

FHWA Delegation





FHWA
Delegation
Basics



FHWA Oversight of TxDOT projects

Title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.) §106

- Codifies federal government responsibilities and requirements that states must follow for projects using federal funds
- FHWA acts on behalf of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation to oversee federally-funded projects

Relationship between FHWA & TxDOT

- Stewardship and Oversight (S&O) Agreement between FHWA and TxDOT defines the responsibilities for specific actions
- The latest S&O agreement was signed on March 27, 2025



TxDOT has been entrusted with these responsibilities

TxDOT has established processes and tools that have been approved by FHWA

FHWA retains responsibility for projects considered high-risk



FHWA Delegation to TxDOT

- Major and Other Projects
- Design Exceptions
- Interstate Access Justification Reports





David V. Magaña, P.E.



- Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University-Kingsville (formerly Texas A&I) in 1989.
- Over 30 years of civil and transportation engineering experience including service to both Texas and Oklahoma DOTs and serving as City Engineer for the cities of Austin and Fort Worth
- Currently leads the Major and Other Projects program and helps to support project delivery for the TxDOT Design Division's Project Delivery Section



Ana G. Montemayor, E.I.T.

- Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in 2016.
- Over 10 years of experience in civil and transportation engineering activities, including designing subdivisions, utilities, and roadways while employed in the private sector and the TxDOT Pharr District
- Currently serves on the Major and Other Projects
 program team and helps to support project delivery for
 the TxDOT Design Division's Project Delivery Section





Major and Other Project Documentation

David Magaña and Ana Montemayor





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Major Project and Other Project Definition

Major Project (MP)

 a project that has a total project cost of \$500 million or more and includes federal funds

Other Project (OP)

 a project that has a total project cost between \$100 million and \$500 million and includes federal funds

MP and OP

Must meet FHWA requirements



Divisions / Design Division (DES) / DES sections

Project Delivery Section

We provide guidance, support, communication, coordination and expertise to ensure successful project delivery from project inception/advance project development (APD) to final plans, specifications & estimates (PS&E).



Advance Project Development (APD)

Design Summary Report Value Engineering Schematics Interstate Access Justification Report

> (IAJR) Checklists

Traffic Study

Advance Project Development (APD)



Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E)

Plans

Specifications & General Notes

Estimates

Preliminary Bridge Layout Reviews

(PBLR)

Form 1002

Checklists

Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E)



FHWA Interstate Access Policy Major/Other Projects

FHWA Oversight - Approvals, Audits, **TXDIP**

Federal Requirements





Major Projects Documents

1-Major Project Procedures - № 8/15/2024

Attach_A-CSRA Workshop Checklist - 2 8/15/2024

Attach B-Example Pre-CSRA Workshop Agenda - 🔝 8/15/2024

Attach_C-Example CSRA Workshop Agenda - 38/15/2024

Attach_D-Example CSRA Opening Presentation - № 8/15/2024

Attach E-Example Closing Presentation - 🕞 8/15/2024

Attach_F-Example CSRA Report - 8/15/2024

Attach_G-PMP Template-DB - 2 8/15/2024

Attach G-PMP Template-DBB - 38/15/2024

Other Projects Documents

Under Development

- Attach_M-FHWA Statistical Information 38/15/2024
- PMP Appendix A with Jan 2022 QAP 38/15/2024

FHWA Stewardship and Oversight Agreement

This is an agreement between the FHWA-Texas Division and TxDOT (June 28, 2024).

Stewardship and Oversight (S&O) Agreement

FHWA Oversight - TxDIP

All "Major Projects" are TxDIPs, but not all TxDIPs are "Major Projects." TxDIPs include 3 types of projects:

- · All Major Projects, both On- and Off- the NHS
- · All TIGER Discretionary Grant Projects
- · Other Projects Individually Selected by FHWA (due to identified risk)

FY 2024 TxDIP List

S&O Plans by District, Multi-District, or Statewide $ \stackrel{\triangle}{\triangledown} $											
ABL	AMA	△ ATL	△ AUS	BMT	<u>BWD</u>	BRY	CHS	CRP			
DAL □	□ ELP	ETW	B HOU	LRD	LBB	□ LEK	<u>ODA</u>	<u>PAR</u>			
PHR	SJT	SAT	☐ IYL	<u> WAC</u>	<u>₩FS</u>		<u>Statewide</u>	Multi-District			

S&O Plans:

- Provided for each District
- Identify project type

- Help identify areas FHWA is involved in
- Identify FHWA's point of contact

S&O Plans – Austin District

FHWA has provided the following S&O Plans for individual projects within the district. These plans may be updated by FHWA at any time, so use the links below to see the most recent version.

Project	Date
City County Regional Safety Action Plan	2/28/2024
City of Austin Planning Activities	3/7/2024
Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program Grant - Austin	4/3/2024
IH 35 Capital Express Central	9/30/2024

Texas Division Involved Project (TxDIP)



FY 2024 Stewardship & Oversight Plan (S&O Plan)

IH 35 Improvement Project in Cooke County

This Stewardship and Oversight Plan for the **IH 35 Improvement Project in Cooke County** was developed to define the processes that FHWA Texas Division (Division) will utilize to coordinate and provide effective oversight and risk management of the Project.

This plan will guide the Division's risk-based stewardship and oversight of the Project. This document summarizes the results of risk assessment that were used to identify Division's stewardship and oversight activities.

Project Information

Project Name: IH 35 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN COOKE COUNTY											
Project Description:	Niden from 4 to 6 lane freeway facility (interim).										
Location:	District: Wichita Falls	County(s): Cooke									
Project Type:	Major Projects (>\$500M)23 USC 106(h), Discretionary Grant Projects										
Project Sponsor(s):	Texas Department of Transportation (OKDOT)	(TxDOT), Oklahoma Department of Transportation									
Federal Project Number(s):	2021327										
State Project Number(s):	0195-01-119, 0194-01-010, 0194-02-0 0194-02-096, 0195-01-113	092, 0903-15-100, 0195-01-111, 0195-01-087, 0194-02-081,									



MAJOR PROJECT

INITIAL FINANCIAL PLAN
Delivery Model: Choose a delivery model.

.

[Project Name]

Limits: [Provide project limits as shown in ENV document]

[County/Counties]

CSJ[s]: [List all CSJs as shown in latest approved ENV document]

Period Ending: [Month Year]



MAJOR PROJECT

FINANCIAL PLAN ANNUAL UPDATE

Delivery Method: Choose a delivery method.

[Project Name]

Limits: [Provide project limits as shown in ENV document]

[County/Counties]

CSJ[s]: [List all CSJs as shown in latest approved ENV document]

Period Ending: [Month Year]

Table 3-1: Summary of Project Expenditures

Phase	CSJ	Activity	At IFP, Prior to FY 2022	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Total	
		PE/PS&E	\$22,905,463.00	\$31,042.00	\$2,256.00	\$0.00	\$22,938,761.00	
	146	ROW	\$14,114,520.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$867.00	\$14,115,387.00	
	-04	UTI	\$14,187,480.00	\$163,105.00	\$100,350.00	\$0.00	\$14,450,935.00	
1	J 0253-04-146	Construction/ CCO	\$201,343,653.00	\$925,937.00	.00 \$431,205.00		\$202,700,795.00	
	ccs	CE&I	\$13,074,668.00	\$562,679.00	\$37,068.00	\$0.00	\$13,674,415.00	
		Sub-Total	\$265,625,784.00	\$1,682,763.00	\$570,879.00	\$867.00	\$267,880,293.00	
		PE/PS&E	\$13,431,364.00	\$46,588.00	\$39,271.00	\$16,239.00	\$13,533,462.00	
	138	ROW	\$95,485,579.00	(\$231,048.00)	(\$71,596.00)	\$327,580.00	\$95,510,515.00	
	9	UTI	\$9,711,749.00	\$237,264.00	\$82,334.00	\$56,000.00	\$10,087,347.00	
2	J 0253-04-138	Construction/ CCO	\$99,286,401.00	\$33,977,058.00	\$35,006,407.00	\$9,846,360.00	\$178,116,226.00	
	ccs	CE&I	\$11,121,584.00	\$2,013,784.00	\$2,323,750.00	\$505,907.00	\$15,965,025.00	
		Sub-Total	\$229,036,677.00	\$36,043,646.00	\$37,380,166.00	\$10,752,086.00	\$313,212,575.00	
		Total	\$494,662,461.00	\$37,726,409.00	\$37,951,045.00	\$10,752,953.00	\$581,092,868.00	





Major Project (MP) Due Dates

- Certified Initial Financial Plan due prior to Federal Project Authorization & Agreement (FPAA) date.
- Typically initiated 6 to 9 months prior to let date.
- Financial Plan Annual Update (FPAU) due at the end of each Fiscal Year (August 31).
- Certified (FPAU) prior to November 30th.

Notes:

^{*}FHWA requires a Final FPAU after Project is substantially completed (all phases) and open to the public.

^{*}If FPAU is a Final FPAU, DES will provide an email that includes a statement that all Other Project FHWA requirements have been met.

