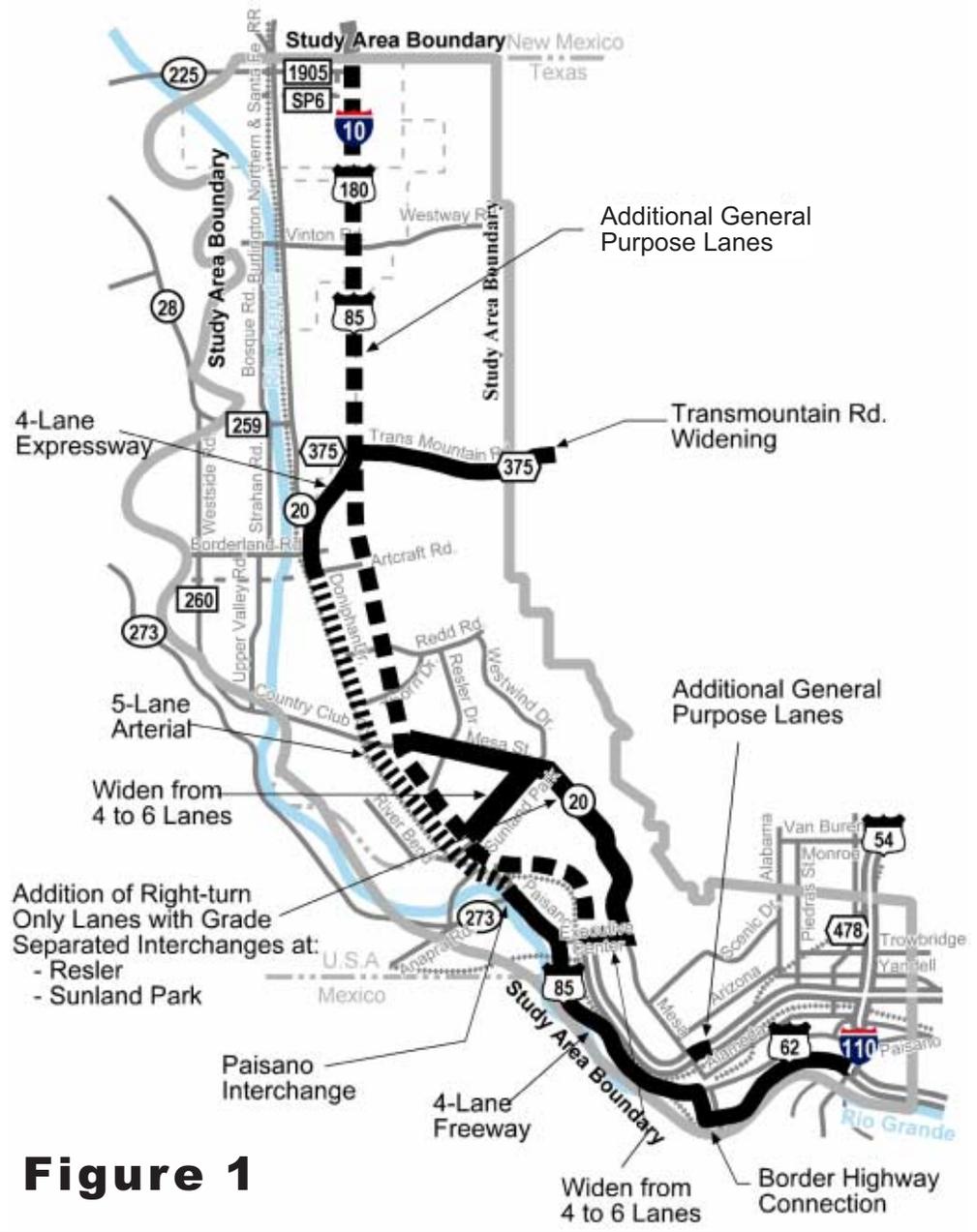
Sunland Park Improvements

- Widen from 4- to 6-lanes from Mesa Hills to Mesa

Executive Center Improvements

- Widen from 4- to 6-lanes from I-10 to Mesa

Modified Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Alternative



Transit

- Increase existing bus service by 60 percent
- Propose new transit centers/park-and-ride lots
- Add local bus service using feeder/distribution routes
- Expand express bus service to downtown and eastside transit centers

TxDOT and the consultant team have analyzed the transportation issues in the study area. With improvements balanced among major arterials and parallel routes plus the public transit system, the Modified MTP is expected to be most effective in meeting I-10 West Corridor's future transportation needs and priorities.

Final Public Meetings Held in October



The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and its consultant team, led by Parsons Brinckerhoff, held the final I-10 West Corridor MIS public meetings in October. Participants learned about the recommended alternative in addition to the

study and evaluation process leading to the recommendation. Participants also shared their comments with the MIS team regarding the various alternatives, traffic, transit, and related environmental issues.

The public meetings were held October 5th at Cathedral High School and October 6th at Franklin High School. Fifty-seven people attended both meetings. The public Comments provided at these meetings will be incorporated into the MIS.

The meetings were held in an open house format that allowed participants to walk through a series of displays. First, a video presentation gave an overview of the MIS process. Following the presentation, meeting attendees were able to view the project displays at their own pace

and ask the project team questions one-on-one.

Public meeting notices were mailed to over 200 agencies and individuals in the El Paso area. Flyers were also posted in various locations along the study corridor. In addition, advertisements announcing the meetings appeared in local newspapers and Sun Metro transit posted meeting notices on the westbound bus fleet.

The public meetings serve as a wrap-up to the I-10 West Corridor MIS public involvement phase. The project will be finalized in November 1999. Thanks to all those who participated in the public meetings by providing their valuable feedback.



What's Next?

The I-10 West Corridor Major Investment Study (MIS) is a cooperative effort among local, state, and federal transportation and environmental agencies, community groups, and residents. This effort resulted in the Modified Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Modified MTP) alternative being the most feasible transportation solution for the I-10 West Corridor.

As the MIS is being completed, TxDOT will present the recommended alternative to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for

consideration and adoption into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the formal long-range plan for the El Paso region. Components of the recommended alternative will be planned and programmed for implementation through 2020. Short-term projects could begin in one-to five-years with longer-term projects beginning in five to ten years. Public involvement will continue to be a key element as specific projects are developed and designed.

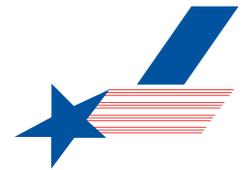
Project information pertaining to the study process and results are available through the TxDOT website

(<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/mis/mis>.

htm). If you have any further questions or comments about this process please contact Judy Ramsey, TxDOT Project Manager, at 915/774-4322.

Be sure to visit our site
on the
World Wide Web.

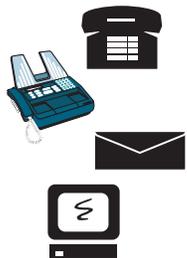
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Please help us improve transportation in your community by sending us your ideas and comments. We want to hear from you. Comments and questions can be addressed to Texas Department of Transportation project staff:

Project Manager - Judy Ramsey
(Advance Transportation Planning Administrator)

Comments: _____
