

## Lower Rio Grande Valley—Tamaulipas Border Master Plan

### What are Border Master Plans?

Border master plans (BMPs)—as defined and supported by the U.S./Mexico Joint Working Committee on Transportation Planning and Programming, the Federal Highway Administration, and the U.S. Department of State—are comprehensive, binational long-range plans to:

- Inventory transportation and port-of-entry (POE) infrastructure that facilitates trade.
- Prioritize and promote planned POE and related transportation projects.
- Inform decision making.
- Allocate limited funding resources.
- Ensure continued dialog and coordination on future POE and supporting transportation infrastructure needs and projects.

### What Was the Study Area?

The study area includes an “Area of Influence” and a “Focused Study Area.” The Area of Influence includes the following areas:

- On the U.S. side, the border counties of Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, and Cameron.
- On the Mexico side, the Mexican Municipalities of Guerrero, Mier, Miguel Alemán, Camargo, Gustavo Díaz Ordaz, Reynosa, Río Bravo, and Matamoros in the State of Tamaulipas.

The Focused Study Area is 15 miles north and south of the Texas-Tamaulipas international border. However, to the east, the north boundary was slightly revised to include the Valley International Airport in Harlingen.

### Who Guided the Development?

Stakeholders were represented by a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)—consisting of executive level managers—and a Technical Working Group (TWG)—consisting of senior technical staff. The mandate of the PAC is to review the study objectives; evaluate the proposed work plan; define the study area; designate the TWG members; endorse the ranking framework used by the study team to prioritize identified projects; and endorse the BMP document. The mandate of the TWG is to provide the study team with data on existing and planned transportation and border facilities serving the POEs in the study area; verify the collected information; participate in a workshop to develop the ranking framework; and review the content of the draft BMP document developed and submitted by the study team. Membership in the PAC and TWG was limited to Federal, State, and local government agencies and rail companies whose mandate encompass border transportation infrastructure planning, programming, construction and/or management.

### How Was the Ranking Framework Developed?

The TWG members concurred on the elements of the ranking framework (categories, category weights, criteria, criterion weights) and the scoring metrics that were subsequently endorsed—with minor modifications by the

PAC—and used to prioritize projects. Classroom Performance System technology (i>Clickers) was used to reach consensus and to ensure that every agency had an equal voice in deciding the elements of the ranking framework in a non-threatening and anonymous environment.

### What Are the Next Steps?

BMPs should be updated periodically to keep the contents and inventories current and to continue to represent the region’s vision and goals. It is recommended that the PAC convene every year to determine the need for updating the BMP. Information on all completed priorities and any planned initiatives that have emerged since the completion of the previous BMP should be presented. This will allow the PAC to make an informed decision about the need to update the technical data. Similarly, the PAC will determine the need for a comprehensive update to the plan. The latter would involve revisiting the planning horizons, geographic boundaries of the study area, socio-economic data, demand changes, and ranking framework that was used to prioritize projects.

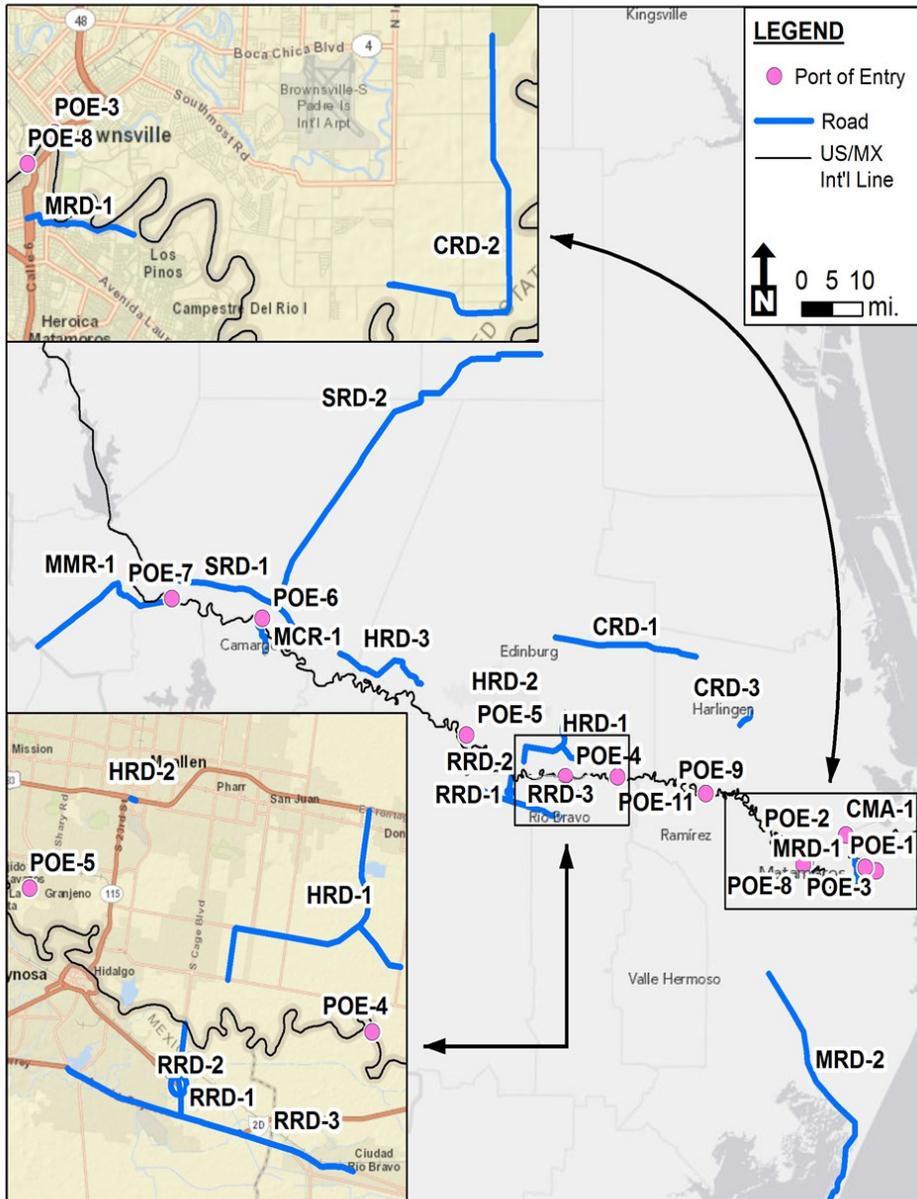
### Where Can I Get More Information?