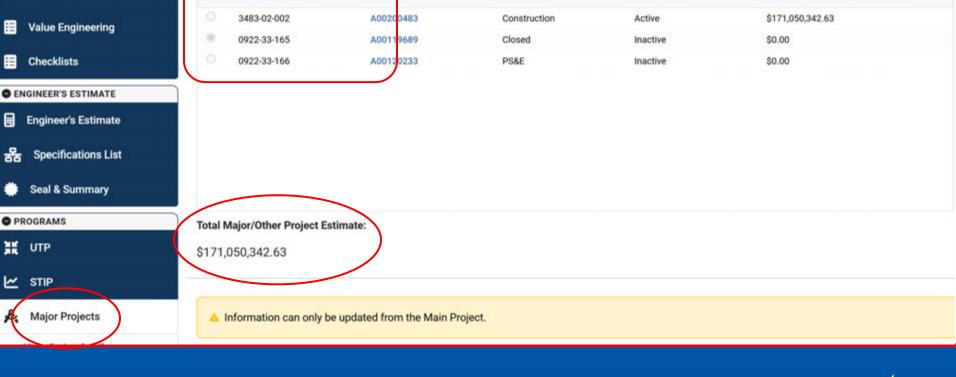
Other Project (OP) Due Dates

- Certified Initial Financial Plan due prior to Federal Project Authorization & Agreement (FPAA) date.
- Typically initiated 3 to 5 months prior to let date.
- Financial Plan Annual Update (FPAU) due at the end of each Calendar Year (December 31).
- Certified FPAU prior to March 31st.

Notes:

^{*}FHWA requires a Final FPAU after Project is substantially completed (all phases) and open to the public.

^{*}If FPAU is a Final FPAU, DES will provide an email that includes a statement that all Other Project FHWA requirements have been met.



Project Stage

Project Status

TxDOTCONNECT Major Projects Tab

Environmental Associations

Project D

Control Section Job

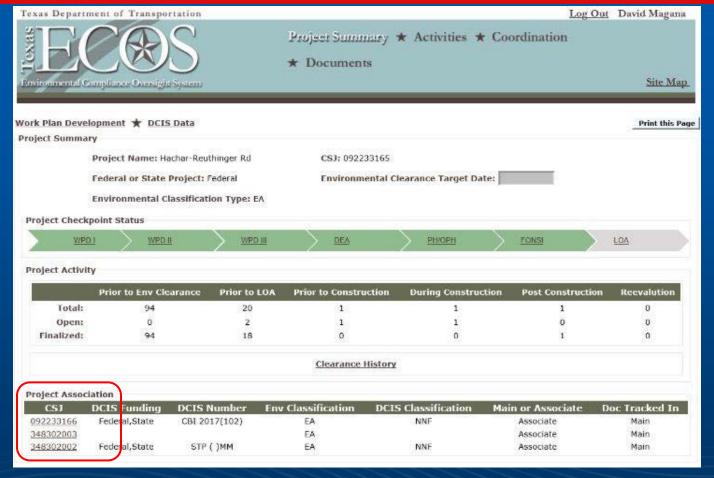
Main

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

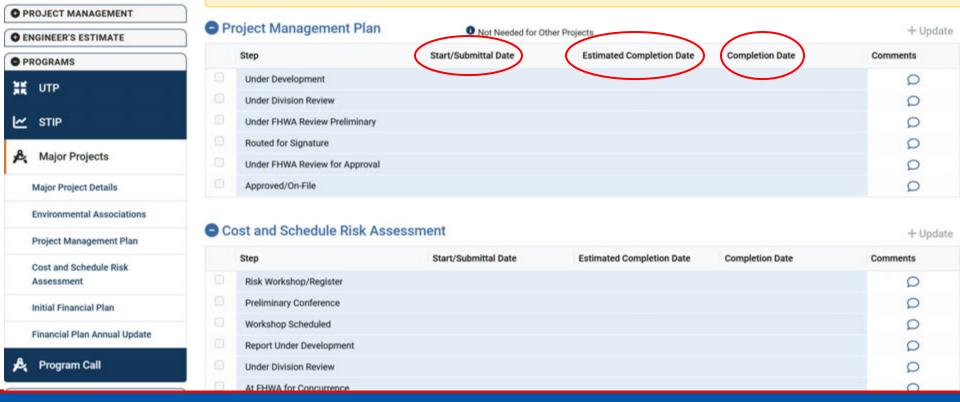
Milestones



Total Project Estimate with Inflation



Environmental Compliance Oversight System



TxDOTCONNECT Major Projects Tab

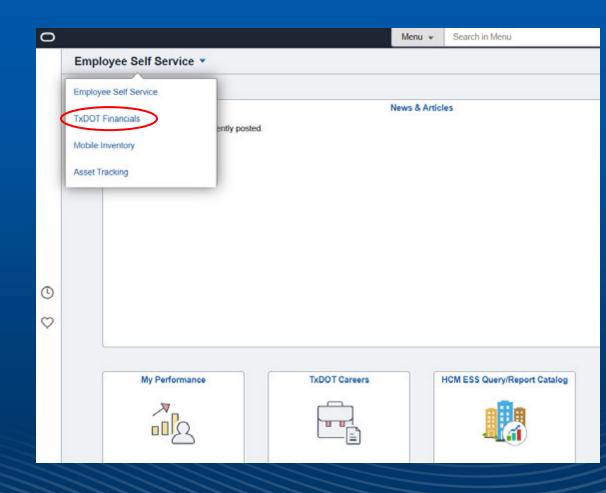


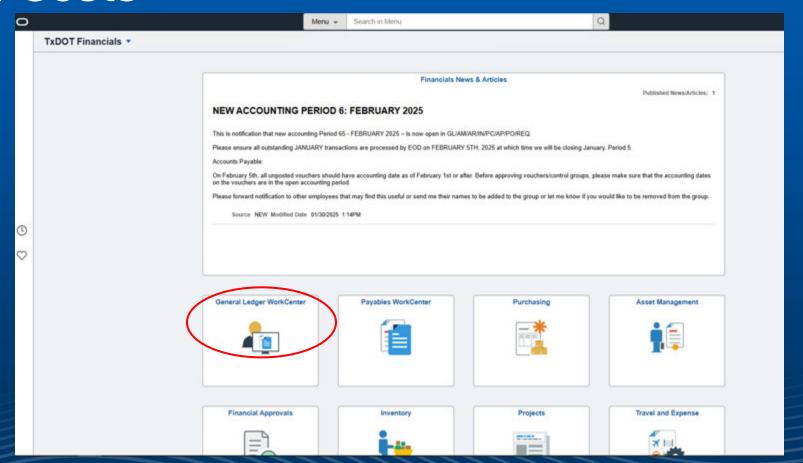
4	Α	В	C	D	E	F
1	District	Major Project Coordinator - Main	Major Project Coordinator - Backup 1	Major Project Coordinator - Backup 2	Major Project Coordinator - Backup 3	Date
2	Abilene	Tracy Jones	Michael Haithcock	Scott Darrow		4/12/2024
3	Amarillo	Russell Washer	Aaron Johnson	Brandon Vinson		6/3/2024
4	Atlanta	Katie Martin	Adrian Walton	Tonya Wiley		5/23/2024
5	Austin	Beke Bedada	Eric Gobert	Roy Garcia	Susana Ceballos	4/12/2024
6	Beaumont	Nancy Peron	Lisa Collins			4/12/2024
7	Brownwood	Jason Scantling	Jodie Kelly	Deyton Riddle		5/31/2024
8	Bryan	Lauren Blackman	Roger Durden	Juan Quiroz	Doug Marino	4/12/2024
9	Childress	Annabel Jurado	Lin Xie			8/21/2024
10	Corpus Christi	Amanda Longoria	Leticia Estavillo	Leanne Heldenfels		
11	Dallas	Ashton Strong	Elizabeth Romero			4/15/2024

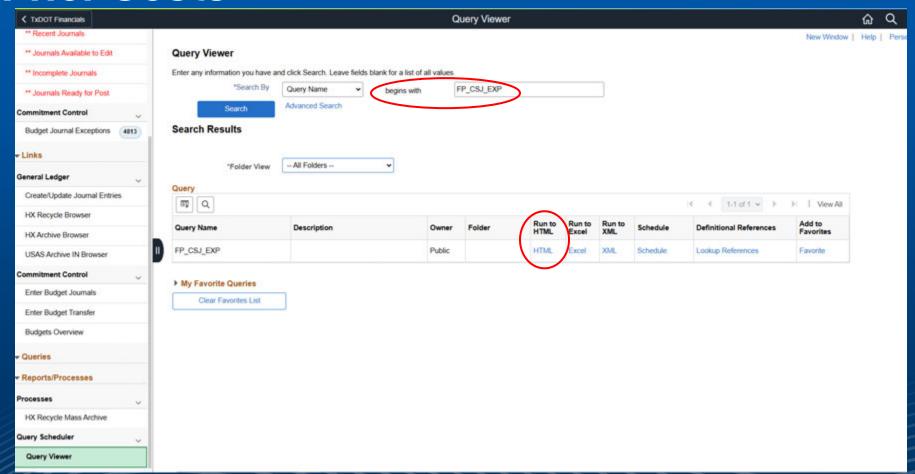
MP Coordinators List



- When preparing Annual
 Updates, it is necessary to
 gather prior costs associated
 with the project.
- The following are the steps to one of the ways you can download the data:





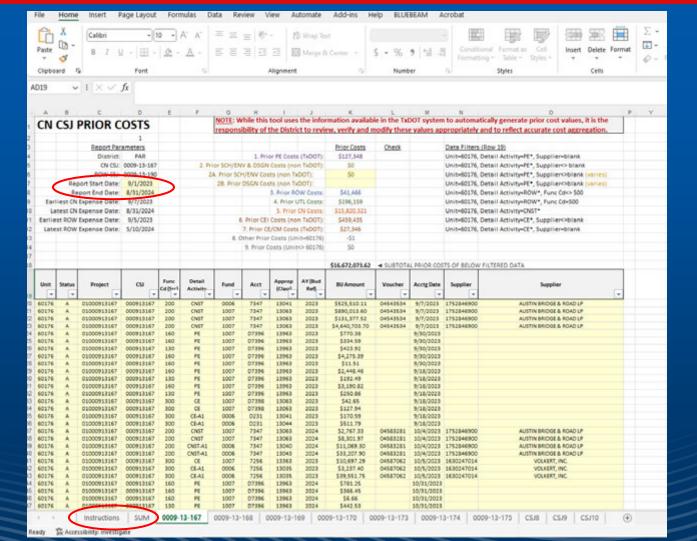




on Project ID (DD+CSJ)	0100091316	7
ow Project ID (Optional)	0100091319	0
*Begin Date	09/01/2023	B
*End Date	08/31/2024	21
/iew Results		

