



ALAMO RMA

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

"Moving people faster"

US 281 Environmental Impact Statement

Community Involvement Plan

Revised: September 2010

Introduction and Purpose

The Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (Alamo RMA) wants to ensure all stakeholders are informed and involved each step of the way as the US 281 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process moves forward. Many local residents using US 281 from Loop 1604 to Borgfeld Road have been very tolerant as they continue to see development and, consequently, increased congestion along this stretch of the corridor. Before any long-term solutions can commence, the completion of an EIS is required. This EIS is being conducted to assist decision makers by detailing proposed improvement alternatives and evaluating the degree to which the proposals affect public health, safety and the environment.

Public outreach and input are vital parts of the EIS process, and this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) outlines the EIS team's understanding, concepts and strategies for not only accomplishing, but exceeding the requirements for public involvement and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). (NEPA dictates policies and procedures for the EIS.) The EIS public involvement team is committed to engaging stakeholders* and involving them in this process. The EIS public involvement team is comprised of Jacobs Engineering Group LLC and their small business teaming partners of Ximenes & Associates and SMITH/Associates. This EIS team supports the Alamo RMA in all EIS public involvement activities and initiatives. The team's intent is to ensure that every concern, idea, suggestion and voice be heard as the EIS moves forward.

Whatever the ultimate outcome of the US 281 EIS, the surrounding community it serves will be the greatest barometer of its success. To that end, the Alamo RMA is committed to working together with the community to help accomplish a mutual vision of how best to improve mobility along the US 281 corridor.

**A list of identified stakeholders can be found on the last page of this CIP. This list will be continually updated throughout the EIS process.*

Addressing Challenges

The EIS team has recognized and wants to address public perceptions about the history of the US 281 corridor. Because of this, the team has identified public involvement challenges and developed initiatives to address these challenges within this CIP.

The first public involvement challenge is a lack of public trust in the process. The EIS team will counter this lack of trust with transparency and open and honest communication. Initiatives in this CIP will demonstrate through action that the team is committed to engaging the community and involving them in every step of the EIS process. One example of this is the creation of the Community Advisory Committee, which has provided meaningful input to the public process and acts as a touchstone for the EIS team as representatives for the communities and organizations they represent.

The second identified challenge is keeping the community actively involved. The EIS team will use proactive outreach initiatives to not only involve those who are interested, but also interest those who are not involved. This will be accomplished by visiting local agency and community group meetings to explain the EIS and stress the importance of their participation in the EIS process. In short, the team must seek out community members instead of forcing them to seek out public involvement opportunities on their own.

Finally, people have a negative perception of past activities related to US 281. When people think about US 281, they think about the delays, the disruption, and the continued need for a long-term solution to congestion in the corridor. They rarely start by thinking of the increased mobility, enhanced safety, and other benefits of potential transportation improvements identified in this EIS. This final challenge will be countered by aggressively seeking the public's comments and suggestions for how to improve not only mobility, but their quality of life as they live and travel within the corridor area. This public involvement effort will be successful because communication will continually be directed toward the community's vision for an enhanced US 281 corridor.

Public Engagement Activities

Public Meetings and Public Hearing

During the course of the EIS process, the EIS team will conduct public meetings to engage the community, share information and ask the community for their comments. There are four public meetings and one public hearing planned to correspond with milestones in the EIS process. These will be opportunities for the public to learn about and comment on each part of the EIS.

The following meetings have been conducted to date:

- **August 27, 2009**
Public Scoping Meeting #1 – Need and Purpose
St. Mark's Catholic Church, 602 Thousand Oaks, 78232
- **November 17, 2009**
Public Scoping Meeting #2 – Preliminary Alternatives
Spring Hill Event Center, 2455 Celebration Drive, 78261
- **April 29, 2010**
Public Meeting #3 – Reasonable Alternatives
Summit Christian Center, 2575 Marshall Road, 78259

These public meetings were formatted in a manner to allow for an exchange of information between the EIS team and community. They were interactive and invited attendees to

provide feedback and input through the use of comment cards, court reporter statements, one-on-one discussions between the EIS team and the public, as well as small group workshop sessions. The first meeting was held in an open house format. The second and third meetings included an open house format, a presentation, as well as a workshop format for interactive, participation by attendees. Full meeting reports are available upon request from the Alamo RMA or can be downloaded from the 281EIS website.