Texas Department of Transportation  
International Relations Office  
125 East 11th St.



# What Are the Planned Infrastructure Priorities That Emerged?

Highest Ranked POE, Road and Interchange, and Marine Projects by U.S. County and Mexican Municipality



CAMERON COUNTY			
RANK	POE	ROAD	MARINE
1	Build two causeway-style bridge spans to connect the Port of Brownsville directly with Mexico [POE-1]	Widen FM 1925 from the existing two-lane undivided highway to a four-lane divided facility from FM 907 to US 77 [CRD-1]	Widen the Ship Channel from 250 to 350 feet and deepen it from 42 to 50 feet at Port of Brownsville [CMA-1]
2	Build a new bridge to link the United States and Mexico at FM 3248 (Alton Gloor) and Avenida Flor de Mayo [POE-2]	Widen SH 32 (East Phase II) from the existing two-lane undivided highway to a four-lane divided facility from FM 3068 to SH 4 [CRD-2]	Construct a new general-purpose cargo dock on South side of Brownsville Ship Channel, east of existing Cargo Dock No. 15 [CMA-1]
3	Reconfigure and rebuild the existing LPOE at Gateway International Bridge [POE-3]	Widen FM 509 from the existing two-lane undivided highway to a four-lane divided facility from BU 77 N to FM 106 [CRD-3]	
HIDALGO COUNTY			
RANK	POE	ROAD	
1	Construct northbound and southbound Federal inspection facilities for processing empty commercial truck traffic at Donna International Bridge [POE-4]	Construct a new two-lane controlled-access tolled facility from US 281 at State Spur (SS) 600 to FM 493 [HRD-1]	
2	Improve mobility and decrease wait times for northbound vehicles by adding four additional non-commercial lanes at Anzalduas International Bridge [POE-5]	Construct an overpass and modify ramps at US 83 and Bicentennial Boulevard [HRD-2]	
3	Add two additional northbound POV lanes to alleviate queuing on the bridge, and begin expanding the secondary vehicle inspection facility at Anzalduas International Bridge [POE-5]	Construct a new four-lane controlled-access facility on US 83 La Joya Loop from 2.3 miles west of the Hidalgo County line to 1 mile east of the Hidalgo County line [HRD-3]	
STARR COUNTY			
RANK	POE	ROAD	
1	Expand the Rio Grande City-Camargo Bridge by constructing an additional two-lane span that will be used by southbound traffic [POE-6]	Roma/Rio Grande City Relief Route—Construct a new four-lane divided facility from US 83 at Loma Blanca Road to US 83 at La Puerta [SRD-1]	
2	Perform Phase I—Feasibility and Phase II—Design/Build of Commercial and Bus Inspection Facility at Roma-Ciudad Miguel Alemán Bridge [POE-7]	Widen FM 755 from the existing two-lane undivided road to a four-lane divided rural roadway from FM 755 (New Realignment in Starr County) to US 281 in Brooks County [SRD-2]	
3	Construct the proposed international crossing at Roma-Ciudad Miguel Alemán Bridge [POE-7]		
MUNICIPALITY OF MATAMOROS			
RANK	POE	ROAD	MARINE
1	Modernize and improve the existing B&M Bridge [POE-8]	Construct a beltway to connect the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates with Sixth Avenue and MEX 2 [MRD-1]	Complete dredging to increase depth, and extend jetties to protect channels and docks at Port of Matamoros [MMA-1]
2	Expand customs facilities and construct export platforms at Free Trade Bridge [POE-9]	Expand and reconstruct 40 miles of access road to the Port of Matamoros [MRD-2]	
3	Construct new Flor de Mayo International Bridge [POE-10]		
4	Construct new Longoreño Bridge [POE-1]		
MUNICIPALITY OF RIO BRAVO			
RANK	POE		
1	Improve access and construct inspection facilities for the cargo lane at Weslaco-Progresso International Bridge [POE-11]		
2	Construct inspection facilities for empty commercial trucks (both directions) at Donna International Bridge [POE-4]		
MUNICIPALITY OF REYNOSA			
RANK	ROAD		
1	Expand from two lanes to four lanes. Currently two lanes serve as a connecting road; this project would add two additional lanes for commercial traffic to Avenida Puente Pharr [RRD-1]		
2	Build an interchange at MEX 2 and Avenida Puente Pharr [RRD-2]		
3	Modernize and expand MEX 2 from Reynosa to Rio Bravo [RRD-3]		
MUNICIPALITY OF CAMARGO			
RANK	POE	ROAD	
1	Develop import and export cargo areas; reorganize cargo areas and administrative buildings at Rio Grande City-Camargo Bridge [POE-6]	Construct a road/beltway to facilitate cargo movements to the Rio Grande City-Camargo Bridge [MCR-1]	
MUNICIPALITY OF MIER			
RANK	ROAD		
1	Expand the highway from Mier to the limits of the State of Tamaulipas [MMR-1]		