



**Notice**  
**Draft Environmental Assessment and Opportunity for a Public Hearing**  
**US 281 (Future I-69C)**  
**From SH 186/FM 1017 to FM 3066**  
**CSJs: 0255-06-069, 0255-05-044, 0255-05-043, and 0255-04-096**  
**Hidalgo and Brooks Counties, Texas**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to widen US 281 from SH 186/FM 1017 to FM 3066 in Hidalgo and Brooks Counties, Texas from a four-lane divided highway to an urban freeway with two-lane discontinuous frontage roads in each direction. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review and that TxDOT is affording an opportunity for a public hearing on the proposed project.

The proposed project would include widening 43.9 miles of US 281 from a four-lane divided roadway to a six-lane divided (three main lanes each direction) urban freeway and two-lane discontinuous frontage roads in each direction. Additionally, 11 overpasses, spaced three to five miles apart, and turnarounds at various intersections are being proposed. The interim proposed facility will consist of constructing four lanes divided (two main lanes each direction) and two-lane frontage roads. The ultimate section, to be constructed as needed to meet future mobility demands, would add an additional two main lanes (one lane each direction). Other unique features proposed as part of this effort is four wildlife crossings. The purpose of the proposed project would be to enhance mobility, safety, and improve traffic operations along the US 281 future I-69 Corridor.

The proposed alternative would require additional right of way (ROW) and potentially displace two residences and two commercial buildings. The proposed project also impacts one other structure and a barn/outbuilding. None of the potentially displaced facilities exhibit unique needs, which would preclude them from relocating in the area. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program and services and benefits for those displaced and other affected property owners, as well as information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction, can be obtained from the TxDOT Pharr District Office by calling Horacio Elizondo at (956) 702-6350. The proposed alternative would also require impact to one residential property with no displacement or relocation necessary.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

The draft EA, maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are available online at [www.TxDOT.gov](http://www.TxDOT.gov), keyword search "**US 281 Future I-69C**". If you do not have internet access, you may call Melba Schaus at (956) 702-6181 to ask questions about the project or request to set up an in-person appointment to review project information.

The project materials are written in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to review the project materials or submit information, please contact Norma Robledo, TxDOT Pharr District at 956-702-6161 no later than 4 p.m. CT, at least three business days before the date on which you would like to review the project materials or submit information. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for TxDOT to arrange.

Any interested person may submit a written request for a public hearing on this project. Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are also requested. Written hearing requests and comments may be submitted by mail to Melba R. Schaus, TxDOT Pharr District Office, 600 W Interstate 2, Pharr, TX 78577 or by



email to [Melba.Schaus@txdot.gov](mailto:Melba.Schaus@txdot.gov). All hearing requests and comments must be received on or before Sunday, June 13, 2021. A hearing will be held if 10 or more individuals submit timely written requests for a hearing, or if an agency with jurisdiction over the project submits a timely written request for a hearing that is supported by reasons why a hearing will be helpful. Responses to comments received will be available online at [www.TxDOT.gov](http://www.TxDOT.gov), keyword search "**US 281 Future I-69C**" once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project, please contact TxDOT Pharr Project Manager Melba Schaus, P.E. by phone at (956) 702-6181 or by email at [Melba.Schaus@txdot.gov](mailto:Melba.Schaus@txdot.gov).

*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.*