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Welcome to our virtual public meeting for the Rural 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program for the Pharr District.



Connecting you with Texas.

Agenda

- 1 Safety Minute
- 2 Pharr District Boundaries
- 3 The Rural Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)
- 4 How the Rural TIP Impacts You
- 5 How Projects are Selected for the Rural TIP
- 6 Projects by County
- 7 Funding
- 8 Next Steps

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Today we will go over the counties in Pharr district that are under the November 2024 Revision. We will also review the basics of, what is the Rural TIP? and why is it important for you to be here with us today. We will explain how the projects included in the program are selected and classified in order to make the most of the program.

Once you understand all of this, you will have the opportunity to review all the projects being revised by the Pharr District in the 2025-2028 program.

We will also go over funding, answering questions on “where does the money to pay for these projects come from? and how it get distributed?”. Lastly, we will outline all the options you have to comment on these projects and their priority.

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November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.
Help us end the streak of daily deaths, Texas!

#EndTheStreakTX
End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

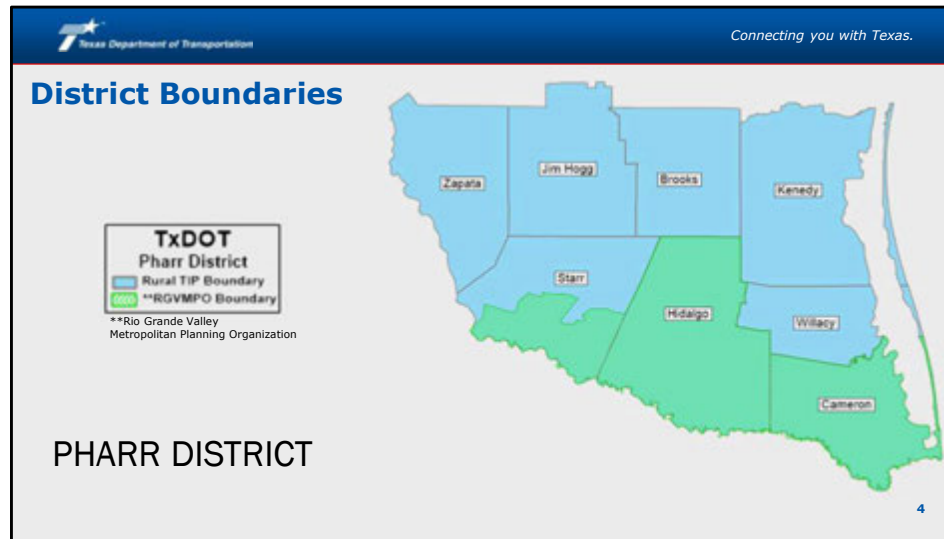


Safety Never Stops!

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As part of our Safety Minute, we would like to ask you to help us in the effort to End the Streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways. As a joint effort we can accomplish this goal. November 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. Last November 7th, Texas marked 23 years of daily deaths on our roadways with more than 75,000 innocent lives lost to preventable fatal crashes. During the pandemic when traffic dropped nearly 50%, the death rate climbed to more than 11 a day making 2021 the year with highest mortality rate. Together let's End The Streak of daily deaths and make our roads and fellow drivers safe.



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The Pharr District includes all of the 8 counties shown in the map: Zapata, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, Starr, Hidalgo, Willacy and Cameron County. The Rural TIP boundary would include the counties of Zapata, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, Willacy and a portion of Starr. Projects under the November 2024 Revision in the 2025-2028 Rural TIP are located in Kenedy & Zapata Counties.

THE RURAL TIP
is list of all added capacity and regionally significant projects to be funded within a TxDOT District during the next four years, including those eligible for federal funding.

It can include projects for :

Car, Pedestrian, Transit, Bicycle, Freight

A Rural TIP project is anticipated to be funded within the next 4 years.

It shows regional agreement (community-region-state) on the need of a project.

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The Rural Transportation Improvement Program is a list of local projects to be funded in a TxDOT District over the next 4 years. This means that all projects included in the list are expected to be underway within 4 years following its approval. These are the changes you can expect to go to contract in the near future!

It is multimodal; which means that it can include projects relating to highways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit services, and freight projects as well as the preliminary studies used to define those projects.

