



Contact:
Alamo RMA Community Relations
210.495.5256

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Alamo RMA hosts Community Open House on Proposed US 281 / Loop 1604 Interchange

Alamo RMA Press Releases are available at www.AlamoRMA.org

(SAN ANTONIO) – August 25, 2009 – The Alamo Regional Mobility Authority will host a Community Open House on the proposed US 281 / Loop 1604 interchange this evening at the Harvest Fellowship Church located at 1270 North Loop 1604 East from 6 until 9 p.m.

The Community Open House will not have a formal presentation made, but instead, will allow those in attendance to visit directly with project engineers and staff working on the proposed US 281 / Loop 1604 Interchange project. Stations will be set up allowing attendees to view proposed improvements on Loop 1604, on US 281, and a general overview of the entire project.

Additionally, stations dedicated to providing information about the environmental study done for this project, as well as an opportunity to speak directly with staff and board members from the Alamo RMA will be provided. Comment cards will be accepted at each station in the open house, and a Court Reporter will be on hand to take comments for inclusion in the record of the meeting.

At \$140 Million for the estimated total project cost the US 281/ Loop 1604 Interchange project is the largest local transportation project to make use of funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as federal stimulus funding.

The Alamo RMA is currently in the process of hiring a design/build team for the construction of this proposed project, and anticipates making a selection of the best-value proposer through a competitive process toward the end of 2009.

For those who are unable to attend tonight's open house, the Alamo RMA will be posting copies of all presentations, and animations files showing the proposed improvements on www.AlamoRMA.org and will be available by noon on Wednesday, August 26, 2009.

About the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

Overseen by a seven-member Board of Directors, the Alamo RMA includes a professional staff and consultant team that are committed to finding ways to empower our local community to take charge of our transportation future. The purpose of the Alamo RMA is to provide Bexar County with opportunities to accelerate needed transportation projects - through the direction of a local board making local choices about local mobility needs - that enhance the quality of life and economic growth for all residents in our region.



US 281 Loop 1604 Interchange Community Open House

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us this evening to review the proposed US 281 / Loop 1604 Interchange. The Alamo Regional Mobility Authority wants and values your input on this project.

Please visit each of the stations to learn more about the project, ask questions and give us your comments. Also, you can join us for small group discussions on relevant topics at one of the tables. Staff from the Alamo RMA and the consultants working on this project are here tonight, and you can ask any of them your questions as well. They are wearing nametags with the "Alamo RMA logo" on them.

Stations

- General Overview**
Take a look at the overall project, what it is designed to accomplish and how it can change how you use the Loop 1604 / US 281 Interchange.
- Loop 1604 Improvements**
Curious as to how the proposed interchange improvements will bring potential Loop 1604 improvements? This station will focus on proposed improvements along Loop 1604 from Bitters Road to Red Land Road.
- US 281 Improvements**
Curious as to how the proposed interchange improvements will bring potential US 281 improvements? This station will focus on the proposed improvements along US 281 from the interchange to Bitters Road.
- Environmental Questions and Concerns**
Ever wondered what type of studies and information are examined when we engage in environmental studies for transportation projects? This station will focus on the environmental studies and results based on the proposed interchange.
- Alamo RMA – Information**
If you have ever wondered who or what the Alamo RMA is, this station will help answer those questions. Get information on what a Regional Mobility Authority is, and how the Alamo RMA is working to bring projects to the community to help relieve congestion.
- Court Reporter**
If you would like to have your comments taken by a court reporter, please visit this table.

Again, thank you for joining us this evening. There is an evaluation form on the back that we ask you to complete and leave with us.

Sincerely,

The Alamo Regional Mobility Authority



Meeting Evaluation

Thank you for attending the public workshop on the US 281 Super Street Project. Your participation is appreciated.

In order to ensure that future events make the most out of your time commitment, please fill out the following evaluation:

How would you rate today's public workshop?	ExcellentPoor				
How would you rate the presentations at each station?					
How would you rate the information provided at each station?					
Were your questions answered adequately?					
Please rate the materials presented. Were they organized and appropriate to the subject matter?					
How effectively was your time utilized?					

OPTIONAL: So that we can continue to remain in touch with you during this project, please provide the following:

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

What would be the best way to provide you with follow up information?

