



Tully Shahan
KINNEY COUNTY JUDGE
Post Office Box 348
Brackettville, Texas 78832-0348
county.judge@co.kinney.tx.us



Office: 830-563-2401

Fax: 830-563-9163

Letter from Tully Shahan County Judge regarding the Ports to Plains Interstate Feasibility Study Segment #3

Our Ports to Plains Committee has just finished the Interstate Feasibility Study of Segment #3.

This study is an important step in planning for the future upgrade of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor to an interstate facility and for the continued economic prosperity of South and West Texas, the state, and nation. The Ports-to-Plains Corridor is a significant international, national, state, regional, and local transportation corridor. It connects and integrates Texas' key economic sectors, international trade, energy production and agriculture, and supports our region's growing demographic and economic centers. As the only north-south corridor in South and West Texas the Ports-to-Plains Corridor provides a critical link from our ports of entry to destinations in Texas and beyond.

In Segment #3, the Ports-to-Plains Corridor carries a significant amount of Texas-Mexico trade through the three strategic U.S.-Mexico trade gateways of Laredo, Eagle Pass, and Del Rio. In 2019, these three gateways handled over \$269.2 billion, or 62 percent of Texas-Mexico cross-border trade and 50 percent of U.S.-Mexico trade, and also handled over 2.6 million northbound truck crossings. Eagle Pass and Del Rio are the only southern ports of entry without a direct access to an interstate highway. The Ports-to-Plains Corridor is critical to the viability of these international trade gateways, especially with the recent passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and the continued economic competitiveness of the state.

Using the data and analysis conducted during the study and the input from the public, the Segment #3 Committee recommends upgrading the Ports-to-Plains Corridor to an interstate facility. Upgrading the Corridor to an interstate will enhance safety and mobility for the traveling public; facilitate international trade and the movement of freight and energy products; and enhance the security of our country's food, fuel, and fiber supply chains. The Committee also lays out an implementation plan with prioritized short-term, mid-term, and long-term projects and policy recommendations for the Ports-to-Plains Corridor.

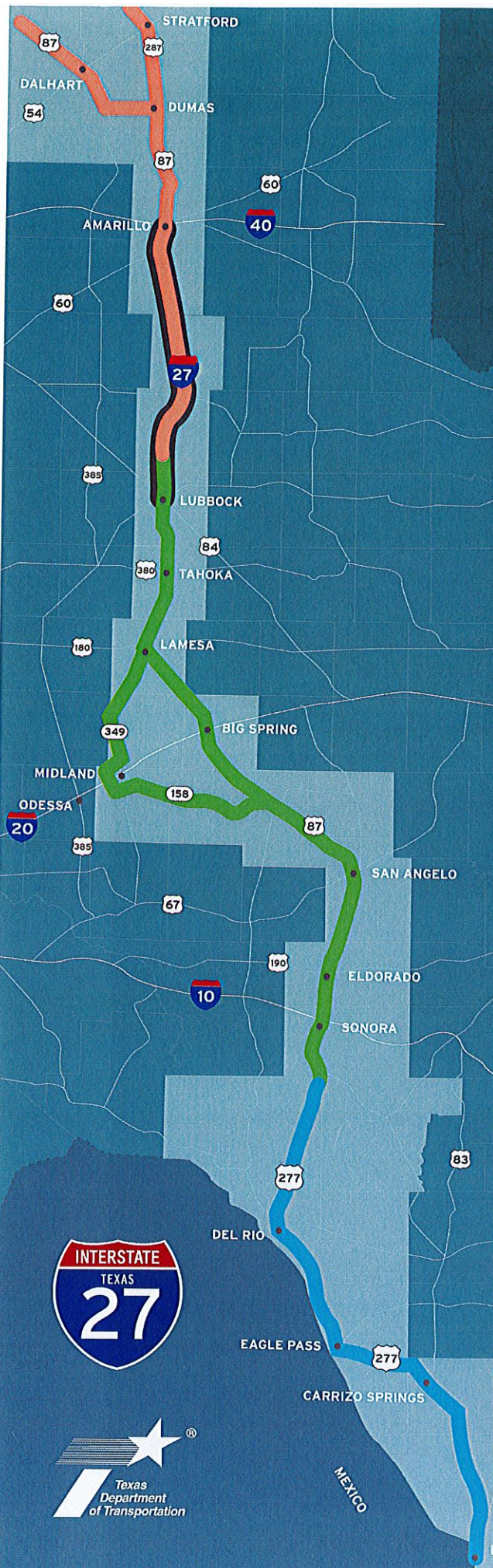
Attached is more information with maps to describe the location and development.

