



## Phasing in the Future

A network of roads, rail and gas, electricity and data lines called the Trans-Texas Corridor will move people, goods, utilities — and even ideas — through the state safer and faster than ever before.

- Separate car and truck lanes could eventually be built for added mobility, safety and visibility.
- Predictable arrival times can become a way of life with unclogged highways combined with travel speeds of up to 85 mph for passenger vehicles and on dedicated, high-speed passenger-rail lines.
- Attractive passenger rail and freight rail alternatives will remove automobiles — and reduce air pollution — from the state's highways.
- Carriers of hazardous materials will be able to avoid population centers because the Trans-Texas Corridor will go around urban areas, reducing the threat of chemical exposure in local communities.
- Safety and aesthetics will be enhanced by placing gas, electricity, data transmission and water lines along or under the roadway.
- Construction will be funded over several decades through tolls, bonds and other financing tools.
- Likely starting points for the corridor will be high-population areas of the state.

## **Trans-Texas Corridor Hearings - February 2004 Questions/Answers**

### **What is the purpose of these hearings?**

The purpose is to gather public input on potential routes for the Trans-Texas Corridor. The planned Trans-Texas Corridor system will benefit the entire state and we want to hear from everyone. Our focus is to listen to what the public says are the routes that best support the purpose of the Trans-Texas Corridor.

### **What is the purpose of the Trans-Texas Corridor?**

The Trans-Texas Corridor is a new type of transportation network that includes roads, rail and a utility zone. It is designed to move people and goods faster and safer, keep hazardous material out of populated areas and improve air quality.

### **Have the routes for the Trans-Texas Corridor map already decided?**

No. TxDOT developed a conceptual map that serves as a starting point to begin the public dialogue on potential routes. Final alignments will not be determined without detailed engineering and environmental studies and additional public input.

### **By asking for public input, does this mean that the routes could change?**

Certainly. Public input from these hearings is critical to determine where the routes should be located, which is the purpose of these hearings – to see what routes the public thinks are important and needed. As the next step of project development gets underway, which are the environmental studies, the proposed routes could also be modified, giving the public more opportunities to provide their input.

### **Are any routes currently being evaluated?**

Yes. TxDOT has filed a notice of intent to begin environmental studies on a corridor stretching from the Oklahoma border to the Mexican border, which generally parallels I-35, one of the busiest and most important trade corridors in the country. In addition, a notice of intent to begin environmental studies I-69 was also filed. The I-69 corridor is being incorporated into the planning of the Trans-Texas Corridor.

Public comments from these hearings will be shared with the environmental teams working on Trans-Texas Corridor.

**Why is TxDOT asking for public input on route selection when environmental studies for the Trans-Texas Corridor are already ongoing?**

The purpose of these hearings is to get public input regarding which routes best support the Trans-Texas Corridor not to determine the final alignment. Public comments from these hearings will be shared with the environmental teams as they begin their studies.

**What were the routes on the conceptual map based on?**

Several factors were considered in identifying corridor segments. They included congestion relief for metropolitan areas, existing rail corridors, existing hazardous material routes, corridors most likely to generate toll revenue, and opportunities for economic development.

Again, nothing is final. This information gave TxDOT a place to begin the public dialogue, which is a key factor in determining the routes.

**How will information from these hearings be used? What is the next step?**

TxDOT will review the public comments to determine the best possible routes that support the purpose of Trans-Texas Corridor. Route selection will consider seven criteria:

- current and projected traffic patterns
- safety of motorists
- potential risks to persons from spills or accidents
- environmental impacts, including air quality
- current and projected economic development
- current and projected transportation needs
- system connectivity

Based on public comments and route selection criteria, TxDOT will revise the conceptual map and present it to the Texas Transportation Commission for their consideration. Once the map has been revised and approved by the Commission, all routes must still go through the required environmental process, like all other transportation projects.

