

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TxDOT Convenes Task Force to Review New Braunfels Outer Loop Study Findings

NEW BRAUNFELS – The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) San Antonio District announced plans to convene a task force to review the findings of the New Braunfels Outer Loop Study. The decision was prompted by concerns and/or questions raised by the public regarding the process and some of the data.

“As the new district engineer, it’s important to me that our projects are sensitive to concerns raised by local property owners and residents,” said Mario Medina, TxDOT San Antonio District Engineer. “The task force is meant to bring transparency to the process and ensure we didn’t miss anything during our evaluations.”

The Outer Loop Task Force will be comprised of members of the two previous study work groups – the Technical Work Group and the Community Work Group – as well as additional study stakeholders identified by TxDOT, the City of New Braunfels, Comal and Guadalupe Counties. The primary focus of the task force will be to review the process utilized by consultants to develop the study recommendation to ensure the accuracy of the data collected and that the screening and evaluation tools were applied consistently throughout all parts of the study area.

The first task force meeting will be held at the New Braunfels Civic/Conference Center from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2009 in the Ballroom. Given the public nature and regional significance of this project, TxDOT has hired Linda Ximenes, an independent facilitator with no previous involvement with the study, to work with the task force throughout this effort. Once complete, the task force will present their findings to the City of New Braunfels, Comal and Guadalupe Counties. All meetings will be open to the public. For more information, please call the study hotline at 866-704-1114.

ABOUT THE STUDY: The New Braunfels Outer Loop Study included a study area which was approximately a 40-mile band around the City of New Braunfels and encompassed portions of Comal and Guadalupe counties. The purpose of the study was to conduct the necessary planning and analysis needed to identify a corridor for the possible development of a New Braunfels Outer Loop. For more information on the New Braunfels Outer Loop Study or to view the Recommended Corridor, please call the New Braunfels Outer Loop Study Hotline at (866) 704-1114 or visit the New Braunfels Outer Loop Study Web site at www.nbolstudy.com.

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TxDOT’s five goals: reduce congestion • enhance safety • expand economic opportunity
• improve air quality • increase the value of transportation assets.

For more information, call Maggie Rios at (210) 615-5836 or Laura Lopez at (210) 615-5839. Information about TxDOT is also available through the department’s World Wide Web site (<http://www.txdot.gov>).