Row	Unit	Status	Project	CSJ	Func Cd (Src)	Detail Activity	Fund	Acct	Approp (Class)	AY (Bud Ref)	BU Amount	Voucher	Acctg Date	Supplier	Supplier
1	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	200	CNST	0006	7347	13041	2023	525510.110.04	4543534	09/07/2023	1752846900	AUSTIN BRIDGE & ROAD LP
2	60176	A.	01000913167	000913167	200	CNST	1007	7347	13063	2023	890013.600 04	4543534	09/07/2023	1752846900	AUSTIN BRIDGE & ROAD LP
3	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	200	CNST	1007	7347	13063	2023	131377.520 04	1543534	09/07/2023	1752846900	AUSTIN BRIDGE & ROAD LP
4	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	200	CNST	1007	7347	13063	2023	4640703.700 04	4543534	09/07/2023	1752846900	AUSTIN BRIDGE & ROAD LP
5	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	160	PE	1007	D7396	13963	2023	770.380		09/30/2023		
6	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	160	PE	1007	D7396	13963	2023	334.590		09/30/2023		
7	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	130	PE	1007	D7396	13963	2023	423.920		09/30/2023		
8	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	160	PE	1007	D7396	13963	2023	4275.390		09/30/2023		
9	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	160	PE	1007	D7396	13963	2023	11.510		09/30/2023		
10	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	160	PE	1007	D7396	13963	2023	2448.460		09/18/2023		
11	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	130	PE	1007	D7396	13963	2023	192.490		09/18/2023		
12	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	160	PE	1007	D7396	13963	2023	3190.820		09/18/2023		
13	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	130	PE	1007	D7396	13963	2023	250.860		09/18/2023		
14	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	300	CE	1007	D7398	13063	2023	42.650		09/18/2023		
15	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	300	CE	1007	D7398	13063	2023	127.940		09/18/2023		
16	60176	A	01000913167	000913167	300	CE-A1	0006	D231	13041	2023	170.590		09/18/2023		
17	60176	Α	01000913167	000913167	300	CE-A1	0006	D231	13044	2023	511.790		09/18/2023		

- Spreadsheet available upon request
- For TxDOT use only

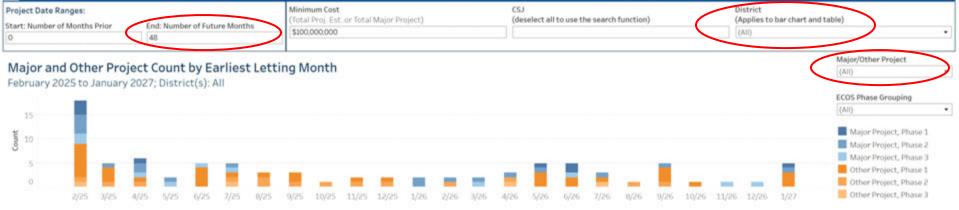


Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	1	J	K		M N	0
DDIC	R COSTS SUMMARY		NOTE: While t	his tool uses tl	he informatio	n available in t	he TxDOT syst	em to automa	tically generat	e prior cost v	alues, it is the		
PKIC	K COSTS SUIVIIVIAKT		responsibility	of the District	to review, ver	rify and modify	y these values	appropriately	and to reflect	accurate cost	aggregation.		
AUTO GE	NERATED SUMMARY	CSJ 1	CSJ 2	CSJ 3	CSJ 4	CSJ 5	CSJ 6	<u>CSJ 7</u>	CSJ 8	<u>CSJ 9</u>	CSJ 10		
	District:	PAR	PAR	PAR	PAR	PAR	PAR	PAR					
	CN CSJ:	0009-13-167	0009-13-168	0009-13-169	0009-13-170	0009-13-173	0009-13-174	0009-13-175					
	ROW CSJ:	0009-13-190	0009-13-188	0009-13-186	0009-13-185	0009-13-189	0009-13-187	0009-13-191					
	Report Start Date:	1/1/2000	1/1/2000	1/1/2000	1/1/2000	1/1/2000	1/1/2000	1/1/2000					
	Report End Date:	11/26/2024	11/26/2024	11/26/2024	11/26/2024	11/26/2024	11/26/2024	11/26/2024					
	Earliest CN CSJ Expense Date:	11/15/2018	11/15/2018	11/15/2018	11/15/2018	2/16/2022	12/20/2021	2/16/2022					
	Latest CN CSJ Expense Date:	11/15/2024	11/20/2024	11/20/2024	11/20/2024	11/15/2024	11/15/2024	11/15/2024					
	Earliest ROW CSJ Expense Date:	4/19/2022	10/4/2022	10/4/2022	9/30/2022	9/20/2024	5/14/2024	6/6/2022					
	Latest ROW CSJ Expense Date:	10/16/2024	11/30/2023	2/2/2024	10/15/2024	9/20/2024	11/26/2024	9/30/2022					
	Prior Costs Summary	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	PER Data File Reference	<u>Notes</u>
	1. Prior PE Costs (TxDOT):	\$333,971	\$171,867	\$17,240	\$18,289	\$42,228	\$31,692	\$1,440	\$0	\$0	\$0	OTHER-COST Row 15	
	2A. Prior SCH/ENV Costs (non TxDOT):	\$5,034,491	\$4,497,619	\$1,464	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	OTHER-COST Row 17	
	2B. Prior DSGN Costs (non TxDOT):	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	OTHER-COST Row 20	
	3. Prior ROW Costs:	\$717,651	\$135,000	\$347,162	\$353,659	\$0	\$367,583	\$14,633	\$0	\$0	\$0	OTHER-COST Row 23	
	4. Prior UTL Costs:	\$245,440	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$668,876	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	OTHER-COST Row 26	
	5. Prior CN Costs:	\$34,220,695	\$28,316,051	\$7,488,019	\$10,607,099	\$8,361,012	\$0	\$5,338,585	\$0	\$0	\$0	CN-COST Cell R2	
	6. Prior CEI Costs (non TxDOT):	\$822,724	\$316,737	\$311,985	\$341,079	\$719,377	\$0	\$300,094	\$0	\$0	\$0	OTHER-COST Row 29	
	7. Prior CE/CM Costs (TxDOT):	\$58,571	\$36,751	\$63,554	\$78,092	\$83,428	\$0	\$42,633	\$0	\$0	\$0	OTHER-COST Row 32	
		\$41,433,543	\$33,474,025	\$8,229,424	\$11,398,218	\$9,874,921	\$399,275	\$5,697,385	\$0	\$0	\$0		
MANUAL	LY GENERATED SUMMARY	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	Prior Costs	<u>Notes</u>	
	1. Prior PE Costs (TxDOT):												
	2A. Prior SCH/ENV Costs (non TxDOT):												
	2B. Prior DSGN Costs (non TxDOT):												
	3. Prior ROW Costs:												
	4. Prior UTL Costs:												
	5. Prior CN Costs:												
	6. Prior CEI Costs (non TxDOT):												
	7. Prior CE/CM Costs (TxDOT):												
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
4 ->	Instructions SUM 0009-13-167	0009-13-168	0009-13-169	0009-13-170	0009-13-173	0009-13-174	0009-13-175	CSJ8 CSJ9	CSJ10	+			
, , , , , , , ,						3	, ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	2012					
ady 🔀	Accessibility: Investigate			-	-	-							









Major or Other Projects

Click on ECOS Main CSJ to view ECOS associated CSJs

Earliest Let Month Calc	CSJ	ECOS Main CSJ	ccsi	ECOS Phase Grouping	Est. Let Date	AVL	RTL	PLANNED LET DATE	DIST	COUNTY	HWY	LIMITS FROM	LIMITS TO	Major Project Designations - TxC		To Co
Feb 2025	0916-35-196	0101-06-095	0916-35-196	Phase 3	Feb 2025	Null	Null	5/2024	CRP	Nueces	Various	at Various city parks i.	Ben Garza, TC Ayers,	TXDIP, MP	\$18M	\$1
Feb 2025	0009-11-254	0009-11-254	0009-11-254	Phase 1	Feb 2025	Null	Null	Null	DAL	Dallas	JH 30	TH 35E	IH 45	TXDIP, MP	\$954M	59
				44 4		Service .						200				Table 1

Dashboard





Resources



Federal Highway Administration Major Projects webpage

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/majorprojects/



Design Division (DES) - Project Delivery Section webpage

https://crossroads/divisions/des/sections/project-delivery/major-and-other-projects.html



Alternative Delivery Division (ALD) released procedures and forms webpage

https://crossroads/divisions/ald/procedures-guides-and-manuals.html

DES Contacts: David Magaña, Stacy James & Ana Montemayor

ALD Contacts: Liz Bullock



Jennifer Book, P.E.