**What has TxDOT done so far to develop the Trans-Texas Corridor?**

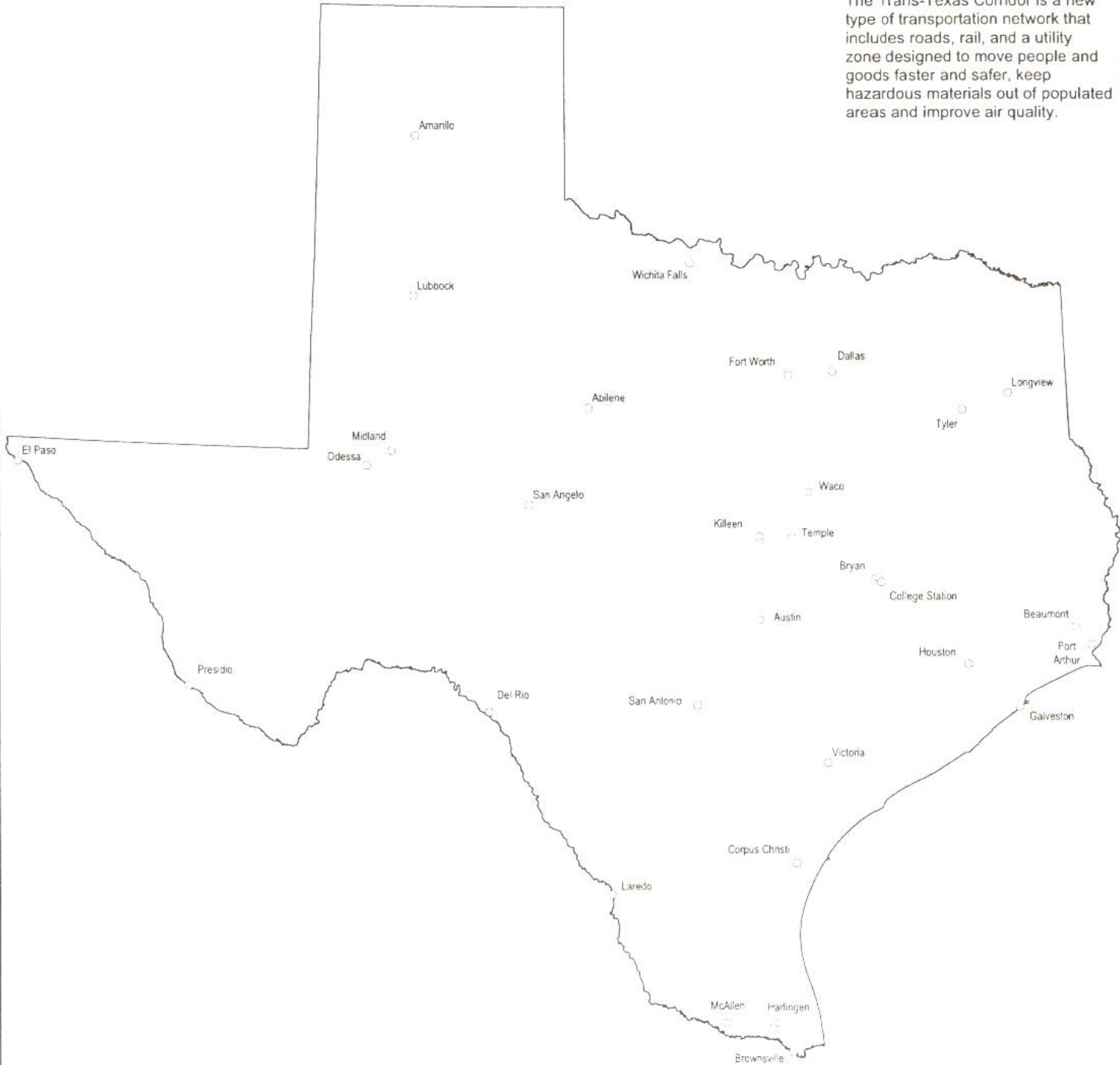
The first step is to begin environmental studies, which are officially underway for two corridors (I-69 and another from Oklahoma-state line to Mexican border, generally paralleling I-35). Also, three consortiums, made of up several private sector firms, have submitted conceptual proposals to develop a corridor that generally parallels I-35. Detailed proposals from these groups are expected later this year.