The following meetings will be held in conjunction with the Draft EIS and preparation of the Final EIS:

- **Fall 2011**
Public Hearing on the Draft EIS
- **Summer 2012**
Public Meeting #4 – Preferred Alternative

The public hearing and the final public meeting will be both informative and interactive. Open house formats will be utilized to allow attendees to preview information prior to the formal hearing or meeting presentation and to create opportunities for dialogue between meeting attendees and the EIS team.

As with the other meetings, the public will continue to be notified in advance of the hearing and meeting through newspaper advertisements, legal notices, email blasts, social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, and other media outlets. The EIS team will also provide hearing and meeting notices to adjacent property owners, as well as other identified, interested members of the public, through the use of the project newsletter (electronic and hard copy via US Mail.) Additional media relations for each public meeting/hearing will include press releases, requests for coverage, public service announcements, and media kits.

The EIS team will continue to compile comments received at the public hearing and meeting and ensure these comments are included in the official US 281 EIS record. The EIS team will consider and respond to all written comments. Responses to comments received at public meetings and during the official comment period are included as part of the public meeting reports. Following each public meeting/hearing, all documents, presentations, comments and responses, and other materials will be available on the 281EIS website.

Community Advisory Committee

A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will provide the EIS team with insights into concerns and comments being voiced in the community. The US 281 Community Advisory Committee will be comprised of representatives from key stakeholder groups that live or work along the US 281 corridor, including civic, community and environmental groups, educational institutions, and businesses. The US 281 Community Advisory Committee will:

- Be a voice of the community related to the EIS.
- Provide input and feedback for the development of mobility solutions that are sensitive to transportation, environmental and social needs.
- Create an additional information exchange forum for stakeholders along the US 281 corridor and the Alamo RMA and the EIS team.

(For more information on the CAC including the charter, a current roster or meeting summaries, please visit the project at [http://www.411on281.com/us281eis/index.cfm/community-advisory-committee/.](http://www.411on281.com/us281eis/index.cfm/community-advisory-committee/))

Elected and Appointed Official Outreach

It is important that elected and appointed officials remain informed and engaged throughout the EIS process. To ensure this, the Alamo RMA will periodically conduct presentations for these officials and the EIS team will provide support for this effort. It is anticipated that briefings will occur prior to each public meeting, prior to the public hearing, and as needed throughout the project.

Presentations to Local Agencies and Community Groups

In addition to the four public meetings and one public hearing scheduled during the EIS process, the EIS team will utilize smaller, local venues for community engagement activities. Each interaction will be targeted as specifically as possible – meeting with neighborhood groups, civic associations, religious congregations, and various other community organizations. These smaller venues provide additional opportunities for meaningful exchange of information and opinion. These presentations will take place over the course of the development of the Draft EIS (Summer 2010 – Fall 2011) to encourage continued stakeholder engagement in the process.

Outreach Materials

Outreach materials will be vital for sharing information with the public during the EIS process. Outreach materials may include fact sheets, briefings, brochures/posters, newsletters, meeting summaries, and other materials that help convey information about the EIS. These materials will be developed and distributed at public meetings/hearing, through regular US mail, e-mail blasts, 281EIS website, and available at various corridor locations.

Project Mailing List

Anyone attending the public meetings/hearing, presentations to community groups, and all other interested individuals will be added to the US 281 EIS contact database. The EIS team will utilize this contact database to mail and e-mail EIS project information including newsletters and upcoming events.

