



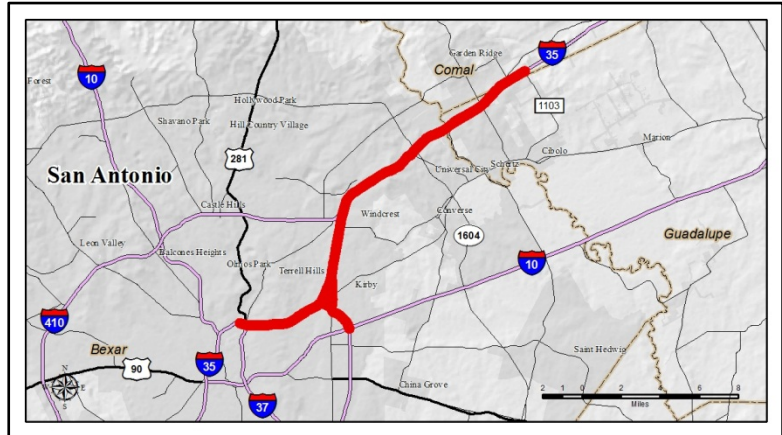
IH 35 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Public Workshop #1



IH 35 PEL Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the IH 35 PEL Study? The study will identify transportation needs and potential improvements for IH 35 in portions of Comal and Guadalupe Counties and the northeastern portion of Bexar County.

What are the study limits? The study area follows IH 35 from Hubertus Road/FM 1103 in Schertz to the intersection with IH 37/US 281 in downtown San Antonio, and Loop 410 from IH 35 on the north side of San Antonio east to IH 10.



IH 35 PEL Study Area

What is a PEL Study? A PEL study is a new tool established by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to make the process of identifying, evaluating, and selecting preferred transportation improvements more efficient.

This process allows early planning-level decisions to be carried into future, more detailed environmental studies to select specific transportation improvements for implementation.

Why are we doing a PEL study for this section of IH 35? Previous planning studies have identified a need for transportation improvements along this section of IH 35, but none have advanced to the environmental study process (which identifies specific improvements to be implemented). A PEL study will re-engage the public and agencies in the transportation decision-making process, and will provide a recognized “link” between past, current, and future studies for this area, thus potentially minimizing any duplication of effort and shortening the time needed to implement a project.

How is this study related to other recent transportation planning efforts for IH 35? The San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (SA-BC MPO’s) *Mobility 2035* Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the I-35 Corridor Advisory Committee’s *MY 35 Plan* both contain long-range recommendations for IH 35 within the study area. The IH 35 PEL Study will consider these recommendations, as well as additional proposed solutions developed through public and agency participation and detailed technical evaluation, to move IH 35 improvements closer to implementation.

Who is conducting the study? The study process will be led by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (Alamo RMA), with participation from the public and local, state, and federal agencies.

How long will the study take, and what are the major milestones? The study is anticipated to be complete by Summer 2012, with major study milestones occurring as follows:

- Identify transportation needs and goals in the study area (Fall/Winter 2011)
- Develop proposed solutions (alternatives) to meet the needs (Winter 2011)
- Identify the affected environment and potential environmental consequences associated with each alternative (Winter 2011/Spring 2012)
- Establish the criteria by which to evaluate the proposed alternatives (Winter 2011/Spring 2012)
- Evaluate the alternatives (Spring 2012)
- Recommend alternatives to be carried forward into future environmental studies (Summer 2012)

How can the public and agencies participate in the process? The study will incorporate public and agency participation early and often throughout the process. TxDOT and the Alamo RMA will host three rounds of public workshops, four Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings, four Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings, and numerous elected official and stakeholder meetings to engage stakeholders at key milestones. Additionally, members of the public can stay engaged through the following:

- **Project Website:** www.TimeFor35.com
- **Email:** IH35@AlamoRMA.org
- **Phone:** 210-549-SA35 (210-549-7235)
- **Facebook:** www.Facebook.com/TimeFor35
- **Twitter:** www.Twitter.com/TimeFor35
- **Mailing Address:** IH 35 PEL Study
601 NW Loop 410, Suite 410
San Antonio, Texas 78216

What is the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)? The TAC is responsible for providing technical advice and recommendations regarding transportation needs and proposed improvements for IH 35 within in the study area. Representatives from local, state, and federal agencies such as cities and counties, the Texas Historical Commission, the SA-BC MPO, VIA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been invited to participate on this committee.

What is the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)? The CAC is responsible for providing advice and recommendations from a community/public perspective regarding transportation needs and proposed improvements for IH 35 within the study area. Representatives from neighborhood associations, community organizations, churches, schools, businesses, chambers of commerce, and other stakeholders have been invited to participate on this committee.