

**Texas Department of Transportation**  
**BORDER SAFETY INSPECTION FACILITY PROGRAM**  
**IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES**

October 8, 2010

**TEMPORARY BSIF SITES**

**Facility complete and operational**

Colombia / Solidarity Bridge, Laredo  
World Trade Bridge, Laredo  
Camino Real International Bridge, Eagle Pass  
Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge, Pharr  
Veteran International Bridge @ Los Tomates, Brownsville  
Free Trade Bridge @ Los Indios

**Note:**

Two of the eight locations previously listed above, Bridge of the Americas and Zaragoza Ysleta International Bridge, both in El Paso, have permanent facilities. Therefore, the temporary facilities there have been removed.

**PERMANENT BSIF SITES**

**1. Colombia / Solidarity Bridge, Laredo**

**a. Environmental Assessment:**

- State FONSI approved on June 5, 2003, based on State funding for the project.
- Project was cleared with a commitment for archeology. The archeological survey and report have been completed.
- District personnel met with the City of Laredo to discuss the location of the BSIF site. The City issued a resolution agreeing with the site location.
- The District is seeking federal funding for the project. Due to the change in funding source, the environmental process was re-initiated through FHWA. A Public Meeting was held on December 11, 2007. The updated Environmental Assessment has been submitted to Environmental Affairs Division and FHWA and was approved.

**b. Final Schematics:** Schematics layout approved by Design Division on February 27, 2007.

**c. ROW Determination:** ROW map has been approved. The two affected parcels have been acquired.

**d. Public Hearing:** Initial hearing was held on July 24, 2002. A Public Hearing based on the updated Environmental Assessment was held for February 17, 2009.

**e. Plans, Specs & Estimate:** Contract was approved on April 20, 2006. Huit-Zollars (consultants) began the PS&E development in July 2006. 100 % PS&E has been completed. District and Design Division personnel are updating the bid package documentation for letting in December 2009. The PS&E work has been completed.

- f. **Bid:** Project let on May 9, 2007. Was not awarded due to contract errors. Due to the funding shortfall that the department is facing the letting of this project has been delayed for letting until December 9, 2009. The project let for construction in December 2009. The Texas Transportation Commission awarded the contract to E.E. Hood & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$15,396,297.93.
- g. **Construction:** Construction duration estimated at 15 months. The Preconstruction Meeting was held on March 15, 2010. Construction has commenced on the project and is approximately 31% complete as of September 15, 2010.

## 2. World Trade Bridge, Laredo

- a. **Environmental Assessment:** Federal FONSI – A new environmental assessment is required as a result of changes to the project and the decision to proceed with federal funding. District personnel have completed and submitted the new preliminary Environmental Assessment to the Environmental Affairs Division for review and comment. Anticipate 9 months to receive final clearance.
- b. **Final Schematics:** The Build Alternative has been selected. The schematic is approximately 100% complete and under review by District personnel. Issues regarding the sizing of a detention facility within the BSIF site and the ownership and maintenance of a drainage channel leading to it from offsite are pending resolution. No work was performed over the previous 3 months.
- c. **ROW Determination:** The Laredo District requested and received authorization from the Commission to negotiate with the property owner along the proposed Build Alternative and execute an option contract for the purchase of the property. While the option was initially discussed with the property owners, ROW acquisition is currently on hold due to insufficient construction funding.
- d. **Public Hearing:** Pending completion of new Final Schematic and approved EA.
- e. **Plans, Specs & Estimate:** Pending approval of new Final Schematic and completion of the environmental process.
- f. **Bid:** Due to changes made to the Environmental Assessment and proposed for the Schematic, the time needed to obtain approval for each of the documents, the time needed to complete PS&E development, and due to the continuing funding shortfall that the Department is experiencing, the letting date for this project has been tentatively delayed until January 2020.
- g. **Construction:** Construction duration estimated at 15 months. Project is currently on hold until construction funding is identified.

## 3. Camino Real International Bridge, Eagle Pass

- a. **Environmental Assessment:** FONSI approved by FHWA on October 4, 2007.
- b. **Final Schematics:** Alternative site B was presented at June 12, 2007 Public Hearing. Final schematic approved by Design Division in October 2007.
- c. **ROW Determination:** ROW Map has been approved. Public Hearing held on June 12, 2007 completed the process. The acquisition of property has been placed on hold due to the funding shortfall.
- d. **Public Hearing:** Held June 15, 2004. A second Public Hearing was held June 12, 2007.
- e. **Plans, Specs & Estimate:** ARCADIS (consultant) is developing the PS&E. PS&E to be completed by August 2010. No work was performed on this project in the previous 3 months due to ROW funding shortfall.