- Bachelor's degree in engineering science from St. Mary's University in San Antonio in 1999.
- Over 26 years of civil and transportation engineering experience including service to TxDOT's Lufkin District and Design Division
- Currently leads a team of professional engineers in the Highway Safety and Operations Branch of the TxDOT Design Division's Project Delivery Section



FHWA Delegation to TxDOT Interstate Design Exception Requests





Agenda

- 1 | Design Exception Request for Interstate Highways SOP Purpose and Background
- 2 | Design Exception Development Process
- 3 | Design Exception Request for Interstate Highways SOP Overview
- 4 | Request for Interstate Design Exception Submittal and Approval Process
- **5** | Design Exception Guidance & Resources
- **6** | Questions



Design Exception Request for Interstate Highways SOP

Purpose

Consistent and Uniform Direction

Improve Quality and Project Delivery

Background

Previous Practice

Adoption of Statewide Interstate Design Exception SOP

FHWA-TxDOT Stewardship and Oversight (S&O) Agreement



What is a Design Exception?

A Design Exception refers to the formal documentation of roadway design elements that do not meet minimum nominal controlling criteria, as set forth by AASHTO and TxDOT standards, policies, and standard specifications.

A Design Exception analyzes the impacts and risks of including design elements into a project that do not meet minimum nominal controlling criteria, so as to justify their implementation into that project.

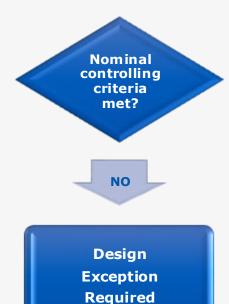


When is a Design Exception Needed?

 Per TxDOT's Roadway Design Manual (RDM) (v. 11/2024), Chapter 1, Section 1.2.1:

A design exception is required when the minimum values of the controlling criteria specified...for the respective categories of construction projects are not met.

- RDM lists controlling criteria by 4R, 3R, 2R, Bicycle Facilities, Special Facilities, Off-System Bridges, and On-System Park Road Projects.
- A design exception is <u>not</u> required when values exceed the minimum guidelines for the controlling criteria.
- Design Exceptions are not perpetual and require reevaluation/documentation for <u>each new project</u>.





When is an Interstate Design Exception Needed?

Design exception requests for interstate highways are needed when minimum values of controlling criteria are not met on any facility classified as part of the interstate system (mainlanes, ramps, direct connectors, etc.).

AASHTO and TxDOT's Controlling Criteria for New Location and Reconstruction Projects (4R)			
Design Speed	Superelevation Rate	Vertical Clearance	
Lane Width	Stopping Sight Distance (SSD)	Design Loading Structural Capacity	
Shoulder Width	Maximum Grade	Bridge Class Culvert Protection	
Horizontal Curve Radius	Cross Slope	Bridge Rail	



Why are Design Exceptions Needed?

Range of Reasons:

- Environmental Impacts
- ROW Impacts

- Context Sensitivity
- Construction Cost



Design Exceptions are needed:

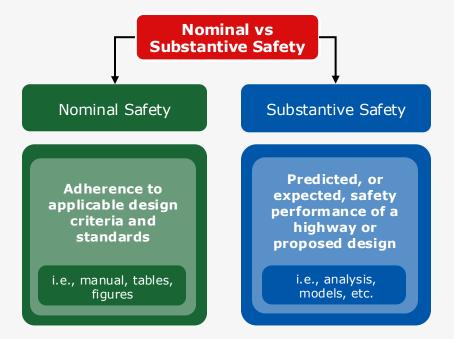
- By law, per 23 CFR 625.3(f).
- To critically analyze, evaluate risk, and justify unconforming and unconventional designs (partly based in Performance-Based Practical Design (PBPD)).
- For permanent documentation for future reference.

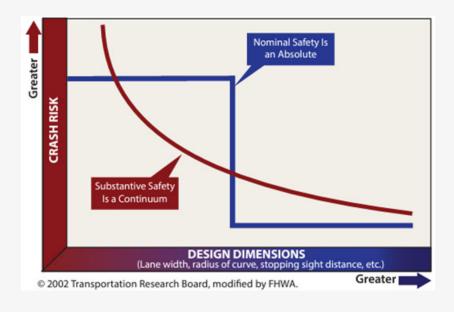




Why are Design Exceptions Needed?

Safety Consideration



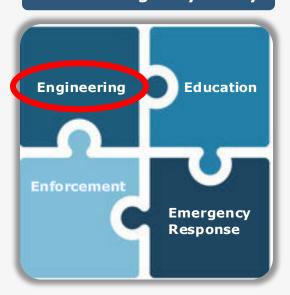




Why are Design Exceptions Needed?

Safety Consideration

4 "E"s of Highway Safety

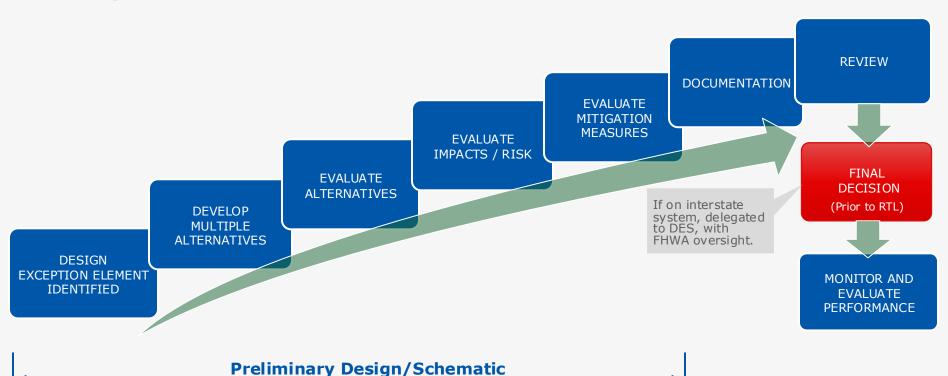








Design Exception Development Process





Interstate Design Exception SOP Overview

- Purpose
- Methodology
- Need
- Study Limits
- Traffic Analysis
- Safety Analysis
 - Crash Data Analysis
 - Predictive Analysis

- Alternative Analysis
- Mitigation Measures
- Review and Approval Process
- Design Exception Form
- Review Checklist



SOP Development and Delegation of Approval Authority

Pilot of draft DE SOP and template

DE SOP District Workshop DE SOP release & Statewide Webinar

2020-2024 April 2023 June 13, 2024 June 26, 2024 Aug-Sept 2024

SOP Update at BRG-DES Conference

FHWA-TxDOT S&O
Agreement executed,
delegating IH DE
Approvals to TxDOT



Updated Practice for Design Exception Request Decisions

Approval Authority	Type of Design Exception Request		
Approval Authority	Non-Interstate	Interstate	
Prior to Delegation	TxDOT District Engineer	FHWA	
After Delegation	TxDOT District Engineer	TxDOT Design Division Director	

Interstate Design Exception Request Decisions →
now delegated to TxDOT Design Division (DES),
subject to FHWA Audits

STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AGREEMENT
ON PROJECT ASSUMPTION AND PROGRAM OVERSIGHT
BY AND BETWEEN THE
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION,
TEXAS DIVISION OFFICE,
AND THE
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT)

SECTION I. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

In enacting section 108(c) of title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.), as amended, Congress established authority for a State department of transportation (State DOT) to carry out certain project responsibilities traditionally handled by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through a delegation from the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation ("Secretary"). The authority in 23 U.S.C. (108(c) applies to projects that are subject to the requirements of title 23, U.S.C. ("title 23") because the State DOT receives Federal funding or because the State DOT needs an FFHWA action for the project even though the project may not use Federal funds. Concerns also reconsized the importance of a risk-based approach to



Interstate Design Exception Review and Approval Process





How are Design Exceptions Documented, Analyzed and Justified?

Per 23 CFR 625.3(f)(2): The determination to approve a project design that does not conform to the minimum criteria is to be made **only after due consideration is given to all project conditions** such as maximum service and safety benefits for the dollar invested, compatibility with adjacent sections of roadway and the probable time before reconstruction of the section due to increased traffic demands or changed conditions.

MINIMUM COMPONENTS OF DOCUMENTATION *				
Specific controlling criteria that will not be met	Future plans to meet minimum criteria	Alternatives considered and their analyses		
Brief description of project and purpose; existing roadway characteristics	Compatibility with adjacent sections of roadway	Other anticipated impacts		
Constraints preventing meeting minimum criteria	Existing and anticipated safety and operational performance	Proposed mitigation measures		
* The level of analysis should reflect the complexity of the project.				

Request for Design Exception Document



Interstate Design Exception Review and Approval Process FINAL DECISION

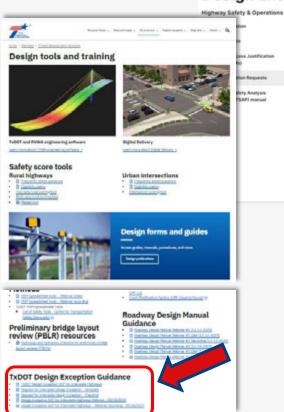
- Alternatives, impacts and risks are adequately evaluated.
- Design will accomplish the project's purpose and goals.
- Design Exception clearly documents a defendable case that the selected design is the preferred alternative.
- Approved <u>only after due consideration is given to all project conditions</u> such as maximum service and safety benefits for the dollar invested, compatibility with adjacent sections of roadway and the probable time before reconstruction of the section due to increased traffic demands or changed conditions.
 - [23 CFR 625.3(f)(2)]
- Final decision is documented on Form 1002 and records permanently retained.



Interstate Design Exception Guidance

Interstate Design Exception SOP and Guidance, including the Request for Interstate Design Exception template and checklist, are posted on txdot.gov (Design Tools and Training) and on the Design Division's Project Delivery Section Highway Safety & Operations intranet site.

Form 1002 is being updated to reflect the new approval process.



Design Exception Requests

Design exception requests

On all Interstate projects and Texas Division Involved Projects (TXDP), FHWA approval of design exception is required. Coordination with DES Project Delivery Section and FHWA in key stages of Design Exception process is crucial and recommended.

