



NEWS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY LEADERS COLLABORATE TO TACKLE CONGESTION ON BANDERA ROAD

TxDOT and its regional partners are rising to the unique challenge of identifying real solutions for SH 16 (Bandera Road)

Oct. 17, 2022

BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS – The initiative to improve mobility and safety in the SH 16 (Bandera Road) corridor from I-410 to Loop 1604 finds progress in an agreed-upon proposed concept by regional community leaders, based on both public input and technical analysis. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), with the offices of Representative Ray Lopez (Texas House District 125), and Bandera Road Task Force Co-Chairs, San Antonio Councilwoman Ana Sandoval (District 7), and Leon Valley Mayor Chris Riley are now preparing for the next step, an environmental study and preliminary schematic design, which begins in 2023. The proposed concept will be the focus of an upcoming October 26 public meeting.

“TxDOT’s mission along the SH 16 corridor is to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety and accommodate the growth the region will experience over the next 25 years,” said **Gina E. Gallegos, PE, TxDOT San Antonio District Engineer**, “The input from the community and partnership with city and state officials is an important part of this process.”

The agreed-upon concept's improvements to Bandera Road are informed by technical data analysis, public input, and shared concerns about potential property impacts and safety. As SH 16 (Bandera Road) enters an environmental study, the team will evaluate the agreed-upon concept with additional information including a preliminary schematic design process and drainage studies. TxDOT's environmental studies require intensive reviews and may require adjustments due to newly identified factors.

"I want to thank all our partners and the community for coming together to help move this study forward to the next step, and I look forward to helping TxDOT find funding to implement the solutions we are identifying now," said **Representative Ray Lopez, Texas House of Representatives, District 125**.

In addressing Bandera Road's challenges, balancing quality of life while reducing impacts on property and business owners was critical for regional community leaders - especially Mayor Riley and Councilwoman Ana Sandoval - who as Co-Chairs of the Bandera Road Task Force met regularly over three years to help shape the study.

"We are committed to moving forward with the right solution for our community that reflects the community's values and needs now and for years to come. At this point, the agreed-upon Parkway concept contemplates adding a lane in each direction through Leon Valley, reconfiguring left turns to improve safety and operations, and adding dedicated bicycle and pedestrian access on Bandera from Loop 410 to Loop 1604, among other changes," said **Mayor Chris Riley, City of Leon Valley**.

TxDOT's study focuses on improving mobility and safety along the SH 16 (Bandera Road) corridor from I-410 to Loop 1604, including adding operational improvements to intersections. The focus and approach were guided by the public, a technical work group, and a planning team that was comprised of community members and technical experts. This study also complements the City of San Antonio's separate Bandera Road Corridor Plan.

"After three years of collaboration, I'm thrilled to be reaching this important milestone in mapping the future of Bandera Rd. Thanks to all the members of the community who have helped guide this process. We are especially appreciative of TxDOT's collaboration with the City throughout this process.," said **Councilwoman Ana Sandoval, City of San Antonio, District 7**.

There are still plenty of additional opportunities to get engaged, including a public meeting on **Wednesday, October 26, 2022**, at CityChurch located at 9431 Bandera Rd, San Antonio, TX 78250. Those interested in learning more are encouraged to review the study material and updates by visiting www.txdot.gov, keywords search "SH 16 (Bandera Road)".

For media inquiries about TxDOT's SH 16 (Bandera Road) Study, please contact Laura Lopez, TxDOT Public Information Office, at (210) 615-5839 or Laura.Lopez@txdot.gov.

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About the Texas Department of Transportation

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, maritime, rail, and public transportation across the state. Through collaboration and leadership, we deliver a safe, reliable, and integrated transportation system that enables the movement of people and goods.

About the Representative Ray Lopez, Texas House of Representatives, District 125

Reynaldo T. (Ray) Lopez, was elected to the Texas Legislature on March 12th, 2019 to serve House District 125. District 125 encompasses much of San Antonio's culturally diverse West and Northwest Sides including over 200K residents. House District 125 includes the City of Leon Valley, three school districts, as well as St. Mary's and Our Lady of the Lake Universities. District 125 has over 170,000 residents, many of whom are military or civil service employees and retirees.

About the City of San Antonio

San Antonio is a vibrant city with a thriving economy, deep cultural heritage and communities that are compassionate, inclusive and proudly diverse. It is the seventh largest city in the United States and one of the strongest fiscally managed cities in the country, nurturing entrepreneurship, encouraging investment and funding infrastructure. The City fosters partnership and growth opportunities in aerospace, bioscience, cybersecurity, green technologies, healthcare, and information technology. San Antonio's famed Riverwalk and Alamo are the top tourist attractions in Texas, and its historic missions are a designated World Heritage Site – the first and only in Texas. Proudly called Military City, USA®, San Antonio is home to one of the largest populations of active-duty military and veterans, as well as mission-critical commands, including military medicine, cybersecurity, pilot training and basic training. For more information, visit SanAntonio.gov and follow @COSAGov on social

About the City of Leon Valley

Located in the northwest quadrant of Bexar County, the heart of Leon Valley lies along State Highway 16, also known as Bandera Road, and is made up of approximately 3.5 square miles. Residents as well as visitors find Leon Valley to be a vibrant community, offering an inviting gateway to popular attractions such as San Antonio Aquarium, Sea World, Fiesta Texas, and UTSA. Bandera Road and Loop 410 are the primary arteries to these attractions and the employment base in the northwest region. The City of Leon Valley is three miles from South Texas Medical Center, four miles to USAA (Second largest employer in San Antonio), and eight miles to the San Antonio International Airport.