

TxDot Changes I-69, Still Plans TTCs



TxDOT Yields to Citizen Pressure, Makes Changes

In June 2008 the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) announced a revamp of the portion of the proposed I 69 Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC) that goes through east Texas. In response to an outpouring of citizen opposition, TxDOT now plans for much of the new highway to expand existing roads rather than clear new ground.

According to Alliance representative Larry Shelton, the decision is a major victory for wildlife, landowners, and local communities. The TTC I-69 corridor would have impacted more than 150,000 acres under the original plans. Expanding existing roads will use only a fraction as much land, saving thousands of acres.

TTC opponents are still battling TxDOT over the final width of the corridor, whether it will be tolled and have huge new bypasses that will require extensive clearing of rural lands. Most Texans want upgrades limited to a 400' right of way without tolls while TxDOT wants a 1,200' ROW with tolled traffic lanes, rail lines and utility corridors.

TxDOT plans to build three additional TTCs totaling more than 3,000 miles and impacting over 400,000 acres of rural land. The corridors would be developed and operated by for-profit private companies with the state getting a percentage of the tolls.

Larry and his wife Merry Anne have been helping counties, communities, and other governmental entities form sub-regional planning commissions. State law requires TxDOT to coordinate with these local planning commissions when building new transportation infrastructure through their jurisdictions.



**For more information,
Alliance@TCAtexas.org
or 512-327-4119.**

What YOU Can Do to Help

If you reside in the area where a TTC is proposed, urge your County Commission and City Council to form a Sub-Regional Planning Commission under Chapter 391 of the Local Government Code, to return a measure of control to the local area.

Talk to your state legislators — ask them to *stop* the Trans-Texas Corridors!