Guidance

- . TxDOT Design Exception Guidance
- D TxDOT Design Exception SOP for Interstate Highways
- Request for Interstate Design Exception
- * Request for Interstate Design Exception 🔐 Checklist
- TxDOT Project Development Process Manual @
- TxDOT Roadway Design Manual
- Traffic and Safety Analysis Procedures Manual

Resources & tools/software

- · Safety anivsis resources and tools/software
- . Traffic analysis resources and tools/software





Design Exception Request for Interstate Highways TxDOT Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), Template, and Checklist

Design Exception Request For Interstate Highways TxDOT Standard Operating Procedures

Texas Department of Transportation
Design Division

August 2024



No. v66 (5/2014)

Request for Interstate Design Exception No.

This form is to be computed and culcimized for approval when nomineal assign value limits for controlling citizens, as indirectly on the InDECT Indext process. Manual (MINIC) can be interested control from the Regular Devices by Design Decision (Disc) on the interested control from Regular Devices (Section IDE-900) for neview and approval, ser the courses Design Deviction Regular TODOT One Interestinal Regular SIDOT ONE Interestinal SIDOT ONE INTERESTINATION OF INTER

Highway:	Limits:		12375 51176 51
eesi:	Subordinate CS/s	Associated with DE:	
Project No.:	Proposed Work:	71.91.91.11.17.19.	

1. Type and Location of Design Exception in Table 1.1, select locat for all Of elements that are expension upon on another analyte locat in select passing before the location (Location and Location and Location

Table 1.1 -Design Exception Elementis)

2000000	1_	
Design Speed	Cl Stopping Sight Distance (SSD)**	☐ Bridge Class Culvert Protection.
C) (ane Width	☐ Maximum Grade	C) Bridge Rail
☐ Shoulder Width	C) Cross Slope	D Ske Lane**
CI Horizontal Curve Radius	Vertical Clearance	☐ Shared Lane (Wide Outside Lane)**
Superelevation Rate	D Design Loading Structural Capacity	D Bridge Deck Clear Space ⁽¹⁾

- ¹⁵ SID applies to horizontal alignments, and creat sertical curves for the purposes of a Design Exception. SID for creat vertical curves is a disect correlation with the Entalse. If the recomment intology is applied for a predict curve (RDM fig. 2-4), then the vertical SID is antified with conditions.
- ** Boycle facilities only



This form is to be completed and submitted as the last attachment to the Request for interstate Design Exception (DE). This form last the eminimum amount of information and data that is required to develop a responsive justification for an interstate design exception.

General

- (3) The most recent Request for Interstate Design Exception template, v04 (8/2024), is used.
- Design Exception number and design exception element(s) match those on Form 1002.
- Design Exception number is unique for each CSI listed on the request.
- Date on the Design Exception document reflects its latest revision/submission date.
- project information on Page 1 matches form 1992 and TxDOTCOWNECT for the Controlling CSI (County, Letting Date, Highway, Limits, CCSI, Subordinate CSIs, Project No., Proposed Work, etc.).
- □ All template fields are completed, stating "N/A" if necessary.
- Suggested/informational text in template shaded in gray is removed and replaced with applicable text.
- Document is written as a technical report.
 - Active voice and third person used throughout.
 - Grammar and spelling checked.
 - o Tables, figures, narratives and attachments checked for conflicting information.
 - Discussion makes sense and all data is consistent throughout document.
 - Data is checked against data sources for accuracy.
 - Analysis and discussion is included for all data and tables in the document.
 - The document can stand alone, with all necessary information included within the
- A justifiable and defendable case is made for the necessity of the design exception. This should most often be based largely on quantitative data and analysis and less on qualitative data, unless there are valid limitations that prevent a quantitative analysis.
- (2) The information in the design exception does not conflict with that in an associated MAR or environmental document. Examples are statements in the IARR verifying designs will meet criteria/standards or MAR does not mention design exceptions. Consider have this are mentioned in MAR size interins conditions of phased projects. If information in DE changes over time, the MAR may need to be updated.
- g fach request is independent of other requests (i.e. approval of one is not contingent upon approval of a separate request).
- The design exception elements grouped in the same request are dependent upon one another and/or have the same justification for the need for the design exception and will be analyzed.



Design Exception Resources

- <u>TxDOT Design Exception Guidance txdot.gov</u>
- TxDOT Roadway Design Manual
- TxDOT Traffic and Safety Analysis Procedures (TSAP) Manual
- TxDOT Bridge Railing Manual
- <u>TxDOT Project Development Process Manual</u>
- Code of Federal Regulations: <u>23 CFR 625.3(f)</u>
- <u>FHWA's Design Decision Documentation and Mitigation Strategies for Design Exceptions</u>, <u>March 2024</u>



Questions / Feedback

Jennifer Book, P.E.

Lead Engineer, Highway Safety & Operations
Design Division | PDS

<u>Jennifer.Book@txdot.gov</u>
(512) 416-2615

Khalid Jamil, P.E.

Supervisor, Highway Safety & Operations
Design Division | PDS

Khalid.Jamil@txdot.gov
(512) 486-5171



Khalid Jamil, P.E.

- Master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas in 1993.
- Over 30 years of experience in planning, traffic engineering, and design including serving as an adjunct faculty member and participating in various research and technical activities
- Currently supervises the Highway Safety and Operations Branch of the TxDOT Design Division's Project Delivery Section





FHWA Delegation to TxDOT Interstate Access Justification Report



April 25, 2025



Agenda

- Introduction
- ☐ Legal Background, Policies
- TxDOT's Policy on Interstate System Access
- Programmatic Agreement
- Expedited Review Process
- Questions





Introduction

Stewardship and Oversight Agreement

STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AGREEMENT
ON PROJECT ASSUMPTION AND PROGRAM OVERSIGHT
BY AND BETWEEN THE
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION,
TEXAS DIVISION OFFICE,
AND THE
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT)

SECTION I. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

In enacting section 106(c) of title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.), as amended, Congress established authority for a State department of transportation (State DOT) to carry out certain project responsibilities traditionally handled by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through a delegation from the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation ('Secretary'). The authority in 23 U.S.C. (106(c) applies to projects that are subject to the requirements of title 23, U.S.C. (title 23") because the State DOT receives Federal funding or because the State DOT needs an FHWA action for the project even though the project may not use Federal funds. Congress also recognized the importance of a risk-based approach to FHWA oversight of the Federal-aid highway program (FAHP), establishing requirements in 23 U.S.C. 106(g). In addition to assumptions of responsibility, FHWA-State DOT Stewardship and Oversight Agreements cover certain oversight activities relating to the oversight requirements of 23 U.S.C. 106(c).

The FHWA may not assign its decision making authority to a State DOT unless authorized by law. The authorities FHWA assigns to a State DOT under 23 U.S.C. 106(c)(1) and (2) are listed in Attachment A of the applicable FHWA-State DOT Stewardship and Oversight Agreement. A decision, determination, or action carried out by a State DOT under the authority of a Stewardship and Oversight Agreement ("Agreement") does not constitute an eligibility, participation, obligation, reimbursement, authorization, or compliance decision by or for FHWA.

For clarity, Attachment A also lists certain other actions FHWA may have allowed a State DOT to undertake based on delegation or assumption provisions in other Federal laws. As noted in those Attachment A listings, a State DOT exercise of those authorities is governed by separate agreements between FHWA and that State DOT.

For project responsibilities that are not assumed by a State DOT under 23 U.S.C. 106(c) and are not otherwise delegated or assigned in accordance with another Federal law, FHWA may authorize a State DOT to perform work needed to reach the FHWA decision point, or to implement FHWA's decision. However, such decisions themselves are reserved to FHWA.

SECTION II. INTENT AND PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement establishes the roles and responsibilities of the FHWA Texas Division Office and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) with respect to certain title 23 project approvals and related responsibilities, and FAHP oversight activities. Nothing in this

	e:
Name: _	Achille Alonzi
Title:	Division Administrator
Date Ex	ecuted: 6 28/2024
	TION BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTA
Signatur	e: M. Sillia
	Marc D. Williams
Title:	Executive Director
	ecuted: 6/26/2029
EXECU'	TION BY THE FHWA TEXAS DIVISION OFFICE:
Name:	Achille Alonzi
Title: _	NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
	Division Administrator
Date Ex	acuted: 3/27/2025
EXECU	
EXECU Signatu	eculed: 3/27/2025

EXECUTION BY THE FHWA TEXAS DIVISION OFFICE:

(Oool 1.

ATTACHMENT A Project Action Responsibility Matrix

This matrix identifies the Federal-aid highway program (FAHP) project approvals and related responsibilities. The matrix specifies which actions are assumed by the TxDOT pursuant to this Stewardship and Oversight Agreement ("Agreement") and certain other applicable authorities as specified in the tables in this Attachment A.

The TxDOT is responsible for ensuring all applicable elements of the project are eligible for FAHP funding. Where the TxDOT assumes authority to make a decision, approval, determination or action, the TxDOT decision does not constitute an eligibility, obligation, reimbursement, authorization, or compliance decision by or for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Final decisions on those matters must be made by FHWA.

