

Texas Department of Transportation
BORDER SAFETY INSPECTION FACILITY PROGRAM
IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

February 26, 2008

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.
- Project was cleared with a commitment for archeology. The archeological survey and report have been completed.
- 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 Hearing was held on December 11, 2007. The updated Environmental Assessment has been submitted to Environmental Affairs Division for review, approval, and further processing.

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: Conducted on July 24, 2002.

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 May 2008.

f. Bid: Project let on May 9, 2007. Was not awarded due to contract errors. 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. Based on the time anticipated to receive approval from FHWA for the environmental documentation, the District has rescheduled the letting to June 2008. Due to the funding shortfall that the department is facing the letting of this project has been indefinitely delayed.

- g. Construction:** Construction duration estimated at 15 months.

2. World Trade Bridge, Laredo

a. Environmental Assessment:

Federal FONSI – It has been determined that a new environmental assessment will be prepared as a result of changes to the project and the decision to proceed as federally funded. Start of new EA is pending contract approval by Design Division.

- b. Final Schematics:** The Build Alternative has been selected and work is beginning on the geometric schematic layout.
- c. ROW Determination:** The Laredo District is requesting 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.
- d. Public Hearing:** Pending completion of new Final Schematic and EA.
- e. Plans, Specs & Estimate:** Pending completion and presentation of new Final Schematic.
- f. Bid:** Tentatively scheduled for May 2009 letting. Due to the funding shortfall that the department is facing the letting of this project has been indefinitely delayed.
- g. Construction:** Construction duration estimated at 12 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.
- c. Public Hearing:** Held June 15, 2004. A second Public Hearing was held June 12, 2007.
- d. Plans, Specs & Estimate:** ARCADIS (consultant) is developing the PS&E. PS&E to be completed by June 2008.
- e. Bid:** Tentatively scheduled for December 2008. Due to the funding shortfall that the department is facing the letting of this project has been indefinitely delayed.
- f. Construction:** Construction duration estimated at 12 months.

4. Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge, Pharr

- a. Environmental Assessment:** Resubmitted to ENV on 1/18/08 after comments were addressed.
- b. Final Schematics:** Updated version submitted to District Office and being reviewed.
- c. ROW Determination:** Pending approval of the final schematic.
- 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 on hold due to budget; anticipate to be reinstated in Fiscal year 2009.

- f. **Bid:** Pending PS&E completion.
- g. **Construction:** Pending PS&E completion.

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

- a. **Environmental Assessment:** Resubmitted to ENV on 1/18/08 after comments were addressed.
- b. **Final Schematics:** Updated version submitted to District Office and being reviewed.
- c. **ROW Determination:** In progress, pending approval of the final schematics.
- 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 on hold due to budget; anticipate to be reinstated in Fiscal year 2009.
- f. **Bid:** Pending PS&E completion.
- g. **Construction:** Pending PS&E completion.

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

- a. **Environmental Assessment:** Resubmitted to ENV on 1/18/08 after comments were addressed.
- b. **Final Schematics:** Updated version submitted to District Office and being reviewed.
- c. **ROW Determination:** In progress, pending approval final schematic.
- 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 on hold due to budget; anticipate to be reinstated in Fiscal year 2009.
- 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, low bid- \$4,783,868.97
- g. **Construction:** Commenced November 2, 2004. Completed Phase I, working on Phase II. Project is approximately 97% complete. DPS moved into the facility on December 18, 2006 and are operational with limited Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). Project 0924-06-280 which includes all the ITS devices for this BSIF will start March 4, 2008. This project is expected to be completed in fall of 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 will start March 4, 2008. This project is expected to be completed in fall of 2008. The facility has been occupied by DPS as of September 4, 2007 at which date, it also opened to truck traffic.