



Welcome to our virtual public meeting for the Rural 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program for the Pharr District.

Agenda

- 1 Safety Minute
- 2 Pharr District & its boundaries
- 3 The Rural Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- 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

2023-2026 Rural TIP April 18, 2022 2

Script:

Today we will go over the counties in Pharr District. 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 the Pharr District has included in the 2023-2026 program. Both the big projects and the small supporting projects.

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.

November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

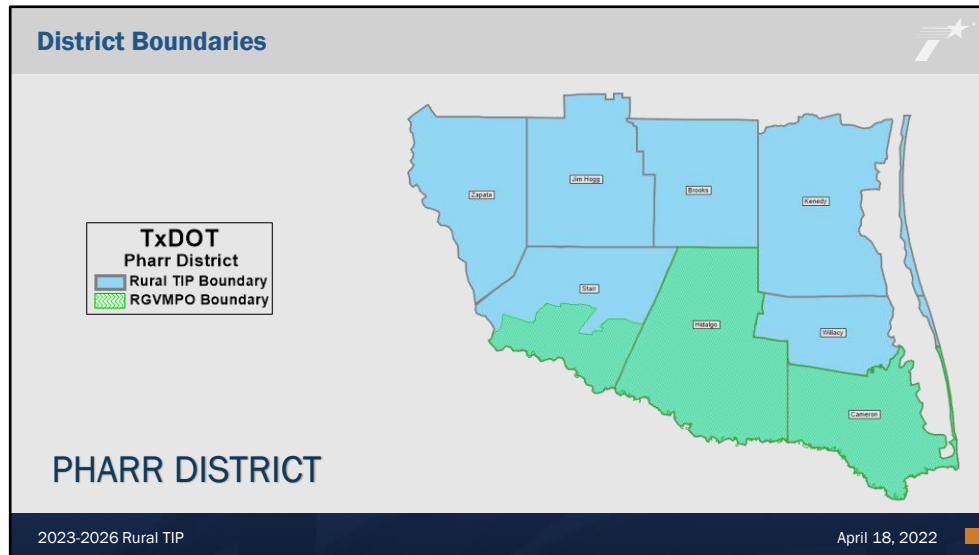
Help us end the streak of daily deaths, Texas!

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

Safety Never Stops!

2023-2026 Rural TIP April 18, 2022 3

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 21 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.




Script:

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 included in the 2023-2026 Rural TIP are located in *Kenedy, Willacy and Zapata Counties*.

Rural Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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 :



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.

2023-2026 Rural TIP April 18, 2022 5

Script:

The Rural Transportation Improvement Program is a list of local projects to fund 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's rules are established by Federal law, no project can receive federal funding unless it is listed in the Rural TIP!

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 these projects!

You know your community best!

Tell us what project should come first and why

2023-2026 Rural TIP April 18, 2022 6

Script:

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!



2023-2026 Rural TIP

April 18, 2022

7

Script:

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 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.

How Projects are Selected for the Rural TIP



Selected projects are separated into

2

main categories

1. Regionally Significant Projects

Those with the appropriate scale or reach to be considered as stand-alone projects in a given program year have their own category.