Table 3: Preliminary Design

#	ACTION	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE NHS	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE Non- NHS
9	Approval before utilizing a consultant to act in a management support role for the contracting agency [23 CFR 172.7(b)(5)(ii)]	Administered in accordance with procedures approved per 23 CFR 172 5(c)	Administered in accordance with procedures approved per 23 CFR 172.5(c)
0	Approval of noncompetitive procurement method for engineering and design-related services [23 CFR 172.7(a)(3)]	STATE	STATE
11	Approve exceptions to design standards [23 CFR 625.3(f)]	STATE	Not subject to 23 CFR 625.3(f)
12	Airport highway clearance coordination and respective public interest finding (if required) [23 CFR 620.104]	STATE	STATE
13	Approve project management plan for Federal major projects [23 U.S.C. 106(h)]	STATE	STATE
14	Approval of Interstate System access change [23 U.S.C. 111]	FHWA	Not subject to 23 U.S.C 111
15	Determine the engineering and operational acceptability of points of ingress or egress with the Interstate System (justification reports) for new freeway-freeway interchanges (system), modification of freeway-freeway interchanges, and new partial interchanges or new ramps toffrom continuous frontage roads that create a partial interchange [23 U.S.C. 11(e)]	FHWA	Not subject to 23 U.S.C. 111(e)
16	Determine the engineering and operational acceptability of points of ingress are oggess with the Interstate System (justification reports) for new and modified freeway-to-crossroad (service) acceptability of the interstate System (justification of basic movements at existing partial interchanges. [23 U.S.C. 111(e)]	Administered in Accordance with Programmatic Agreement	Not subject to 23 U.S.C. 111(e)
17	Approve innovative and public-private partnership projects in accordance with TE-045, SEP-14, SEP-15, or SEP-16, [23 U.S.C. 502(b)]	FHWA	FHWA

Signature:



STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AGREEMENT ON PROJECT ASSUMPTION AND PROGRAM OVERSIGHT BY AND BETWEEN THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, TEXAS DIVISION OFFICE, AND THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT)

SECTION I. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

In enacting section 106(c) of title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.), as amended, Congress established authority for a State department of transportation (State DOT) to carry out certain project responsibilities traditionally handled by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through a delegation from the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation ("Secretary"). The authority in 23 U.S.C. 106(c) applies to projects that are subject to the requirements of title 23, U.S.C. ("title 23") because the State DOT receives Federal funding or because the State DOT needs an FHWA action for the project even though the project may not use Federal funds. Congress also recognized the importance of a risk-based approach to FHWA oversight of the Federal-aid highway program (FAHP), establishing requirements in 23 U.S.C. 106(g). In addition to assumptions of responsibility, FHWA-State DOT Stewardship and Oversight Agreements cover certain oversight activities relating to the oversight requirements of 23 U.S.C. 106(g).

The FHWA may not assign its decision making authority to a State DOT unless authorized by law. The authorities FHWA assigns to a State DOT under 23 U.S.C. 106(c)(1) and (2) are

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Name:	Achille	Alonzi	,
Title:	Divisio	n Adminis	tra
Date Ex	xecuted: _	6/28	3/2
EXECU	TION BY	THE TEXA	s p
Signatu	ıre: W	Sil	ll
Name:	Marc	D. Willian	ns
Title	Executiv	ve Directo	r

EXECUTION BY THE FHWA TE

EXECUTION BY THE FHWA TEXAS

Signature:

Date Executed

Name Achille Alonzi



EXECUTION BY THE FHWA TEXAS DIVISION OFFICE:

Signature: Name: Achille Alonzi

Division Administrator

Date Executed:

(TODXI

EXECUTION BY THE FHWA TEXAS DIVISION OFFICE: Signature:

Name: Achille Alonzi Title: Division Administrator

Date Executed:

ves Federal funding or EXECUTION BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION: ugh the project may not based approach to

Name: Marc D. Williams, P.E.

Title: Executive Director

Project A

Stewardship and Oversight Agreement (*, specified in the tables in this Attachment. The TxDOT is responsible for ensuring al

funding. Where the TxDOT assumes aut

action, the TxDOT decision does not con-

authorization, or compliance decision by

This matrix identifies the Federal-aid high responsibilities. The matrix specifies whi

decisions on those matters must be made

Table 3: Preliminary Design

123 CFR 625 3(f)1

11

ACTION

Approval before utilizing a consultant t management support role for the cont [23 CFR 172.7(b)(5)(i)]

Approval of noncompetitive procureme engineering and design-related service 10 172.7(a)(3)]

Approve exceptions to design standar

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Table 3: Preliminary Design

#	ACTION	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE NHS	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE Non- NHS
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10	Approval of noncompetitive procurement method for engineering and design-related services [23 CFR 172.7(a)(3)]	STATE	STATE
11	Approve exceptions to design standards [23 CFR 625.3(f)]	STATE	Not subject to 23 CFR 625.3(f)



Programmatic Agreement (PA)

- The TxDOT <u>has entered</u> into a PA with FHWA to process approvals for specific types of changes in the I-System.
- This Agreement allows TxDOT to conduct the necessary review and assessment of the justification and documentation substantiating certain proposed changes in I-System access, determine the safety, operational, and engineering (SO&E) acceptability of proposed changes, and request expedited FHWA approval.



IAJR Programmatic Agreement

Docusign Envelope ID: 1D3B450B-77CC-453E-852B-E046DF1CFB87

PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION TEXAS DIVISION AND

THE TEXAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SPECIFIC TYPES OF CHANGES IN INTERSTATE-SYSTEM ACCESS

THIS PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT ("PA"), made and entered into this 7th day of March 2025, by and between the FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("FHWA") and the STATE of TEXAS, acting by and through its DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("State"), hereby provides as follows:

WITNESSETH:

Whereas, 23 U.S.C. 111(a) provides that all agreements between the Secretary of U.S. Department of Transportation and the State transportation department for the construction of projects on the Interstate System (hereafter I-System) must contain a clause providing that the State will not add any points of access to, or exit from, the project in addition to those approved by the Secretary in the plans for such project, without the prior approval of the Secretary; and

Whereas, the Secretary has delegated the responsibility for approving additions and/or modifications of access to, or exit from, the I-System to the FHWA Administrator through 49 CFR 1.85(a)(1) and the FHWA Administrator has delegated specific actions of this responsibility to FHWA Division Administrators through the FHWA Delegations and Organization Manual; and

Whereas, FHWA's current policy Access to the Interstate System, which describes the justification and documentation that is necessary to substantiate a proposed change in access to the I-System, was recently established by a memorandum. "Changes to FHWA's Policy on Access to the Interstate System" dated May 22, 2017;

Whereas, FHWA's Interstate System Access Informational Guide describes FHWA's procedures for processing I-System access requests; and

Whereas, section 1318(d) of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and 23 U.S.C. 111(e) provide the Secretary with the authority to enter into programmatic agreements with the States that establish efficient administrative procedures for carrying out required project reviews; and

Whereas, FHWA may establish procedures to expeditiously and efficiently process and approve I-System access requests where States compile, review, and process information related to I-System access changes; and

Whereas, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has agreed to enter into an agreement with FHWA to process approvals for specific types of changes in I- Docusign Envelope ID: 1D3B450B-77CC-453E-852B-E046DF1CFB87

- C. At least six (6) months prior to the end of each five year term, TxDOT and the FHWA will meet to discuss the results under the Agreement and consider amendments to this Agreement. This meeting may be combined with a meeting to discuss performance under the monitoring provisions in Section V of this Agreement.
- D. With written concurrence from both parties the terms of this agreement may be continued. an additional 6 months until such time as this Agreement is renewed or an amendment or new agreement can be developed.
- E. Either party may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving at least 30 days notice to

SECTION VIII. AMENDMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS

- A. Either party to this Agreement may request that it be amended or administratively modified to reflect non-substantive changes, whereupon the parties will consult to consider such an amendment.
- B. If the parties agree to amend this Agreement, then the FHWA and the TxDOT may execute an amendment with new signatures and dates of the signatures. The term of the Agreement will remain unchanged unless otherwise expressly stated in the amended

SIGNATURES

Execution of this Agreement and implementation of its terms by both parties provides evidence that both parties have reviewed this Agreement and agree to the terms and conditions for its implementation. This Agreement is effective upon the date of the last

Division Administrator Federal Highway Administration	Executive Director Texas State Department of Transportation	
Date: 3/17/2025	Date:3/16/2025	

Change in I-System Access PA

TxDOT IAJR Expedited Review Process Examples of Complex Interchange

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PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION TEXAS DIVISION AND

THE TEXAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SPECIFIC TYPES OF CHANGES IN INTERSTATE-SYSTEM ACCESS

THIS PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT ("PA"), made and entered into this 7th day of March 2025, by and between the FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("FHWA") and the STATE of TEXAS, acting by and through its DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("State"), hereby provides as follows:

WITNESSETH:

Whereas, 23 U.S.C. 11(a) provides that all agreements between the Secretary of U.S. Department of Transportation and the State transportation department for the construction of projects on the Interstate System (hereafter I-System) must contain a clause providing that the State will not add any points of access to, or exit from, the project in addition to those approved by the Secretary in the plans for such project, without the prior approval of the Secretary; and

Whereas, the Secretary has delegated the responsibility for approving additions and/or modifications of access to, or exit from, the I-System to the FHWA Administrator through 49 CFR 1.85(a)(1) and the FHWA Administrator has delegated specific actions of this responsibility to FHWA Division Administrators through the

Docusign Envelope ID: 1D3B450B-77CC-453E-852B-E046DF1CFB87

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- D. With written concurrence from both parties the terms of this agreement may be continued an additional 6 months until such time as this Agreement is renewed or an amendment or new agreement can be developed.
- E. Either party may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving at least 30 days notice to the other party.

SECTION VIII. AMENDMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS

- A. Either party to this Agreement may request that it be amended or administratively modified to reflect non-substantive changes, whereupon the parties will consult to consider such an amendment.
- B. If the parties agree to amend this Agreement, then the FHWA and the TxDOT may execute an amendment with new signatures and dates of the signatures. The term of the Agreement will remain unchanged unless otherwise expressly stated in the amended Agreement.