Directions:

Please draw three routes connecting the regions/cities that you think should be included in the Trans-Texas Corridor.



The Trans-Texas Corridor is a new type of transportation network that includes roads, rail, and a utility zone designed to move people and goods faster and safer, keep hazardous materials out of populated areas and improve air quality.



Legend

○ Cities

□ State Boundary

County \_\_\_\_\_



# Public Comments/Trans-Texas Corridor Hearing

Date \_\_\_\_\_ City/County \_\_\_\_\_

Completed forms may be returned to the designated comment box or mailed to Randall Dillard, Director, TxDOT Public Information Office, 125 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78701. Written comments may also be submitted via e-mail to [corridor@dot.state.tx.us](mailto:corridor@dot.state.tx.us).

## COMMENTS:

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Please take a moment to tell us what you think about the presentation today. Answer questions by circling: **Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), No Opinion (N/O), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD).**

Thank you for your time.

- |   |    |   |     |   |    |
|---|----|---|-----|---|----|
| 1. This hearing helped me better understand the overall transportation challenges in Texas. | SA | A | N/O | D | SD |
| 2. This hearing increased my understanding of the Trans-Texas Corridor project.             | SA | A | N/O | D | SD |
| 3. Technical information was presented in understandable terms.                             | SA | A | N/O | D | SD |
| 4. Audio/visual aids enhanced the presentation.   | SA | A | N/O | D | SD |
| 5. Overall, the presentation was worthwhile and informative.                                | SA | A | N/O | D | SD |

*Please add me to your list of contacts to receive further information on the Trans-Texas Corridor:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Receive additional information via e-mail / U.S. mail (circle one or both)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Become more involved in the Trans-Texas Corridor project

# TRANSPORTATION OPINION SURVEY

Thank you for taking a few minutes to answer the questions below.

1. State leaders have proposed a new transportation concept called the Trans-Texas Corridor. Which of the following best describes your knowledge of this concept:

Have not heard of it  
 Have heard of it but have very little knowledge of it  
 Know some things about it  
 Know quite a bit about it

2. How important to you are the following transportation issues? (Please rank from 1-7, #1 being most important and 7 being least important)

Reduced traffic congestion  
 Economic growth/jobs  
 Improved air quality  
 Financing of new roads  
 Driver safety  
 Safe transport of hazardous materials  
 Predictable travel times

3. The Trans Texas Corridor concept provides separate lanes for cars and large trucks. How important to you is this feature?

Very important  
 Somewhat important  
 Not important  
 Not sure

4. Would you be willing to pay a toll to drive on a roadway reserved for cars only?

Yes  
 No  
 Not sure

5. The Trans Texas Corridor design includes new rail lines. How important to you is this feature in helping reduce traffic congestion?

Very important  
 Somewhat important  
 Not important  
 Not sure

6. How important to you is transportation as it relates to economic development, including the creation of jobs?

Very important  
 Somewhat important  
 Not important  
 Not sure

7. Prior to this meeting, which features, if any, of the Trans-Texas Corridor were you familiar with? (Please check all that apply)

Separate lanes for cars and large trucks  
 Rail lines  
 Utility lines  
 Toll roads  
 Bypasses around urban areas  
 None of the above

## DEMOGRAPHICS

8. Age Group

Less than 18 years  
 18 – 24 years  
 25 – 34  
 35 – 54  
 54 – 65  
 65+

9. Are you:  Male  Female

10. Tell us about yourself. (Please check all that apply.)

Elected official  
 Business owner  
 Home owner  
 Landowner  
 Special interest group  
 Community leader/activist  
 Media professional  
 Private citizen

11. Your zip code: \_\_\_\_\_