Rural TIP is meant to show regional agreement on the need and priority of a transportation project, so all parties involved can be sure they are making the best investment for the community. It is also expected to be consistent with the projects and objectives included in the regional Long Range Transportation Plans, to ensure that all agencies are working towards the same goal.

The Rural TIP is a part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Because the program rules are established by Federal law, no project can receive federal funding unless it is listed in the Rural TIP!

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How the Rural TIP Impacts You

The Rural TIP process includes opportunities to provide input on the priority of major projects that are listed on it.

Local and small projects around your community dealing with safety and access also get funding through the Rural TIP, for example:

- Road expansions*
- Sidewalks*
- Bike lanes*
- Pavement repair or maintenance*
- New or improved signals*
- Turning lanes*

By participating today, you are providing input in two projects!

You know your community best!

Tell us what project should come first and why.

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It is important for you to participate because funding secured by this process is intended to address your communities' most immediate needs.

By providing comments on the priority of the projects included, you are helping us identify regional priorities.

By reviewing the entire program in a single meeting, you are:

- 1) having a regional impact,
- 2) helping us be more effective with your money, and
- 3) ensuring that we are investing where we should.

How Projects are Selected for the Rural TIP

Projects are identified and selected by evaluating existing and future needs based on:

current conditions and projections, statewide and regional plans, public input regarding transportation priorities

^ This would be you, right now!

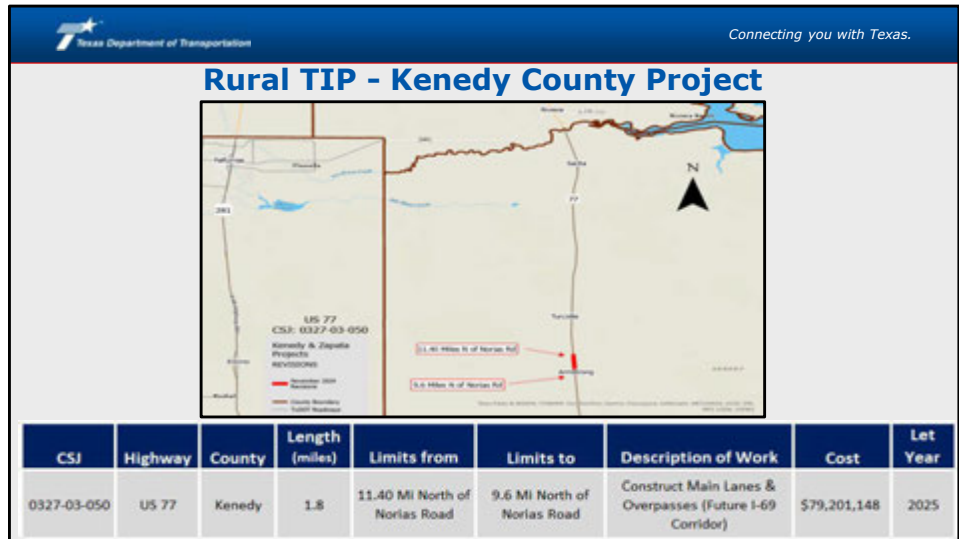


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Rural Transportation Organizations, Metropolitan Planning Organizations and local governments are responsible for selecting projects within their boundaries.

TxDOT, through the District office, is responsible for selecting of all projects relating to the State Transportation System and other National roadways. This includes Interstates, State and US Highways but most importantly this can also include the Farm-to-Market and Ranch-to-Market roads you use every day. The projects you will review today should respond to local needs!

