



Summary of Study Need

The City of New Braunfels, Comal County, and Guadalupe County have been experiencing steady growth in the last few years. According to the Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, Comal County is the 12th fastest growing county in the state and Guadalupe County is the 24th fastest. As a result of this growth, TxDOT has identified various areas with transportation needs throughout the region, initiated multiple studies in the region to explore opportunities to add capacity to the existing transportation system, and at the request of the leaders of this area, initiated this study to explore long-term mobility needs. The concept for the outer loop was first identified on the City of New Braunfels Major Street Plan in 1964 with revisions and updates to the outer loop alignment on the City's Thoroughfare Master Plan in 1999 and in the City's Thoroughfare Plan of 2003 and 2005. At the request of the City of New Braunfels and Comal County, TxDOT initiated the New Braunfels Outer Loop Study to assist the area in appropriately planning for infrastructure needs as the region continues to develop.

Summary of Study Purpose

The purpose of the proposed corridor/loop concept is to:

- Preserve and enhance regional mobility and connectivity,
- Increase capacity of the transportation infrastructure, and
- Preserve safety.

While there is no funding identified for the construction of any portion of the 40-mile New Braunfels Outer Loop, this study will aid local jurisdictions in the preservation of right-of-way (ROW) within the limits of the proposed corridor. Likewise, the purpose of the study was to:

- Identify a potential corridor for preservation.
- Identify portions of the loop which could function as stand alone projects.
- Follow NEPA guidelines to ensure information collected can be used for the development of future environmental documents for the portions of independent utility.

Data Collected for Need and Purpose

- *US Census Bureau. Census 1990. SF3 Table P001 and Census 2000. SF3 Table P1 <http://factfinder.census.gov/>*
- Texas Water Development Board population projections.
- Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer population projections.
- *Traffic (AADT) – TxDOT 2000-2005.*
- City of New Braunfels Major Street Plan in 1964.
- City of New Braunfels Thoroughfare Master Plan in 1999.
- City of New Braunfels Thoroughfare Plan of 2003 and 2005.

The first two sections above are from the Executive Summary of the *New Braunfels Outer Loop Final Study Report*. For a detailed account of the Need and Purpose for the study, please see pages 26-33 of the *New Braunfels Outer Loop Final Study Report*.

Public Input & Feedback Related to the Need & Purpose

Meeting	Input/Feedback Collected
Agency Coordination Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 23, 2007 • Approximately 58 participants • At this meeting participants were asked to identify portions of the loop that could be built as stand alone projects and assign a priority to those corridors. The results of this exercise can be found on pages 17-22 of the <i>Agency Coordination Conference Final Report</i>. • Participants were also asked to respond to the question “What transportation needs would you like to see addressed by this study?” in small groups. Responses can be found on pages 22-28 of the <i>Agency Coordination Conference Final Report</i>.
Technical Work Group Meeting #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 4, 2007 • Approximately 28 participants • At this meeting, participants heard a presentation by Frank Robbins with the City of New Braunfels regarding growth in the City and the need for the outer loop. Participants also heard similar presentations by the Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce and Comal County. For a summary of these presentations, see pages 7-9 of <i>Technical Work Group Meeting #1 Final Report</i>.
Community Work Group Meeting #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 10, 2007 • Approximately 24 participants • In order to gain a better understanding of transportation needs in the area, participants were asked to respond to the question “If you had a magic wand, what ONE transportation improvement would you make a reality in Comal and/or Guadalupe County?” For a list of responses to this question, see page 2 of the <i>Community Work Group #1 Meeting Minutes</i>.
First Round of Public Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 25, 2007 – Approximately 247 participants • June 27, 2007 – Approximately 303 participants • At this meeting, participants first heard a brief presentation on the background, need and purpose, and goals and objectives for the NBOL Study. They were then invited to visit six stations. A Need and Purpose/Corridor Priority Station allowed participants to identify which corridor or corridors could be a priority for the proposed outer loop. For a summary of the feedback collected at this station, see pages 16-20 as well as the displays in Appendix F of the <i>Round One Public Meeting Report (Monday, June 25, 2007 and Wednesday, June 27, 2007)</i>. • Participants were also asked to respond to a question on a comment card to better ascertain area transportation needs. Responses to the question “What transportation issues are you particularly concerned about in Guadalupe and Comal Counties? What would you like to see addressed as part of this study?” can be found on pages 24-25 of the <i>Round One Public Meeting Report (Monday, June 25, 2007 and Wednesday, June 27, 2007)</i>.