



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 21, 2013**  
**Media contact: Laura Jesse, 210.787.9038**

## **Hearing allows public commentary on US 281 Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

### ***BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

**JOHN CLAMP**  
***CHAIR***

**ROBERT S. THOMPSON**  
***VICE-CHAIR***

**REYNALDO L. DIAZ, JR.**  
***SECRETARY/TREASURER***

**TOMMY CALVERT, JR.**

**RAMIRO A. CAVAZOS**

**GAVINO RAMOS**

**ROBERT G. RODRIGUEZ**

**DAVID SMITH**  
***INTERIM EXECUTIVE***  
***DIRECTOR***

Bexar County residents had an opportunity Thursday evening to receive information and provide feedback on the US 281 Draft Environment Impact Statement, or Draft EIS, which addresses improvements proposed for US 281 between Loop 1604 and Borgfield Drive. All comments submitted at the meeting and by e-mail or regular mail will be considered during future project development activities, including identification of the preferred alternative and preparation of a Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Residents who wish to submit written comments may do so by e-mail to [US281EIS@AlamoRMA.org](mailto:US281EIS@AlamoRMA.org); through the website [www.411on281.com/US281EIS](http://www.411on281.com/US281EIS); or by mail to TxDOT-ENV, Attention: Vicki Crnich, 125 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX 78701-2483. Electronic comments must be received by July 1; mailed comments must be postmarked by July 1.

The Draft EIS can be viewed at [www.411on281.com](http://www.411on281.com).

The US 281 EIS process began in 2009 with the identification of the need for improvements to the roadway and then the identification and development of alternatives to prepare the Draft EIS. It will serve as the primary document to facilitate review of the No-Build and Proposed Build Alternatives by federal, state, regional and local agencies; decision-makers; and the public. The Draft EIS documents the anticipated social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed project.

The Draft EIS includes two “build alternatives” to address growth and improve functionality, safety and quality of life in the project limits.

The Expressway Alternative includes three expressway lanes in each direction, two to three frontage road lanes in each direction, grade-separated cross streets, and non-toll northern direct connector ramps at the US 281/Loop 1604 interchange; the estimated cost is \$434 million to \$448 million.

The Expressway Alternative would require one residential relocation and 26 commercial displacements.

The Elevated Expressway Alternative would have two to three elevated expressway lanes in each direction, two to three frontage road lanes in each direction, grade-separated cross streets and non-toll northern direct connector ramps; the estimated cost is \$646 million to \$655 million. This alternative would require no residential relocations and 28 commercial displacements. Both alternatives include bus park-and-ride facilities as well as bike and pedestrian facilities.

The next steps in the US 281 EIS process are:

- Close of public hearing comment period on July 1
- Consider public and agency comments
- Prepare and circulate Public Hearing Summary and Analysis Report
- Identify a preferred alternative
- Public meeting No. 4 for the preferred alternative
- Public and agency comment period
- Prepare and circulate the Final EIS (tentatively Spring 2014)
- Public and agency comment period
- Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT Record of Decision (tentatively Summer 2014)

###