If you have any more questions, please feel free to call my office.

Sincerely,


Tully Shahan






Kinney County Judge



**PORTS-TO-PLAINS CORRIDOR
INTERSTATE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

● **SEGMENT 3 DRAFT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

DATE: JUNE 30, 2020





SEGMENT #3

DRAFT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ports-to-Plains Corridor Interstate Feasibility Study (House Bill 1079)



The Ports-to-Plains Corridor is an international, national and state significant transportation corridor that connects and integrates Texas' key economic engines, international trade, energy production and agriculture. The corridor also plays a vital role in supporting the growing demographic and economic centers of South and West Texas. The corridor functions as the only north-south corridor facilitating the movement of people and goods in South and West Texas and beyond.

Purpose of this Report

The Segment #3 Committee Ports-to-Plains Corridor Interstate Feasibility Study Report (Segment #3 Committee Report) provides the recommendations and priorities of the Segment #3 Committee members for improvements to the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in Segment #3. The Segment Committee #3 Report meets the requirements outlined in House Bill 1079 that was signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott on June 10, 2019. The recommendations in this Segment #3 Committee Report will be used by the Ports-to-Plains Advisory Committee to make their recommendations on improvements to the Ports-to-Plains Corridor to the Texas Department of Transportation.



Ports-to-Plains Corridor Overview

- Approximately 963 miles of primarily rural area in West and South Texas
- Designated by Congress as a **High Priority Corridor** on the National Highway System in 1998
- Spans **26 counties** and is comprised of sections of Interstate 20 (I-20), Interstate 27 (I-27), Interstate 35 (I-35), US 83, US 87, US 277, US 287, State Highway 158, and State Highway 349
- Connects to the state's and the nation's strategic trade gateways of **Laredo, Eagle Pass, and Del Rio** to destinations north, west and east



Significance of the Transportation Corridor

The Ports-to-Plains Corridor plays a critical role in the nation's food, energy, and national security.

International Trade

The Ports-to-Plains Corridor carries a significant amount of Texas-Mexico trade entering through the three strategic U.S.-Mexico trade gateways of Laredo, Eagle Pass, and Del Rio.

In 2018...

The three border crossings accounted for

- 50%** of U.S.-Mexico cross-border trade
- 66%** of Texas-Mexico cross-border trade

The Port of Laredo accounted for

\$234.7 Billion in trade

Northbound crossings alone totaled

2.3 million trucks **5** million cars

This related to

474,000 Net Jobs **\$72 Billion** in gross domestic product

Energy Production

The Ports-to-Plains Corridor is a vital energy trade corridor that connects the Permian Basin and Eagle Ford Shale production areas. Importing materials and equipment for extraction requires a significant amount of freight, much of which relies on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor energy development is projected to grow.

The Permian Basin...

- 72%** of Texas crude oil production
- 32%** of U.S. crude oil production
- 35%** of Texas natural gas production
- 13%** of U.S. natural gas production

The Eagle Ford Shale comprises...

- 86%** of the corridor's total volume of natural gas production

Wind is also a critical component of the energy economy in west Texas. Much of that production comes from the counties along the Ports-to-Plains Corridor.

Agriculture Production

Another Texas economic engine supported by the Ports-to-Plains Corridor is agriculture. The total agricultural product sales for the Ports-to-Plains Corridor is approximately \$11 billion, and the northern section alone contributes \$9 billion to this total.

National Defense and Security

There are several military installations and border enforcement facilities located along the Corridor. Existing I-27 in Segment #1, portions of Segment #2 and Segment #3 are on the Strategic Highway Network. Improvements to the corridor could result in additions to the Strategic Highway Network and improve mobility on all that is currently designated.

House Bill 1079

House Bill (HB) 1079 requires TxDOT to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor, as defined by Texas Transportation Code 225.069.

The study must evaluate the feasibility of, and costs and logistical matters associated with, improvements to the corridor that create a continuous-flow, four-lane divided highway that meets interstate standards to the extent possible.

HB 1079 describes the composition of the Segment Committees, consisting of volunteers who may represent municipalities, counties, metropolitan planning organizations (MPO), ports, chambers of commerce, and economic development organizations along the segment.

Ports-to-Plains Corridor Interstate Feasibility Study Milestone Dates



Ports-to-Plains Corridor Interstate Feasibility Study Segments



Segment #3

