

# Get the 411on281...EIS

ALAMO RMA  
Alamo Regional Mobility Authority



THE LATEST ON THE US 281 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

November 2010

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## Contact Us

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## Request a Speaker!

If you belong to a group or association that would like more information about the US 281 EIS process, we want to visit with you!

[Submit your request here](#) and we will get back to you to coordinate a speaker for your next meeting.

As the Super Street is now open, you may be wondering what's happening with the US 281 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The article below details the results of interviews held with the US 281 EIS Community Advisory Committee. In this E-Newsletter, you can also read about the US 281 EIS Peer Technical Review Committee and the Super Street opening.

Due to feedback received from the public from the October Community Advisory Committee meeting and the October Peer Technical Review Committee meeting, the Alamo RMA and the US 281 EIS Team are still analyzing and considering further design refinements to the Draft EIS build alternatives. We look forward to sharing the updated design refinement information for these alternatives as soon as it is available.

If a question or comment comes to mind as you read this E-Newsletter, please take a moment to share it with us by [email](#) or by submitting your question or [comment here](#). Please also remember to visit us on the [411on281/EIS website](http://411on281/EIS).

Thank you for staying involved in the US 281 EIS process!

Sincerely,  
Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

## Community Advisory Committee interviews reveal range of opinions on the issues

During the months of August and September 2010, US 281 EIS team members Linda Ximenes and Tim Sueltenfuss interviewed 21 of the US 281 EIS Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members about their opinions regarding the public involvement process and the EIS process in general.

A range of opinions were expressed by this group, which represented various stakeholder perspectives. Overall, they were pleased with the EIS process thus far and were positive about public involvement activities and the process used. Many indicated they were just glad that something was being done. They recognized that the EIS process is complex and noted the active participation at the public meetings and within the CAC so far in the process. They appreciated the opportunity to review meeting materials and EIS content and liked the structure, process and content of the meetings.

The interviewees also expressed concerns. Some thought there was too much emphasis on the environment and others thought there was not enough. Some wanted more data and would have liked to know more about where it came from. The desire for more data, and the source of it, led some to say the process was not as transparent as they would like. The group recognized the difficulty of getting to a good solution that most would accept. There was also concern that after the process was completed, a solution would not be developed. And, of course, there was a concern over funding: how much will this cost and where will the money come from to pay for it? The US 281 Team will strive to address these concerns at future CAC meetings and within this E-Newsletter.



Presentation at a recent Community Advisory Committee meeting

The last Community Advisory Committee meeting was held on October 6, 2010. The next Committee meeting will be held sometime after the start of the new year. To learn more about the CAC and view past meeting materials, please [click here](#).

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Most CAC members indicated they report on a regular basis with the organizations they represent and noted that this e-newsletter was helpful since they could just forward it on to others to keep them informed. The summary report of the CAC interviews, with many of the actual question responses, will be available on the website, [www.411on281/US281EIS.com](http://www.411on281/US281EIS.com) later this month. A copy of the CAC interview presentation delivered at the October 6th CAC meeting is currently available on the website by clicking here.

A total of 32 organizations were mentioned that should be briefed by the Alamo RMA on the US 281 EIS process. These organizations included member organizations, civic and environmental groups, political organizations and entities, business groups and residents. For more information about the Committee, please contact the CAC facilitator, Linda Ximenes, at: 210-354-2925 or by email at [US281EIS@AlamoRMA.org](mailto:US281EIS@AlamoRMA.org).

## US 281 EIS Peer Technical Review Committee

In an effort to continue partnering with participating and cooperating agencies for the US 281 EIS, the Peer Technical Review Committee was created. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Texas Department of Transportation and the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority have formed this committee to provide expert oversight and gather input from participating and cooperating agencies at key coordination points throughout the EIS process including:

- Development of the Need and Purpose to improve the US 281 corridor
- Identification of the range of alternatives for the US 281 corridor
- Collaboration on methodologies to be used
- Completion of the Draft EIS
- Identification and refinement of the Preferred Alternative
- Completion of the Final EIS

The Committee, which is chaired by the FHWA, held its first meeting in November 2009, and will continue to work cooperatively throughout the project to provide input on data and methodologies for the EIS process. Members of the Peer Technical Review Committee include:

- Alamo Regional Mobility Authority
- Bexar County
- City of San Antonio
- Edwards Aquifer Authority
- Federal Highway Administration
- San Antonio - Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization
- San Antonio Water System
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Historical Commission
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- VIA Metropolitan Transit

Visit the US 281 EIS web site by [clicking here](#) to review summaries from previous Peer Technical Review Committee meetings. Also [click here](#) to learn what other cooperating and participating agencies are involved in the US 281 EIS and how these agencies work together throughout the EIS process.



As the Draft EIS is being prepared, please visit the "Understanding an EIS" section of the [411on281/EIS](http://411on281/EIS) website by [clicking here](#). Here you'll find information on the US 281 Environmental History, EIS Process Diagram and other resources and history on US 281.

## Is the US 281 Super Street complete?

During the month of November, drivers can expect to see construction crews on the project for the first week or two. Crews will continue to stripe the pavement to ensure drivers have full visibility while maneuvering through the new lanes. New ramps will be placed at pedestrian crossings and new grass will be planted as needed. Crews will also continue to work on the new traffic signals.

Once construction crews are done the Alamo RMA will work on a post construction study to see just how well the super street is doing and to capture time savings. We will then look at what adjustments might need to be made to allow more cars to move through the intersections quickly.

The 281 Super Street is considered a construction zone until crews are gone and all equipment has been removed from the project limits. We ask that all drivers and pedestrians continue to use caution as they move along the intersections.

[Click here](#) for the latest information and videos and [click here](#) for answers to frequently asked questions about the US 281 Super Street!