Project Newsletters

Over the course of the EIS, the team will prepare and distribute newsletters, in both English and Spanish, to notify project stakeholders and the general public of EIS updates and events. The project newsletters will be distributed prior to, and also serve as notification for, each public meeting/hearing. The newsletter will be mailed out to all persons/businesses listed on the project mailing list, posted to the 281EIS website, and distributed to all public agencies participating in the project. Copies of newsletters sent prior to the first three public meetings can be found on the 281EIS website. Moving forward, the EIS team will utilize both electronic newsletters and hard copy newsletters to continue communication with stakeholders and the public.

Project Website

The 281EIS website is part of the Alamo RMA's 411on281 website and can be found at www.411on281.com/US281EIS/. Over the course of the EIS, the team will provide content updates and document uploads to provide an interactive and informative 281EIS website for the Internet community. This site will also provide dates, times and locations of public meetings/hearing and other engagements. The website will also contain EIS records and resources, documents from public meetings, copies of outreach materials and provide an opportunity for the public to submit comments to be included in the US 281 EIS official record.

Social Media

Social media is a new trend in how people discover, read, and share news and information. The EIS team will use social media sites to share factual EIS information and advertise public meetings/hearing and other EIS events. The following disclaimer is located on the 281EIS website regarding the use of social media:

Comments made on these sites (Twitter, Facebook, Socializer, blogs), herein called "social media sites" will be not be included or evaluated as part of the ongoing Environmental Impact Statement decision-making process. Opinions expressed on these social media sites and any corresponding comments are the personal opinions of the original authors and do not represent the official opinion of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority, board members, staff or consultants working on this project. All official documents addressing the Environmental Impact Statement may be accessed through the principle website established for the EIS itself.

These social media sites are available for and intended to encourage public dialogue about the project and are, as such, provided for outreach and informational purposes only.

To provide official comments for inclusion into the project record for the Environmental Impact Statement, please visit the 281EIS website at <http://www.411on281.com/us281eis/index.cfm/submit-comments/>.

As of September 2010, the US 281 EIS blog has been replaced with a monthly e-newsletter. It is the hope of the Alamo RMA and the EIS team that the e-newsletter, which will be sent directly to the project's public e-mail list as well as being posted to the 281EIS website, will provide more information and generate more interest in the project as the Draft EIS and Final EIS is further developed and finalized.

Public Opinion Questionnaires

The EIS team may collaborate with the Alamo RMA on opinion questionnaires to gather data regarding project perceptions, travel behavior, need for improvements, and other information related to public and stakeholder opinions, interest and involvement. The EIS team would design the questions, manage the questionnaire process, analyze the results, and prepare written and visual summaries.

Media Communications

Media inquiries regarding Alamo RMA policies, Alamo RMA Board of Directors, lawsuits, personnel matters or seeking a quote or comments over the phone, by e-mail or through on-camera interviews, are responsibilities designated to the Alamo RMA. The EIS team will direct all media inquiries related to those listed above to the Alamo RMA. The EIS team will only engage the media to advertise public meetings/hearing and other EIS-specific events.

Open Records

All Open Records requests will be handled directly by the Alamo RMA. Requests submitted by the media to the Alamo RMA will be processed in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act (<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/requestors.shtml>).

Identified Stakeholders

* Community Advisory Committee Members (revised August 2010)

Public Agencies

- Alamo Area Council of Governments*
- Alamo Area Rural Planning Organization
- Alamo Regional Mobility Authority *Joint Lead Agency*
- Bexar County
- Bexar Metropolitan Water District*
- Camp Bullis Military Installation*
- City of Bulverde
- City of San Antonio

- City Public Service Energy
- Comal County*
- Comal Independent School District (ISD)
- Federal Highway Administration *Lead Agency*
- Federally-recognized Native American Tribes
- Northeast ISD*
- San Antonio – Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization
- San Antonio River Authority
- San Antonio Water System*
- State Historic Preservation Officer
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) *Joint Lead Agency*
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TP&WD)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- VIA Metropolitan Transit*