Legal Background, Policies



Why an IAJR is required and What is the current policy

- Title 23, U.S.C 111
 - The state will not add any point of access w/o approval of the Secretary US DOT
 - Title 49, CFR 1.48. The Secretary delegated the authority to FHWA
- FHWA Policy dated May 2017 (https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/design/interstate/170522.cfm)
 - Maintain Safety and Operation
 - Meeting Standards and connecting to Public Roads, and providing for all traffic movements
 - A technical report to be submitted to FHWA for determination of Safety,
 Operation, and Engineering (S, O & E) Acceptability







23 CFR Part 624 Interstate System Access (Final Rule)

Effective December 09, 2024, FHWA amended title 23 of the CFR by adding Part 624 (Final Rule). The new rule is required for all IAJRs dated after December 09, 2025.

- 624.1 Purpose
- 624.3 Applicability
- 624.5 Term Definition
- 624.7 Interstate System Access Requirements

Significant Adverse Impacts

- 624.9 Approval Process Verification
- 624.11 Interstate Justification Report
- 624.13 Programmatic Agreement



TxDOT's Policy on I-System Access

Interstate Access Justification Report **Engineering, Operation and Safety Analysis**

TxDOT Standard Operating Procedures

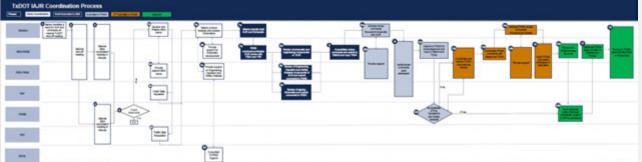
Texas Department of Transportation Design Division



TxDOT's IAJR Policy and Process

- TxDOT IAJR SOP March 2020
- TxDOT IAJR SOP FAQ October 2023

TxDOT IAJR Process



*Based on FHWA Access Guide

Interstate Access Justification Report TxDOT Standard Operating Procedures (SOF) Attachment B-1 Interstate Access Changes Requiring FHWA Review and Action Federal Delegation of Authority for Access Approval* Type of Access Change FINNA Headquarters FINNA Division Office nw Freeway to Freeway Interchange ajor Modification of Freeway-to-Freeway Interchange ow Partial Interchange ew Ramp(s) to/from Continuous Frtg Rd ew Freeway-to-Crossroad Interchhange Within Traffic anagement Area (TMA) ne Freeway to Crossroad Interchange Outside TMA lajor Modification of Existing Freeway-to-Crossroad Interchange ding New Ramp(s) to an Existing Interchange noving Ramp(s) from an Existing Interchange langing the interchange Configuration mpletion of Basic Movements at Partial Interchange ched Gate Access bandonment of Ramps or Interchanges

March 4, 2020

TuDOT AUR Standard Operating Procedures FACE

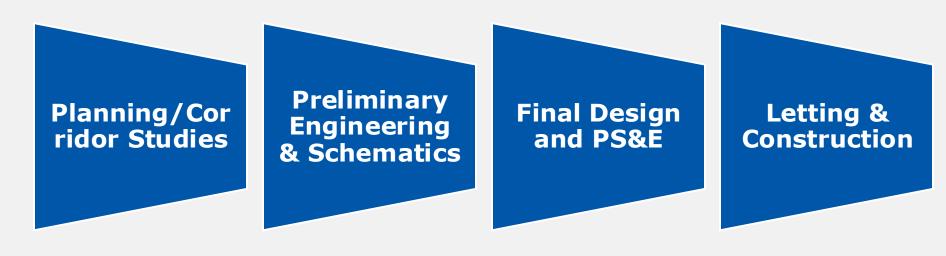
October 2029

TxDOT Interstate Access Justification Report (IAJR)

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



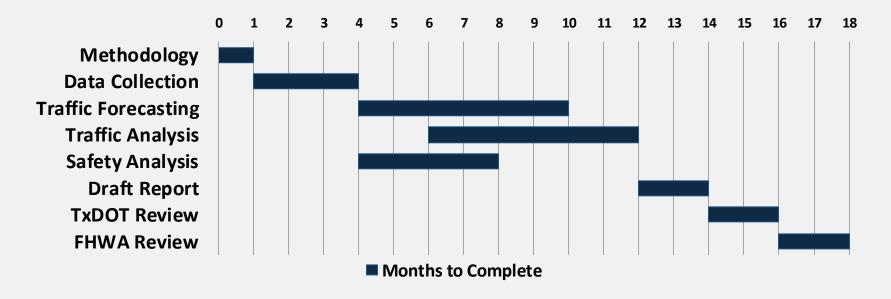
Project Development and IAJR Timeline







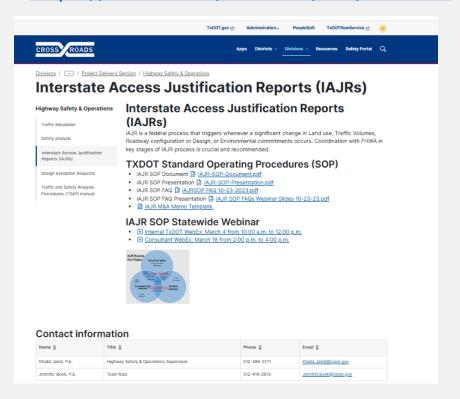
Typical IAJR Development Schedule



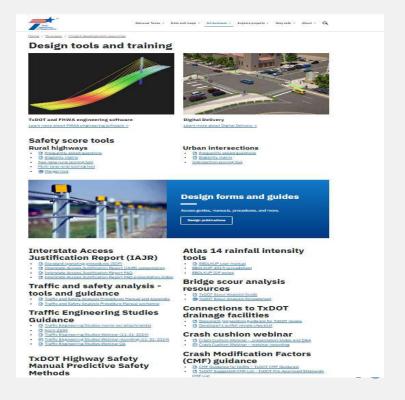


Where to find

https://crossroads/divisions/des/IAJRSOP



https://www.txdot.gov/IAJRSOP





TxDOT.gov pa

Administration --

PeopleSoft

TxDOTNowService pt





Apps

Districts

Divisions

Resources

Safety Portal



Divisions / . Project Delivery Section / Highway Safety & Operations

Interstate Access Justification Reports (IAJRs)

Highway Safety & Operations

Traffic Simulation

Safety analysis

Interstate Access Justification Reports (IAJRs)

Design Exception Requests

Traffic and Safety Analysis Procedures (TSAP) manual

Interstate Access Justification Reports (IAJRs)

IAJR is a federal process that triggers whenever a significant change in Land use, Traffic Volumes, Roadway configuration or Design, or Environmental commitments occurs. Coordination with FHWA in key stages of IAJR process is crucial and recommended.

TXDOT Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

- IAJR SOP Document IAJR-SOP-Document.pdf
- IAJR SOP Presentation IAJR-SOP-Presentation.pdf
- IAJR SOP FAQ A IAJRSOP FAQ 10-23-2023.pdf
- IAJR SOP FAQ Presentation IAJR SOP FAQs Webinar Slides 10-23-23.pdf
- IAJR M&A Memo Template

IAJR SOP Statewide Webinar

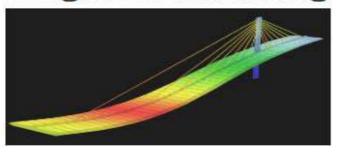


Data and maps: - Do business: - Explore projects: - Stay safe: -



Home / Susman / Project development resources

Design tools and training



TxDOT and FHWA engineering software

Learn more about FHWA engineering software w



Digital Delivery

Learn more about Digital Delivery +

Safety score tools Rural highways

- Frequently asked questions
- Ch Eligibility matrix
- Two-lane rural sporing tool
- Multi-lane rural scoring tool
- Marger tool

Urban intersections

- Frequently asked questions
- (3 Eligibility matrix
- Intersection scoring tool



Design forms and guides

Access guides, manuals, procedures, and more.

Design publications



Programmatic Agreement



IAJR Programmatic Agreement (PA)

- ✓ What is Programmatic Agreement
 - Delegate Safety, Operation & Engineering (SOE) determination to TxDOT
- ✓ What is the purpose
 - Streamline and expedite FHWA approval
 - Improve project delivery
- ✓ Which Projects are under PA
 - New Freeway-to-Crossroad (Service) Interchanges
 - Modification to existing Freeway-to-Crossroad (Service) Interchanges
 - Completion of basic movements to existing partial Interchanges



IAJR Programmatic Agreement (PA)

- Which Projects are NOT under PA
 - New Freeway-to-Freeway (System) Interchanges
 - New Interchange or ramps to provide intermittent access during special events
 - New partial Interchange
 - Locked gate access



Programmatic Agreement (PA)

- What are PA Requirements
 - Processing requirements for Interstate access requests
 - Exclusions to conditions
 - Required resources, expertise, standards, and training
 - State quality control
 - State monitoring and reporting



TxDOT IAJR Expedited Review Process



TxDOT Amended IAJR SOP

Interstate Access Justification Report Engineering, Operation and Safety Analysis TxDOT Standard Operating Procedures

Texas Department of Transportation

Design Division

Attachment B-1

Delegation of Authority for Approval of Access Requests on Interstate Highways

Proposed Type of Access	Retained by HQ/ Executive Director	Delegated to Division Administrator	Programmatic Agreement*
New Freeway-to- Freeway Interchange	X		
Major Modification of Freeway-to-Freeway Interchange	X		
New Partial Interchange or New Ramps To/From Continuous Frontage Roads That Create a Partial Interchange	X		
New Freeway-to- Crossroad Interchange		x	х
Major Modification of Existing Freeway-to- Crossroad Interchange		х	X
Completion of Basic Movements At Partial Interchange		X	х
Locked Gate Access		X	
Abandonment of Ramps or Interchanges (unless creating a partial interchange)		x	