2. Grouped Projects

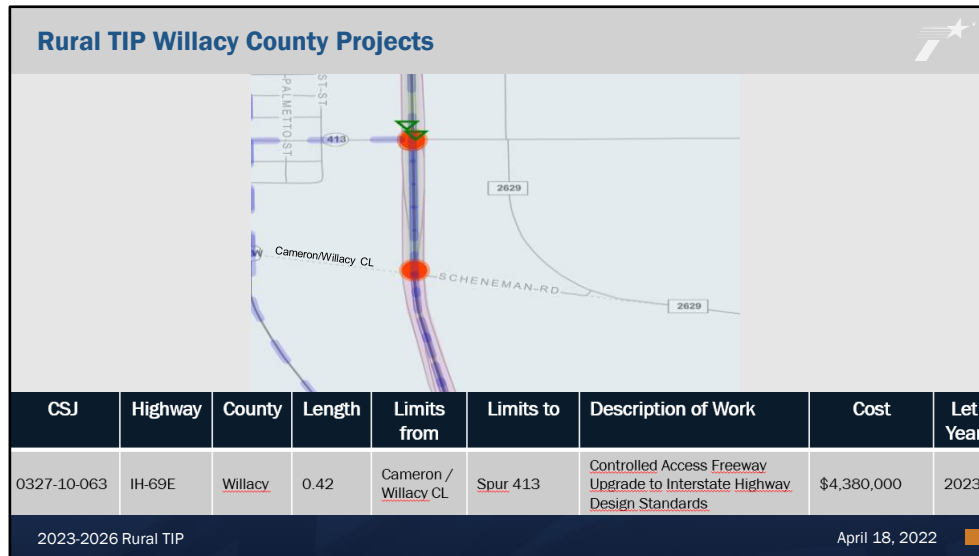
Those without the scale to stand on their own are grouped into one of 11 subcategories and considered as a single line item in the list.

Script:

Once projects have been defined, they are evaluated according to their scale and classified according to the funding they require as well as their potential impact.

Big projects are categorized as Regionally Significant Projects and are included as stand-alone items. *i.e. A new bridge over a river.*

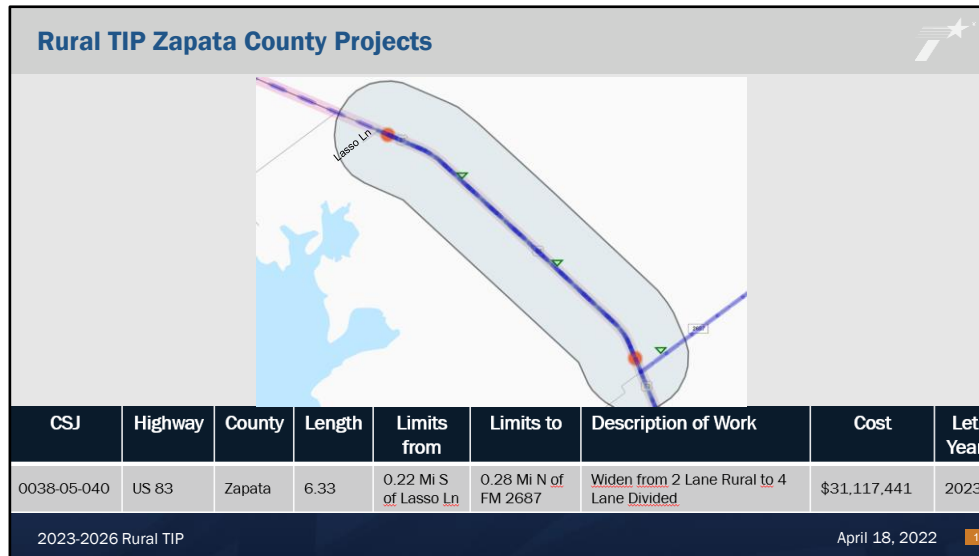
To simplify this budgeting and planning process, smaller projects are lumped together into 11 separate subcategories, refer to as Grouped Projects. Grouped projects include things like landscaping, safety lights, or new bicycle and pedestrian facilities. This grouping practice facilitates the federal funding of smaller projects. *i.e., the pavement repair of an FM road.*



Script:

This map shows the project in Willacy County included in the 2023-2026 Rural TIP.