Non-Governmental Organizations

- Alamo City Chamber of Commerce
- Alamo Sierra Club*
- Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas (AGUA)*
- Big Springs Home Owners Association (HOA)*
- Bulverde Chamber of Commerce
- Bulverde United Methodist Church Daycare Center
- Cavalo Creek Estates HOA*
- Champion Springs/Sundance at Stone Oak HOA
- Champions Ridge/Stone Oak/Walker Ranch HOA
- Cibolo Canyons Resort Community, Inc*
- District 9 Neighborhood Alliance*
- Emerald Forest HOA*
- Encino Park HOA*
- Encino Ranch HOA
- Forest at Stone Oak HOA
- Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance*
- Greater San Antonio Builders Association
- HEB Grocery Company
- Lookout Canyon Property Owners Association*
- Mesa Vista HOA

- Methodist Stone Oak Hospital*
- Mountain Lodge HOA*
- North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce*
- Professional Engineers in Private Practice
- Real Estate Council of San Antonio*
- San Antonio Christian Schools
- San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- San Antonio Toll Party*
- San Antonio Women’s Chamber of Commerce
- Save Our Springs Alliance
- Sonterra Villas/Townhomes/Condos HOA
- Stone Mountain/Stone Oak HOA
- Stone Oak Business Owners Association*
- Stone Oak Communities of Mutual Amenities/Stone Oak
- Stone Oak Property Owners Association*
- Summerglenn HOA*
- Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF)*
- Timberwood Park HOA*

Elected and Appointed Officials

- Bexar County Commissioners Court
 - Judge Nelson Wolff
 - Precinct 1, Commissioner Sergio “Chico” Rodriguez
 - Precinct 2, Commissioner Paul Elizondo
 - Precinct 3, Commissioner Kevin Wolff
 - Precinct 4, Commissioner Tommy Adkission
- City of Bulverde
 - Mayor Bill Krawietz
 - Councilwoman Yvonne L. Chapman
 - Councilman Rob Hurst
 - Councilwoman Cindy Cross
 - Councilman Kirk Harrison
 - Councilman Shane Reynolds
- City of Hill Country Village
 - Mayor Kirk Francis
 - Place 1, (Mayor Pro-Tempore), Councilman Carl Register
 - Place 2, Councilman Gabriel Durand-Hollis
 - Place 3, Councilwoman Elizabeth Worley
 - Place 4, Councilman George “Rick” Evans
 - Place 5, Councilwoman Margaret Mayberry
- City of San Antonio

- Mayor Julian Castro
- District 1, Councilwoman Mary Alice Cisneros
- District 2, Councilwoman Ivy Taylor
- District 3, Councilwoman Jennifer Ramos
- District 4, Councilman Phillip Cortez
- District 5, Councilman David Medina
- District 6, Councilman Ray Lopez
- District 7, Councilman Justin Rodriguez
- District 8, Councilman W. Reed Williams
- District 9, Councilwoman Elisa Chan
- District 10, Councilman John Clamp
- Comal County Commissioners Court
 - Judge Danny Scheel
 - Precinct 1, Commissioner Donna Eccleston
 - Precinct 2, Commissioner Jay Milliken
 - Precinct 3, Commissioner Gregory Parker
 - Precinct 4, Commissioner Jan Kennady
- Texas House District 120, Representative Ruth Jones McClendon, Texas House Transportation Committee
- Texas House District 121, Representative Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House
- Texas House District 122, Representative Frank Corte, Jr., Chairman of the Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations Committee
- Texas State Senate District 25, Senator Jeff Wentworth, Senate Transportation and Homeland Secretary Member
- Town of Hollywood Park
 - Mayor Bob Sartor
 - Place 1, Councilman Gary Miller
 - Place 2, Vacant as of August 15, 2010
 - Place 3, Councilman Tim McCallum
 - Place 4, Councilman David Swan
 - Place 5, Vacant as of August 15, 2010
- US Congressman Lamar Smith, Texas, District 21
- US Senator John Cornyn, Texas
- US Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Texas

Individuals

- Business owners along the corridor
- Comal County residents
- Corridor transportation users
- Property owners along the corridor