- f. **Bid:** Due to the funding shortfall that the department is experiencing, the letting date for this project has been delayed until June 2015.
- g. **Construction:** Construction duration estimated at 15 months. Project is currently on hold until construction funding is identified.

#### 4. Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge, Pharr

- a. **Environmental Assessment:** Final copies submitted to ENV on 6/14/08 for forwarding to FHWA after all comments were addressed. Addressing Historical Comments. A Supplemental Work Authorization has been executed to update Environmental Document due to new Federal guidelines. The Environmental consultant submitted the final revised ENV document to Pharr District during May 2010. The revised ENV document has been submitted to ENV Division for review and further processing during the first week of June 2010. Expect environmental clearance by December 10, 2010.
- b. **Final Schematics:** Schematic approved 8-17-09.
- c. **ROW Determination:** Map has been finalized.
- d. **Public Hearing:** Conducted on July 11, 2002. Limited public meetings with the property owner, local DPS, US Customs, and GSA held on 4/13/2005 in order to discuss and receive comments on the preferred alternative.
- e. **Plans, Specs & Estimate:** 100% mylar plans have been received.
- f. **Bid:** Pending letting.
- g. **Construction:** Pending letting.

#### 5. Veterans International Bridge @ Los Tomates, Brownsville

- a. **Environmental Assessment:** Final copies submitted to ENV on 6/14/08 for forwarding to FHWA after all comments were addressed. Process on hold due to funding issues.
- b. **Final Schematics:** Schematic approved 8-17-09.
- c. **ROW Determination:** Map has been approved by the Division.
- d. **Public Hearing:** Conducted on July 10, 2002. Limited public meetings with the property owner, local DPS, US Customs, and GSA held on 4/13/2005 in order to discuss and receive comments on the preferred alternative.
- e. **Plans, Specs & Estimate:** 100% mylar plans have been received.
- f. **Bid:** Pending letting.
- g. **Construction:** Pending letting.

#### 6. Free Trade Bridge @ Los Indios, Brownsville

- a. **Environmental Assessment:** Final copies submitted to ENV on 6/14/08 for forwarding to FHWA after all comments were addressed. Process on hold due to funding issues.
- b. **Final Schematics:** Schematic approved 8-17-09.
- c. **ROW Determination:** Map has been approved by the Division.
- d. **Public Hearing:** Conducted on July 9, 2002. Limited public meetings with the property owner, local DPS, US Customs, and GSA held on 4/13/2005 in order to discuss and receive comments on the preferred alternative.
- e. **Plans, Specs & Estimate:** Received 60% set from consultant on 11/30/07. Work Authorization was reinstated on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Process on hold due to funding issues.
- f. **Bid:** Pending letting.

- g. Construction:** Pending letting.

## **7. Bridge of the Americas, El Paso**

- a. Environmental Assessment:** FONSI approved by FHWA on December 11, 2002.
- b. Final Schematics:** Final schematics approved.
- c. ROW Determination:** Completed. Site owned by TxDOT.
- d. Public Hearing:** Conducted on July 16, 2002.
- e. Plans, Specs & Estimate:** Contract with PGAL executed on 12/11/03. Final plans submitted to DES Division on May 7, 2004.
- f. Bid:** August 2004
- g. Construction:** Commenced November 2, 2004. DPS moved into the facility on December 18, 2006 and are operational with limited Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). All construction under 0924-06-190 was completed in January 2008. Project 0924-06-280 which includes all the ITS devices for this BSIF started March 4, 2008. Phase II 0924-06-280 ITS construction project started in the middle of July 2008. To date, all ITS equipment has been installed and pending system integration. A/C systems modifications necessary for system integration have been installed and operational since 06-15-10.

## **8. Zaragoza / Ysleta Bridge, El Paso**

- a. Environmental Assessment:** FONSI approved by FHWA on January 7, 2004.
- b. Final Schematics:** Complete. Submitting to Design Division for review.
- c. ROW Determination:** Completed. Site owned by TxDOT
- d. Public Hearing:** Conducted on October 29, 2003.
- e. Plans, Specs & Estimate:** Plans submitted to DES Division on May 2005.
- f. Bid:** August 10, 2005.
- g. Construction:** Construction started January 3, 2006. Project has been completed as of September 21, 2007, with the exception of project 0924-06-280, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). This ITS construction project started September 24, 2008 with the installation of the WIM & Static Scales. The facility has been occupied by DPS as of September 4, 2007 at which date, it also opened to truck traffic. Static Scales are operational. To date, all ITS equipment has been installed and pending system integration.