

## TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

NUECES and KLEBERG Counties

**MINUTE ORDER**

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CORPUS CHRISTI District

Subchapter F, Chapter 223, Transportation Code prescribes the process by which the Texas Department of Transportation (department) may enter into a design-build contract with a private entity that provides for the design, construction, expansion, extension, related capital maintenance, rehabilitation, alteration, or repair of a highway project. Transportation Code, §223.242 authorizes the department to enter into, in each fiscal year, up to three design-build contracts for highway projects with estimated construction costs of \$50 million or more.

The US 77 project will upgrade US 77 between Kingsville and Driscoll from a four lane divided facility with at grade intersections to a full interstate standard facility with overpasses, and is intended to improve safety and mobility as well as foster economic development throughout South Texas. The total project is approximately 12 miles in length and is part of the overall US 77 upgrade from Corpus Christi to Harlingen. In some portions of the facility, only resurfacing of existing travel lanes will be required, while in other portions, four new main travel lanes and a frontage road will be required. The estimated construction cost of the US 77 project is \$60 million.

The project begins at E. Corral Avenue in the northern portion of Kingsville in Kleberg County, and continues north along the existing US 77 facility to south of the city of Driscoll in Nueces County. The project will create a fully access controlled facility meeting interstate standards. US 77 from I-37 to SH 44 in Robstown was dually designated as US 77 and I-69 in December 2011. Improvements are in process for US 77 south of Robstown to upgrade to interstate standards.

The development and completion of the US 77 project can be expedited through the use of a design-build contract, and the employment of innovative methods for the development and construction of projects that are available with a design-build contract. Completion of the project will improve mobility along the US 77 corridor.

Transportation Code, §223.245 prescribes requirements for the procurement of a project to be developed under a design-build contract, and requires the department to publish a notice advertising the issuance of a request for qualifications in the *Texas Register* and on the department's internet website that includes the criteria that will be used to evaluate qualification statements, the relative weight given to the criteria, and the deadline by which qualification statements must be received.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) that the department is authorized to publish in the *Texas Register* and in one or more newspapers of general circulation, and to post on the department's internet website, a request for qualifications to develop, design, construct, and potentially maintain the US 77 project between E. Corral Avenue in Kingsville to south of Driscoll to interstate standards.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that authorization to issue a request for proposals for the US 77 project is conditioned on commission approval of the project's inclusion in the Unified Transportation Program and commission authorization of the project with CONSTRUCT authority.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Edmund P. Pennock Jr.  
Director, Strategic Projects Division

Recommended by:

[Signature]  
Executive Director

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