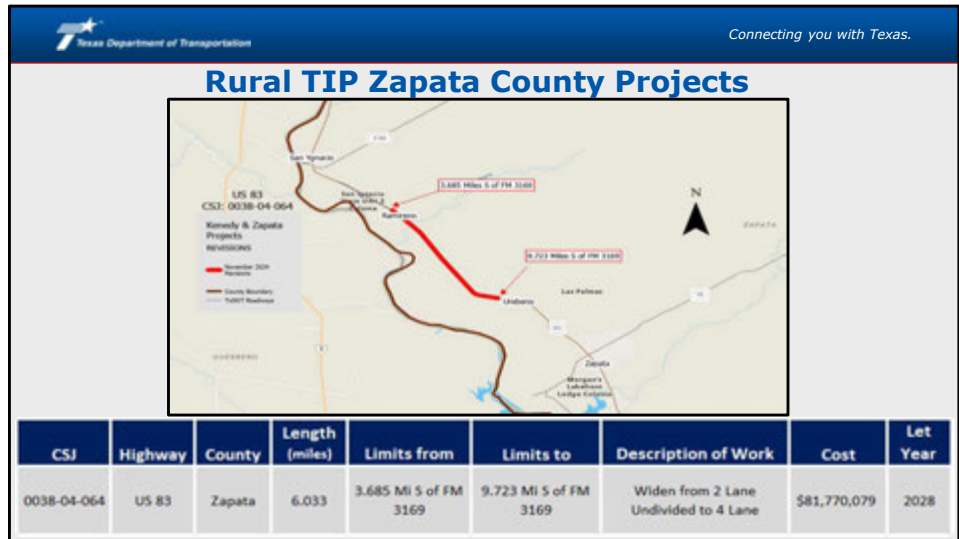
It is our responsibility to provide you with the opportunity to provide input on which projects should be advanced.



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This map shows the project in Kenedy County being revised as part of the November 2024 Revision in the 2025-2028 Rural TIP.

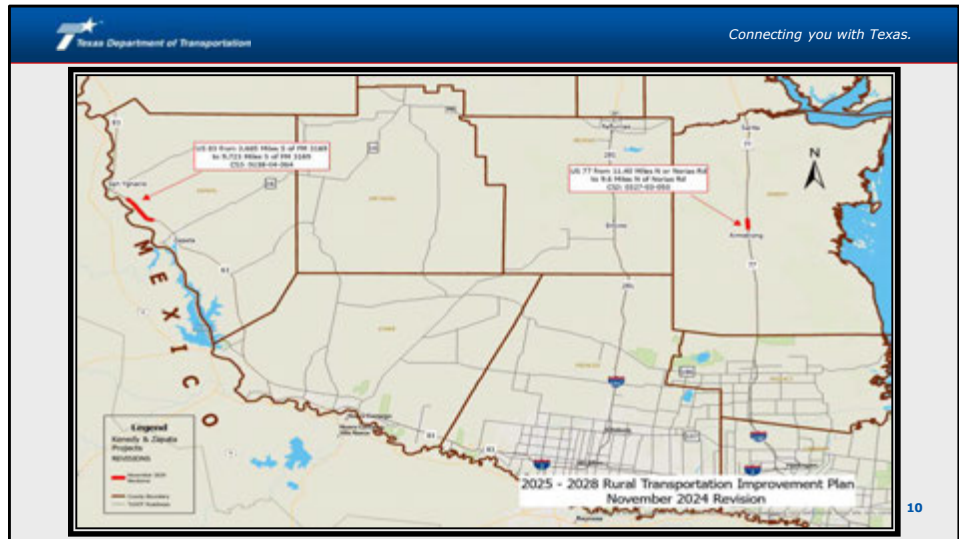
The project is on US 77 Highway from 11.40 Miles North of Norias Rd. to 9.6 Miles North of Norias Rd., and the plan is to Construct Main Lanes and Overpasses as part of the future I-69 Corridor. Currently, this project is scheduled for fiscal year 2025 for an estimated cost of \$79,201,148.



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This map shows the project in Zapata County being revised as part of the November 2024 Revision in the 2025-2028 Rural TIP.

The project is on US 83 Highway 3.685 Miles South of FM 3169 to 9.723 Miles South of FM 3169 and the plan is to Widen from 2 Lane Undivided to 4 Lane. Currently, this project is scheduled for fiscal year 2028 for an estimated cost of \$81,770,079.



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The map shows the location of the projects we just reviewed as part of the November 2024 Revision in the 2025-2028 Rural TIP for Kenedy and Zapata Counties. This gives you a better idea as to where the projects are located in our District.


November 2024 Project Revisions

CSJ	Highway	County	Length (miles)	Limits from	Limits to	Description of Work	Cost	Let Year
0327-03-050	US 77	Kenedy	1.8	11.40 Mi North of Norias Road	9.6 Mi North of Norias Road	Construct Main Lanes & Overpasses (Future I-69 Corridor)	\$79,201,148	2025
0038-04-064	US 83	Zapata	6.033	3.685 Mi S of FM 3169	9.723 Mi S of FM 3169	Widen from 2 Lane Undivided to 4 Lane	\$81,770,079	2028

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The table shows the details of projects we just reviewed for the November 2024 Revision of the 2025-2028 Rural TIP for Kenedy and Zapata Counties. The two projects being revised are now an estimated total of \$160,971,227.



