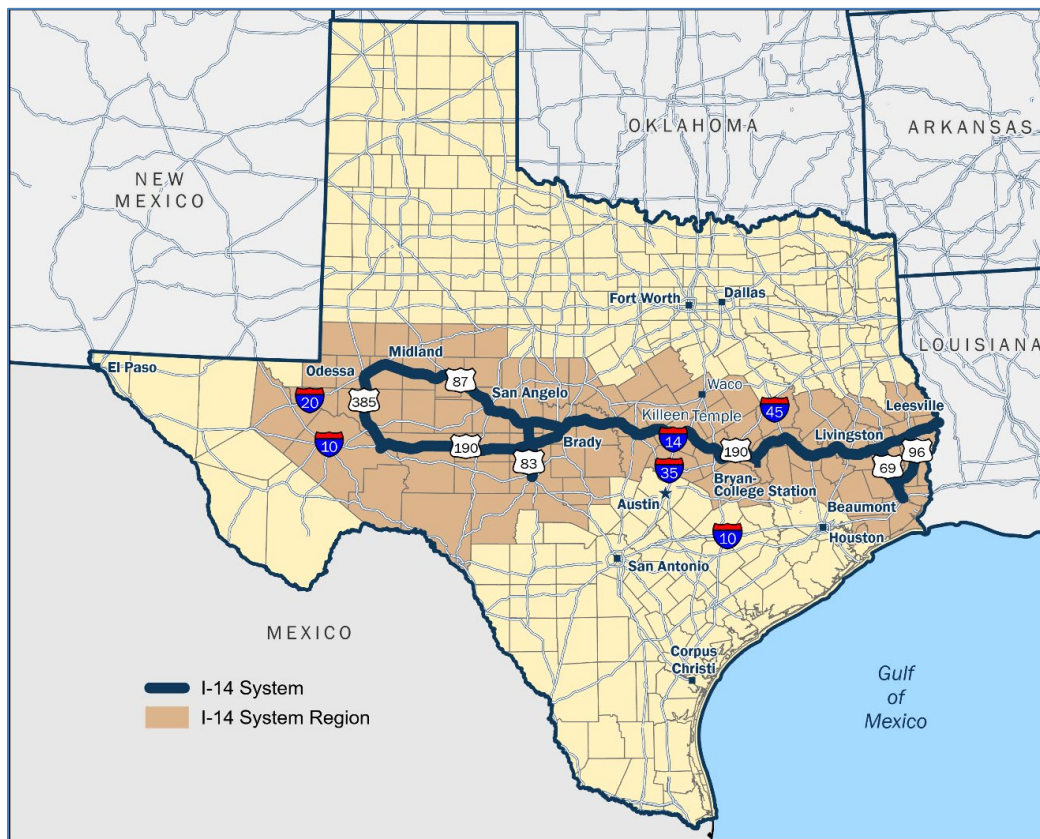


I-14 System in Texas Implementation Strategy Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.s)

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is conducting the Interstate 14 (I-14) System Implementation Strategy to improve safety and mobility across rural and urban areas, military installations, maritime ports, and economic sectors, such as energy, freight, timber, and agriculture. This new interstate highway system in Texas will be over 1,000 miles long once constructed to interstate standards and added to the Interstate Highway System. TxDOT has assembled a list of frequently asked questions to provide more information about the I-14 System in Texas Implementation Strategy.



Q1: What is the purpose of the I-14 System?

The purpose of the I-14 System is to provide an extended network of highways across Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. This extended network is expected to enhance statewide connectivity by improving mobility among rural and urban areas, military installations, maritime ports, and economic sectors, including, but not limited to, energy, freight, timber, and agriculture.

Q2: What is the purpose of the I-14 System in Texas Implementation Strategy?

An implementation strategy refers to a set of recommended actions, plans, and approaches designed to effectively execute a specific project or initiative. The I-14 System in Texas Implementation Strategy will provide a comprehensive planning process to guide TxDOT on the following:

- The order in which the roads within the system should be upgraded to interstate standards,
- Identifying where relief route or additional planning studies are needed, and
- Estimated funding needed for construction

The goal is to obtain interstate highway designation as quickly as possible. To accomplish that, a highway needs to be constructed to interstate standards and connect to an existing interstate highway.

Q3: Which cities and regions will be connected by the I-14 System in Texas?

The I-14 System in Texas is comprised of 16 Interstate, US or State highways as defined in federal legislation. The interstate would generally extend east to west over 1,000 miles from the Texas-Louisiana border to Midland and Odessa in the central part of Texas. The system would connect 44 cities/towns along the route spanning across 32 counties.

Q4: What are the safety and design requirements of an interstate highway?

Interstate highways must meet certain required geometric and safety design standards established by the Federal Highway Administration and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials. These standards generally include:

- No stop signs or traffic signals on main lanes
- Higher design speeds
- Limited access points
- Wider right-of-way
- Minimum main lane and shoulder widths
- Entrance and exit ramps with deceleration and acceleration lanes

After a highway is constructed or upgraded to interstate standards, TxDOT will then collaborate with the Federal Highway Administration and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials to request the highway be added to the Interstate Highway System. This process can take up to a year to complete.

Q5: What are the benefits of the I-14 System?

As population growth continues in Texas, the I-14 System will serve and provide for the next generations. Specifically, the I-14 System in Texas is expected to enhance the following:

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- **Emergency Evacuation** - An interstate would provide additional lanes and capacity for emergency evacuations during events such as hurricanes.
 - **Safety and Mobility** - An interstate highway has safety features that undivided two and four-lane highways do not have such as overpasses at crossroads, entrance and exit ramps and shoulders.
 - **Economic Development** - An interstate may increase economic development because convenient interstate access is a factor when businesses undergo site selection.
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Q6: What is the estimated timeline for the completion and construction of the I-14 System in Texas?

The construction of the I-14 System is a long-term initiative and will take decades before it is complete. Currently, there is no specific federal or state funding program set aside to build future interstate highway projects. Projects considered part of the I-14 System must compete with all other Texas highway improvement projects for funding in the state's annual project selection process.

Additionally, the construction of projects to interstate standards will be done incrementally through a series of small, local-level projects as funding becomes available. Before construction occurs, TxDOT will engage in a series of project development steps, including planning, public involvement, environmental clearance, utility adjustments and right-of-way acquisition. The public will have multiple opportunities to review and provide input into specific project plans and studies to develop the I-14 System in Texas.

Q7: Where can I find additional information relating to the I-14 System in Texas?

For additional information on the I-14 System, please visit the I-14 System in Texas webpage on TxDOT.gov and keyword search "Interstate 14", or contact Steve Linhart, AICP, Project Development Manager, at steve.linhart@txdot.gov.