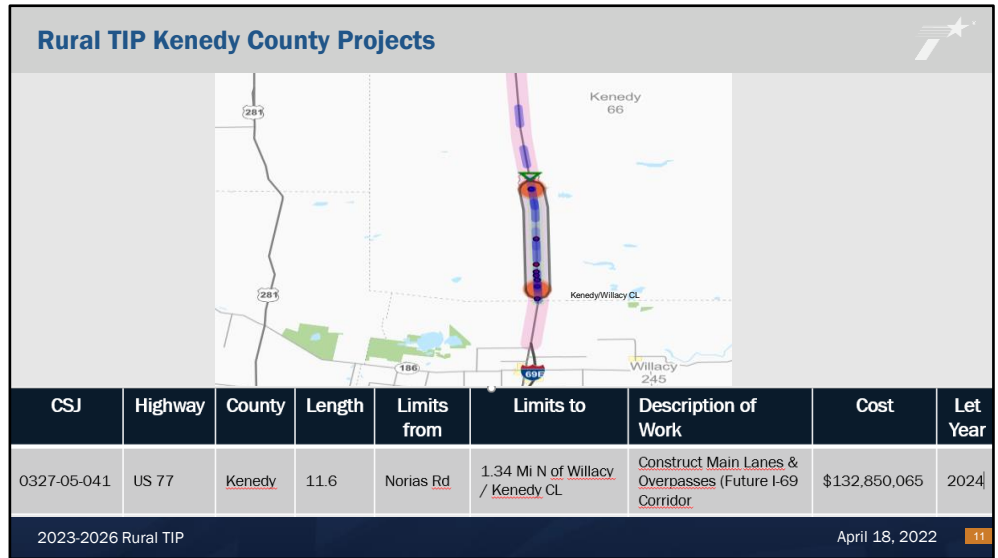
The project is on IH-69E from the Cameron/Willacy County Line to Spur 413, and the plan is to upgrade to Interstate Highway Design Standards. Currently, this project is scheduled for fiscal year 2023 with an estimated cost of \$4,380,000.



Script:

This map shows the project in Zapata County included in the 2023-2026 Rural TIP.

The project is on US 83 Highway from 0.22 Miles South of Lasso Lane to 0.28 Miles North of FM 2687, and the plan is to widen the highway from 2 lane rural to 4 lane divided. Currently, this project is scheduled for fiscal year 2023 for an estimated cost of \$31,117,441.

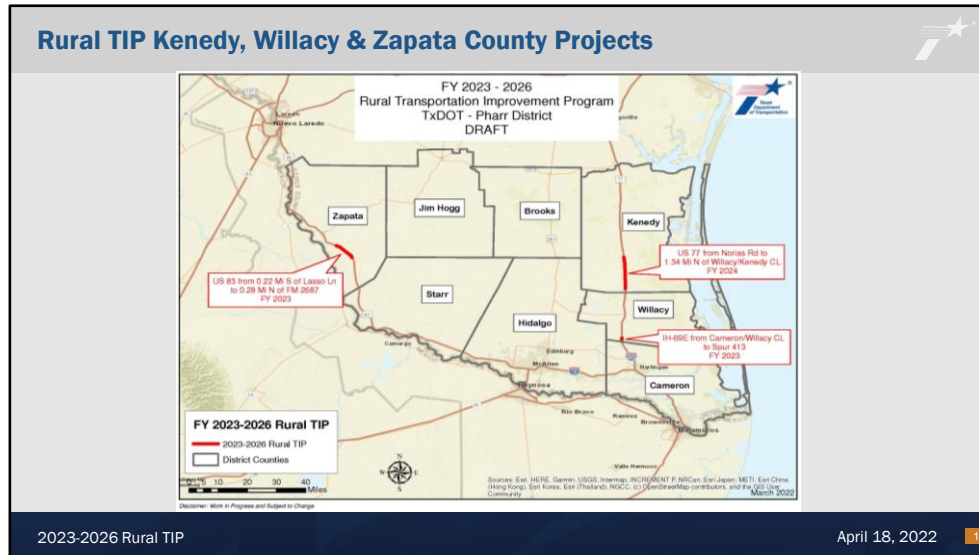


Script:

This map shows the project in Kenedy County included in the 2023-2026 Rural TIP.

The project is on US 77 Highway Norias Road to 1.34 Miles North of Willacy/Kenedy County Line, 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 2024 for an estimated cost of \$132,850,065.