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The Rural TIP is a fiscally constrained list of projects that functions as a budgeting tool for our District.

Funds can come from:

- Federal Government**
Through the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations
- TxDOT**
Through its Unified Transportation Program funding categories
- Local governments**
Who may be required to provide matching funds for federal funds

“Fiscally constrained TIP” means:

It is realistic in terms of the amount of funding available.

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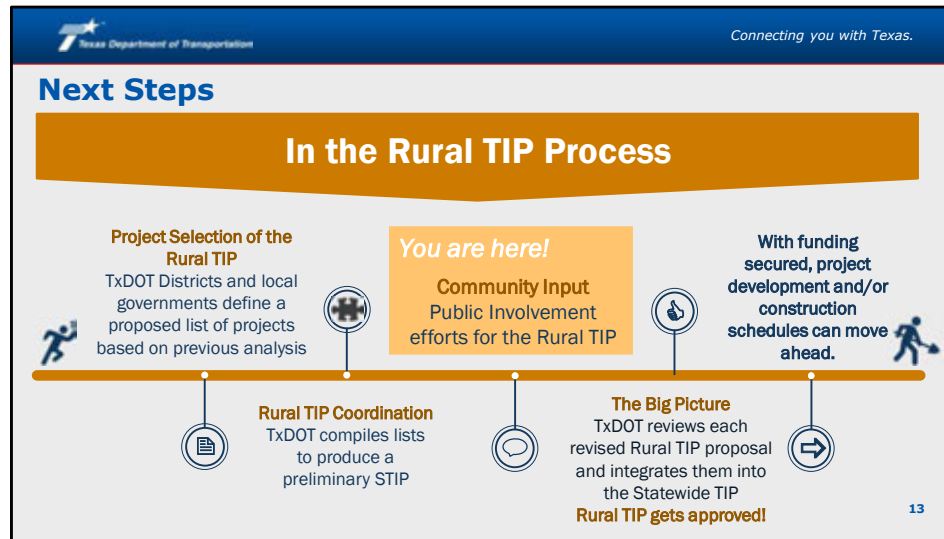
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The Rural TIP functions as a budget list for the District. As such it is fiscally constrained. Like the budget of a household, the Rural TIP has to be realistic about the amount of money available to covers all the needs. Frequently we identify more improvements than we have money to implement. This means prioritizing according to those items that are most necessary.

We’ve discussed the list but where is the money coming from? Funds can come from 3 main sources:

- 1) The Federal Government, through the establishment of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the federal government allocates these funds through the processes established by the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations.
- 2) TxDOT, like the Federal Government also allocates a section our budget for these projects through the Unified Transportation Program’s 12 funding categories.


And 3) the local governments. Once the need has been identified and the amount of federal funds has been defined, the Rural TIP helps local governments assess the funding requirements to match those of the federal and state government and their capacity to meet them.



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In the Rural TIP Process, you are currently in the Community Input part of the timeline where public involvement efforts are a big part of the Rural TIP. After this, there are two more steps left:

- 1) TxDOT Pharr District gives one final review of the projects before integrating them into the Statewide TIP.
- 2) With funding identified and secured, the project can move forward to completion.

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How to provide comments:

- 1. Mail a comment to:**

Texas Department of Transportation
Pharr District
Dora E. Robles, P.E., Attn: Rural TIP
600 W Interstate 2
Pharr, TX 78577
- 2. Or email a comment to:**

Dora.Robles@txdot.gov, Attention: Rural TIP.

Remember to submit your comments by **October 17, 2024**, to be included in the official summary of this meeting.

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Now that you are familiar with the Program, we want to hear what you think. Go ahead and fill a comment card and mail it back to us at the address on the screen.

You can also email in your comments to: Dora.Robles@txdot.gov

Comments must be postmarked or otherwise received by October 17, 2024. Please make sure to send your comments before that date.

If after today, you would like more information or have any other questions feel free to reach out or visit the District Webpage for updates.

Remember that you can also forward this information if you wish to share with your friends or family! Just remind them to make sure they can listen to this presentation and send any comments they might have before October 17, 2024. Thank you for your time and drive safely!