



Laredo Roads National Environmental Policy Act Scoping for Patrol Road Improvements Stakeholder Feedback Report

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1. Introduction and Background

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is proposing to improve roads in the United States Border Patrol (USBP) Laredo Sector in Webb County, Texas. The proposed undertaking involves the improvement of approximately 17 miles of roads in USBP Laredo in Webb County, Texas. The existing roads would be converted to Functional Class-2 (FC-2) all-weather roads. A FC-2 road is a two-lane 24-foot wide, unpaved, all-weather road consisting of a surface of imported aggregate material such as milled bituminous material or processed stone and gravel.

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping process for the border barrier project, CBP sought public input on impacts to various environmental and cultural resources as well as potential alternative actions to be analyzed. This input will be used to inform the development of an Environmental Assessment (EA).

1.1 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to summarize the input received during the public scoping process to provide stakeholders and the public transparency into the environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic issues that will be considered during the development of the EA. It does not present individual comments received or provide responses to those comments.

2. Public Input Process

From February 25, 2022 to March 28, 2022, input was collected regarding impacts to various resources as well as potential alternative actions to be analyzed. CBP sent informational materials to solicit input on potential impacts to natural and cultural resources from federal, state, and local agencies, and local tribes, and solicited input on potential impacts. CBP also solicited input from the general public. The notification is included as an appendix to this report.

Comments were collected through e-mail, mail, and phone line. CBP staff plan to continue meeting with impacted stakeholders and subject matter experts to ensure impacts are eliminated or minimized.

2.1 Public Feedback Review

All comments received by CBP were reviewed and categorized. A total of five comments were received and all comments were determined to be unique. As the comments were received, they were reviewed and categorized by their primary topic of concern. If a comment included substantive information on multiple topics, they were included in each relevant category below.

The Infrastructure Portfolio outreach team reviewed all comments received during the comment period, responded to comments as appropriate, and prepared this report to



summarize public input. The comment review was conducted based on explicit concerns; comments that were not specific or contained vague statements were not interpreted by the reviewers. Comments that provided substantive information were further assessed by CBP, often contacting that specific stakeholder to address specific questions or concerns. In some instances, the Infrastructure Portfolio outreach team contacted specific stakeholders to determine the validity of data provided for use in the assessment of environmental impacts.

As a next step, CBP will develop an EA that will utilize new and existing field survey data, as well as incorporate relevant information and data obtained from the public feedback process.

3. Summary of Public Feedback

The following sections summarize important considerations for CBP's review of impacts provided by the public during the public comment period. CBP identified two categories of primary feedback received.

3.1 Historic and Cultural Preservation

One commenter stated that archeological surveys would need to be conducted for the proposed project and that Texas Antiquities Permits would need to be obtained. The commenter noted that there are numerous historic-age resources located within and adjacent to the proposed project area that will need to be identified and evaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. They added that there are known historic resources located within adjacent to the proposed project area including Fort McIntosh, the Barrio Azteca Historic District, U.S. Inspection Station - Laredo, Texas, San Augustin de Laredo Historic District, and the Convent Avenue Bridge over Rio Grande River.

3.2 Water Impacts

One comment addressed possible impacts to water resources due to the project. The commenter recommended the environmental assessment address actions that will be taken to prevent surface and groundwater contamination.

4. Next Steps

Stakeholder feedback, along with information from surveys of the project area, will inform the development of the EA. The EA will include a summary of the comments received and how they were addressed. The EA will be released to the public through www.CBP.gov upon completion.



Appendix I: Notification

February 25, 2022

RE: Environmental Assessment Roads Improvement Project, Laredo, Texas, Laredo Sector, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

To Whom it May Concern:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is evaluating a proposed action to upgrade approximately 17 miles of existing roads in Webb County, Texas. CBP is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine if the proposed upgrade of the roads will potentially have any significant environmental impacts.

As part of the proposed action, roads would be improved to Functional Class-2 (FC-2) all-weather roads. An FC-2 road is a two-lane 24-foot wide, unpaved, all-weather road consisting of a surface of imported aggregate material such as milled bituminous material or processed stone and gravel. The upgraded all-weather road would improve mobility and accessibility for U.S. Border Patrol agents responding to illegal cross-border traffic. The proposed roads are located where the vanishing points for cross-border violators are seconds to minutes. Enclosed maps provide more detailed information on the location of each road.

The EA will analyze the potential for significant adverse impacts and beneficial effects on the environment from the proposed action and alternatives. The EA will evaluate and assess potential impacts to the natural, physical, social environment to include but not limited to:

- Federal and state-listed species
- Water quality
- Air quality
- Archaeological, historic, and tribal cultural resources
- Wetlands/water resources
- Contamination
- Culture and commerce

CBP is gathering data and input from the public and state and local government agencies that may be affected by, or that would otherwise have an interest in, this proposed action. Your organization's input is sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this



proposed action. Per DHS Directive 023-01, Revision Number 01 (Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act), we will provide your agency with a copy of the Draft EA for review and comment.

Comments and information will be accepted until March 28, 2022 by email at LaredoComments@cbp.dhs.gov or mailed to:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters
Program Management Office Directorate
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. 6.5E Mail Stop 1039
Washington, DC 20229-1100

Please reference "Laredo Roads Improvement" in your response.

We appreciate your feedback and help with evaluating the potential impacts of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Enriquez".

Paul Enriquez
Deputy Director
Infrastructure Program
Program Management Office Directorate
U.S. Border Patrol

Enclosure: Laredo Roads Improvement Maps



Laredo Roads Improvement Maps

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is evaluating a proposed action to upgrade approximately 17 miles of existing roads in Webb County, Texas. The locations of the roads are detailed in the following maps:

