

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

January 28, 2009

**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 has been scheduled 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 August 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 August 2009.
- g. **Construction:** Construction duration estimated at 15 months.

## 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.
- 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. The District forwarded a Letter of Interest to the Owner expressing its interest in acquiring an option on the property. Per the option, the Owner would agree not to sell the property to anyone else nor significantly increase development on the property during the 18-month option period. Negotiations with the affected property owners are ongoing. Anticipate obtaining option within 60 days after issue regarding the ownership and maintenance of the drainage channel is resolved.
- 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 Schematic, the time needed to obtain approval for each of the documents, and the time needed to complete PS&E development, the letting of this project has been delayed until January 2011.
- g. **Construction:** Construction duration estimated at 15 months.

## 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 2009.
- f. **Bid:** Due to the funding shortfall that the department is facing, the letting of this project has been delayed until December 2010.
- g. **Construction:** Construction duration estimated at 15 months.

#### 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.
- b. **Final Schematics:** Design Division sent schematic to FHWA for approval on 10/29/2008.
- c. **ROW Determination:** Map has been approved by the Division. However, we are working with the property owner to shift project location.
- 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:** Received 60% set from consultant on 11/30/07. Work Authorization was reinstated on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.
- f. **Bid:** Pending PS&E completion.
- g. **Construction:** Pending PS&E completion.

#### 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.
- b. **Final Schematics:** Design Division sent schematic to FHWA for approval on 10/29/2008.
- 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:** Received 60% set from consultant on 11/30/07. Work Authorization was reinstated on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.
- f. **Bid:** Pending PS&E completion.
- g. **Construction:** Pending PS&E completion.

#### 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.
- b. **Final Schematics:** Final submittal addressing functional classification designation of proposed on-system exit roadway (Rio Grande Ave.). Schematic was re-sent to Design Division on January 7, 2009.
- 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.
- f. **Bid:** Pending PS&E completion.
- g. **Construction:** Pending PS&E completion.

## **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.

## **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.