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October 6, 2026

I-27 Construction Advances as Texas Adopts Smaller Transportation Funding Program

Ports-to-Plains review highlights construction progress and a growing pipeline of projects awaiting full funding

LUBBOCK, Texas — Construction is advancing along the Ports-to-Plains corridor as Texas enters a new transportation planning cycle with a smaller statewide funding forecast. The Texas Transportation Commission's adopted 2027 Unified Transportation Program includes approximately $95 billion in project funding over fiscal years 2027–2036, down $6.6 billion, or 6.5%, from the 2026 program.

Including project development and routine maintenance, the Texas Department of Transportation announced approximately $138 billion in total transportation investment over the ten-year period.

For the Ports-to-Plains corridor, the annual comparison shows both a decline in amounts remaining on the listed project summaries and an increase in the value of projects reported as having begun construction. Understanding both measures is essential to assessing corridor progress.

The Alliance's district summaries show approximately $1.114 billion in listed project amounts for FY2027, compared with $2.514 billion for FY2026. Meanwhile, the value reported as construction begun increased from approximately $803.5 million to $1.524 billion—an increase of $720.6 million, or nearly 90%.

Those figures indicate that the decline in the remaining project list should not automatically be interpreted as an equivalent loss of corridor investment. Movement into construction may explain part of the change. A project-by-project comparison is needed to distinguish that progress from changes in funding, cost estimates, schedules, and project scope.

Amarillo, Laredo, and Lubbock account for the largest decreases in listed project amounts, while each also reports increased construction activity. Abilene and San Angelo together show an increase of approximately $80.6 million in listed amounts, and Odessa remains essentially unchanged.

I-27 project pipeline continues to grow

Separately, TxDOT's I-27 Advisory Committee dashboards show a growing inventory of projects intended to bring the corridor to Interstate standards.

Between Advisory Committee Meetings in September, 2025 and September, 2026, the planning inventory increased from 34 projects with an estimated construction cost of $8.70 billion to 41 projects totaling $10.72 billion. The number of fully funded Interstate-upgrade

projects increased from three to eight, with their estimated construction costs rising from $113.7 million to approximately $658 million.

These dashboard figures cover a different project inventory from the Alliance's district summaries and should not be added to those totals. They describe reported project status and estimated construction costs, rather than new funding awards.

Projects under TxDOT's PLAN Authority can advance through planning, schematic development, environmental review, and preliminary right-of-way and utility work. PLAN Authority does not provide full construction funding. Moving projects into the UTP's ten-year program depends on prioritization, project development, and available funding.

Lower forecasts reinforce the need for sustained investment

TxDOT's statewide funding comparison attributes the smaller program to lower federal funding forecasts, Proposition 1 adjustments, reduced nontraditional funding, and lower Texas Mobility Fund bond issuance. Higher projected motor fuel tax and vehicle registration revenue, along with a modest Proposition 7 increase, partially offset those reductions. The federal adjustment reflects a forecast change and does not, by itself, establish a congressional funding cut. Passage of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization will provide greater clarity to the funding forecast.

For the Ports-to-Plains Alliance, the figures reinforce the importance of advancing projects through development while securing the resources needed for construction. Continued investment in Future Interstate 27 will help improve safety, freight movement, rural connectivity, and access to domestic and international markets.

About the Ports-to-Plains Alliance
The Ports-to-Plains Alliance is a coalition of communities and businesses working to improve transportation infrastructure and economic opportunity along a nine-state corridor connecting the U.S.–Mexico border with the northern Great Plains and Canada.

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