Email Notice _____ Newsletter _____ Community Open House _____ Public Announcement _____

Please use the space provided for any additional comments concerning the proposed US 281 Loop 1604 Interchange:

US 281 Loop 1604 Interchange Frequently Asked Questions – August 25, 2009



US 281 / Loop 1604 Proposed Interchange Frequently Asked Questions August 25, 2009 Community Open House

Q: Why are you only building four connectors?

A: With a \$140 million budget, the Alamo RMA's analysis of this intersection shows the four connectors being built to have the highest volume of traffic among the eight movements vehicles can make in the intersection. These four connectors will provide the greatest relief to motorists when completed, and will also not impact the ongoing environmental impact statement work being done for long-term improvements to US 281 north of Loop 1604.

Q: Isn't this a bait and switch? Why spend money on the interchange instead of fixing 281?

A: The US 281 project, north of Loop 1604, does not have an active environmental clearance to allow for new through lanes to be added to the corridor. Based on direction from the Federal Highway Administration, any new through lanes on US 281, north of Loop 1604, will require the preparation of an environmental impact statement, which the Alamo RMA is currently conducting. The Loop 1604 / US 281 interchange project, however, since it is an operational and safety improvement, is able to move forward as a categorical exclusion, and is able to meet the requirements for the obligation of federal stimulus funds, which, at this time, US 281 is unable to meet.

Q: Why is the Alamo RMA overseeing this project? Aren't they just a toll road authority?

A: The Alamo RMA, as the local regional mobility authority, is overseeing this project, the US 281 Super Street, and the environmental impact statements on both Loop 1604 and US 281 in their role as the local governmental entity responsible for improving mobility around our community. While the Alamo RMA can build and operate toll projects, they can also build and operate non-toll projects, and the Super Street is one of the first non-toll projects to be overseen by the Alamo RMA.

Q: How long is it going to take to build the Interchange?

A: Based on the latest estimates, construction should start in the spring of 2010 and be complete approximately 2 ½ years after construction starts. The exact time frame may vary dependent upon the design/build team selected as part of the ongoing procurement process.

US 281 Loop 1604 Interchange Frequently Asked Questions – August 25, 2009

Q: I hear that this project is using a CDA...does that mean it is going to be owned by a foreign company who will charge me to use it?

A: No. First, this is a non-toll project, and once construction is complete, will be owned by the state of Texas. Second, the Alamo RMA, as the local regional mobility authority, can enter into design / build comprehensive development agreements for both toll and non-toll projects and has elected to utilize the design/build approach for a non-toll project to accelerate the design and construction work to deliver this project to the community sooner than the time frame involved with a traditional design-bid-build approach contract. It is estimated the design/build approach can save up to a year of overall time for the community.

Q: Design/build...doesn't that mean there is no competition and you just decide who you want to award the contract to?

A: No, design/build is still a competitive process, and the team ultimately selected will be the best value proposer based on skill of the team, timeline for completion of the project, and a maximum price for the work to be done. The Alamo RMA currently has four teams competing for this project. A list of the teams who have been shortlisted can be found on www.AlamorMA.org.

Q: If I want to see how this project is going to impact my roadway is there someplace I can see the animation files?

A: Yes, visit www.AlamorMA.org or www.youtube.com/AlamorMA to see animations of the proposed interchange improvements, from all four approaches!

Q: How is this project being funded since I keep hearing there is no money for roads?

A: The US 281 / Loop 1604 Interchange is being funded from a combination of sources. Specifically, \$20 Million is coming from the local share of federal stimulus funds at the discretion of the San Antonio Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization, \$60 million is coming from the Texas Transportation Commission share of federal stimulus funds and \$60 Million is coming from Proposition 14 bonds on behalf of the state of Texas. This \$140 Million budget will cover all design, construction and oversight of this needed non-toll project.

Q: I still don't want a toll road. Is this going to make a toll road happen?

A: The Interchange project is separate from any discussions on toll lanes or tolling in San Antonio. This project is non-toll. The Alamo RMA, as the lead agency for the US 281 Environmental Impact Statement and the Loop 1604 Environmental Impact Statement, will be hosting public meetings and workshops as part of a new study to identify long-term improvements to US 281 and Loop 1604 and the discussions on how to pay for those roadway improvements will be included in the respective study for each roadway.