Interstate Access Justification Report **Engineering Operations and Safety Analysis** TxDOT Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

Attachment G

Interstate Access Justification Report (IAJR) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- 1. What is an Interstate Access Point?
- 2. What is an Interstate System Access Change Request?
- 3. What is an Interstate Access Justification Report (IAJR)?
- 4. Why is Interstate System Access Management important?
- 5. Is there a legal authority for Interstate Access Policy?
- 6. Who approves the IAIR?
- 7. Can local government submit access requests directly to TxDOT Design Division?
- 8. What are the requirements for an IAJR for TxDOT projects?
- 9. FHWA Policy includes two policy points, but the TxDOT policy includes eight policy points.
- 10. Is this policy applicable to Toll Roads?
- 11. What changes to the Interstate require FHWA review and action through an IAJR?
- 12. What changes to the Interstate may not require FHWA review and action through an IAJR?
- 13. Is this policy applicable for future Interstates?
- 14. What is the ramp terminal intersection?
- 15. What is the general development process for an IAJR?
- 16. Who in each district responsible for access request coordination?
- 17. Can information developed during the NEPA process be referenced in the IAJR?
- 18. When is an IAJR re-evaluation required?
- 19. What if a project is implemented in phases due to funding?
- 20. Can the 2004 version of FHWA's "Traffic Analysis Toolbox Volume III: Guidelines for Applying Traffic Microsimulations Modeling Software" still be used?
- 21. The 2019 Traffic Analysis Toolbox (TAT) Volume III recommend 365 days or at least 100 days of data for selection of representative day. However, TxDOT IAJR SOP recommends only one-to-twoweek traffic count data.
- 22. What geometric or traffic conditions necessitate the use of microsimulation for traffic operations
- 23. If microsimulation is required for traffic operational analysis as per M&A, how to ensure that the model results provided in draft IAJR are acceptable?
- 24. Why does the area of influence include the adjacent intersections and interchanges?

March 4, 2020

Amended April 2025

Texas Department of Transportation

		Attacl	nment	B-1

Delegation of Authority for Approval of Access Requests on Interstate Highways

TxDOT Stan

Interstate A

Engineering

Proposed Type of Access

> New Freeway-to-Freeway Interchange

Major Modification of

Freeway-to-Freeway

Interchange

New Partial Interchange

or New Ramps To/From

Continuous Frontage

Roads That Create a

Partial Interchange

Retained by HQ/ **Executive Director**

Delegated to Division Administrator

Agreement*

Programmatic

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Interstate Access Justification Report Engineering Operations and Safety Analysis

TxDOT Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

Attachment G

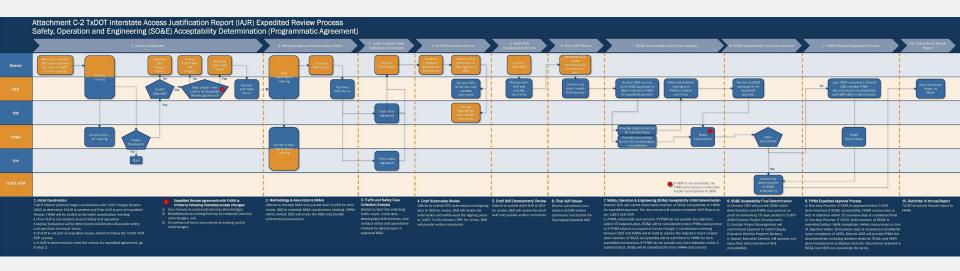
Interstate Access Justification Report (IAJR)
Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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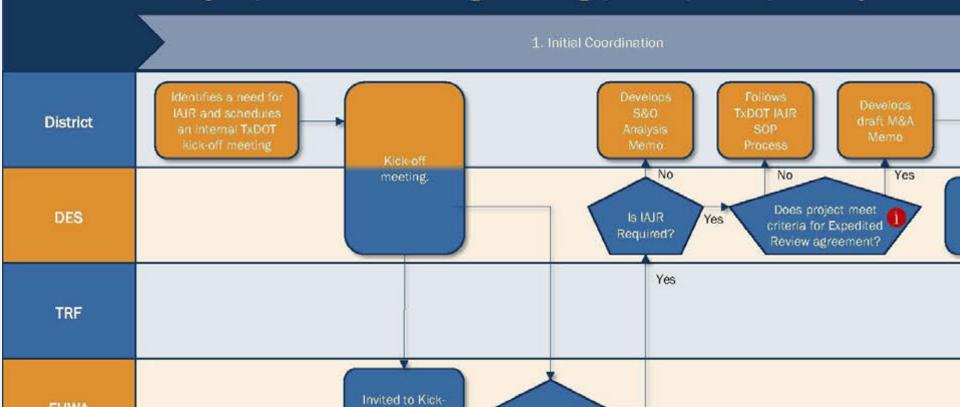


TxDOT IAJR Expedited Review Process Safety, Operation & Engineering Acceptability Determination



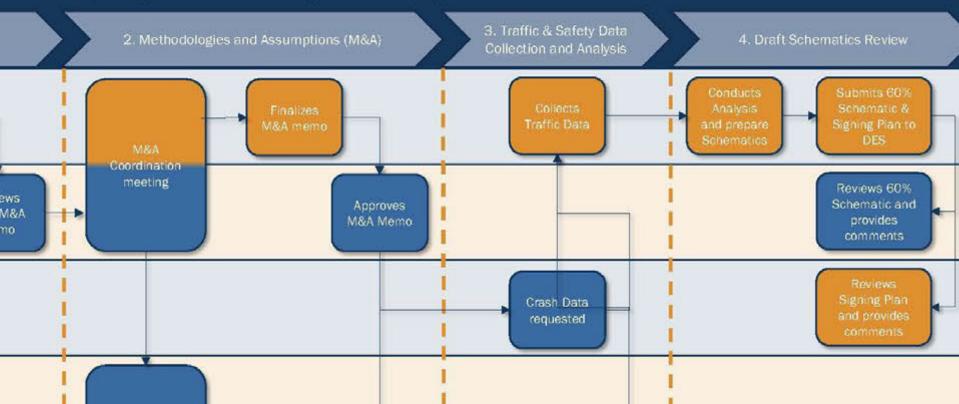


Attachment C-2 TxDOT Interstate Access Justification Report (Safety, Operation and Engineering (SO&E) Acceptability Determined to the company of the compan

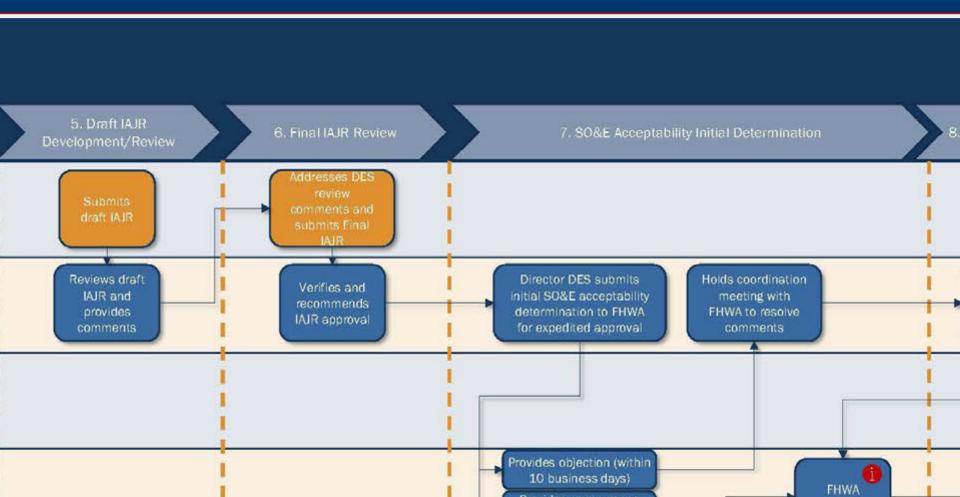


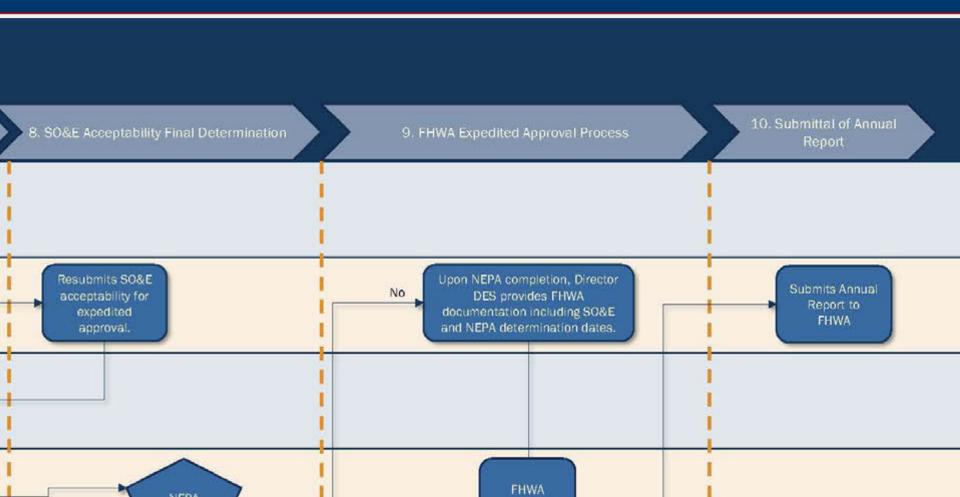


R) Expedited Review Process nation (Programmatic Agreement)











Next Step

- IAJR SOP Update Webinar
- List of IAJRs with Approval Level Determination



Questions / Feedback

Design Division Contacts

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