Rural TIP Kenedy, Willacy & Zapata County Projects



Script:

The map shows all 3 projects we just reviewed to give you a better perspective as to where the projects are located in the rural area of the Pharr District.

Rural TIP Kenedy, Willacy & Zapata County Projects									
CSJ	Highway	County	Length	Limits from	Limits to	Description of Work	Cost	Let Year	
0327-10-063	IH-69E	Willacy	0.42	Cameron / Willacy CL	Spur 413	Controlled Access Freeway Upgrade to Interstate Highway Design Standards	\$4,380,000	2023	
0038-05-040	US 83	Zapata	6.33	0.22 Mi S of Lasso Ln	0.28 Mi N of FM 2687	Widen from 2 Lane Rural to 4 Lane Divided	\$31,117,441	2023	
0327-05-041	US 77	Kenedy	11.6	Norias Rd	1.34 Mi N of Willacy / Kenedy CL	Construct Main Lanes & Overpasses (Future I-69 Corridor)	\$132,850,065	2024	
2023-2026 Rural TIP							April 18, 2022		13

Script:
The table shows the details of projects we just reviewed in the 2023-2026 Rural TIP for Willacy, Zapata and Kenedy Counties. All three projects are an estimated total of \$168,347,506

Funding

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 monies

“Fiscally constrained TIP” means:

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

2023-2026 Rural TIP April 18, 2022 14

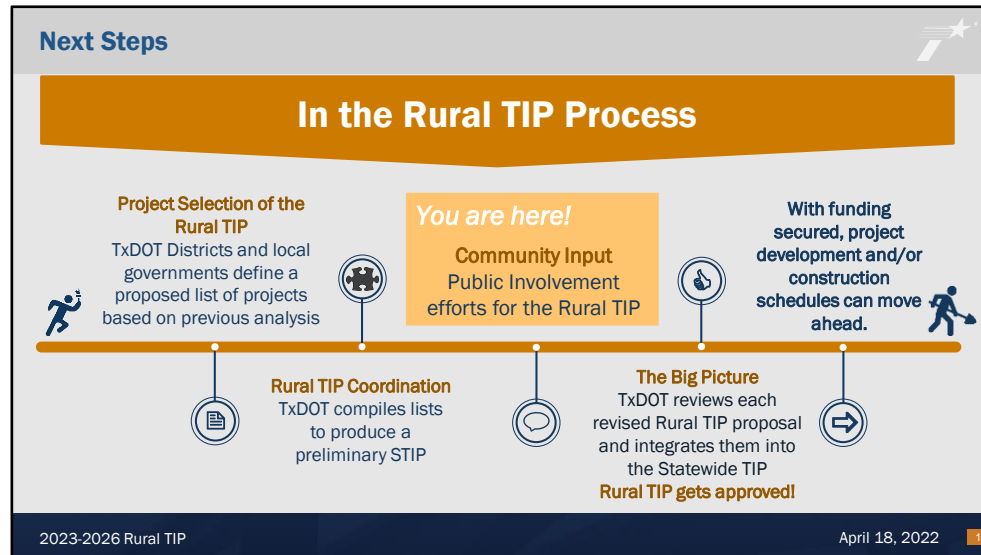
Script:

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 cover 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 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act or MAP-21. 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 of 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 monies 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.



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.

Next Steps 

How to provide comments:

- 1. Mail a comment to:**
Texas Department of Transportation
Pharr District, Attn: Rural TIP
600 W Interstate 2
Pharr, TX 78577
- 2. Or email a comment to:**
Melba.Schaus@txdot.gov, Attention: Rural TIP.

Remember to submit your comments by **May 11, 2022** to be included in the official summary of this meeting

2023-2026 Rural TIP April 18, 2022 16

Script:

Now that you are familiar with the Program, we want to hear what you think. Go ahead and fill a comment card. You can mail it back to us at the address on the screen or you can email in your comments to Melba.Schaus@txdot.gov.

Comments must be postmarked or otherwise received by May 11, 2022. 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 May 11, 2022