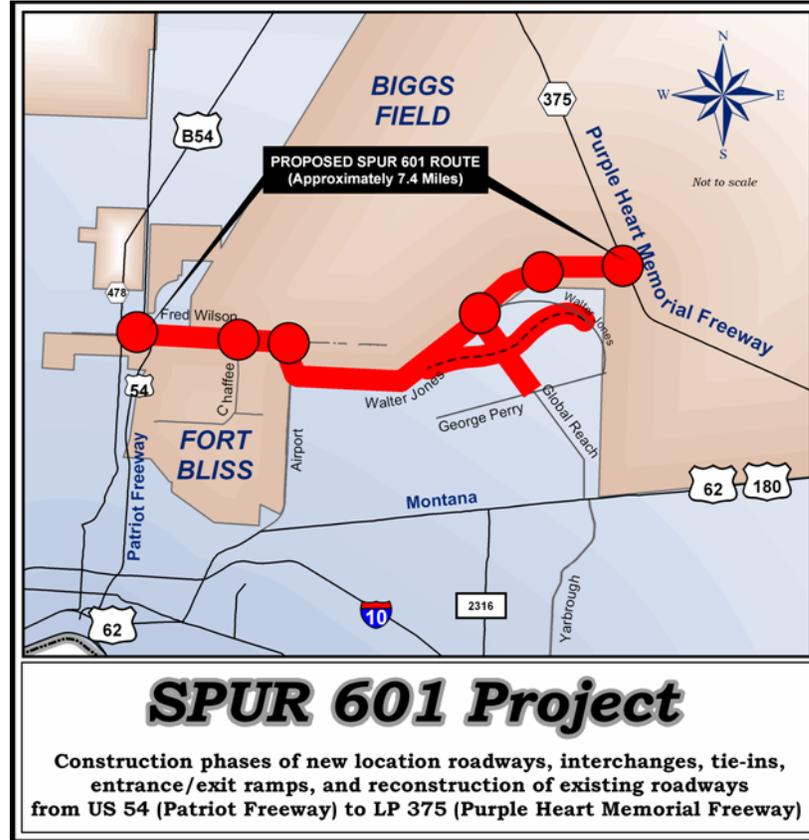


El Paso and Fort Bliss, Texas  
State Highway Spur 601  
Texas Department of Transportation  
December 12, 2007



**Background**

Fort Bliss is located in El Paso, Texas Metropolitan Area and Southern NM Troop Strength now 9,000 will be 30,000 in 2011 due to BRAC  
21,000 troops equate to 50,000 residents  
Stakeholders support Army realignment (government, utilities, business, and citizens).  
Principal stakeholders City of El Paso, Fort Bliss, TxDOT, Utility Companies, Residents of El Paso Metro area  
Army considers Spur 601 critical to Fort Bliss expansion  
Texas considers Fort Bliss growth as economic development

**Project Description**

Spur 601 freeway connects two existing freeways, Loop 375 and US 54  
Project Length 7.4 miles with Six interchanges  
Six Lane Freeway from US 54 to Biggs Airfield, four lanes to Loop 375  
P-TT Project Cost \$367.45 million over 10 to 11 years of P-TT payments  
Traffic volumes estimated at 20,000 ADT increasing to 65,000 ADT

**Project Delivery**

Design-Bid-Build project converted to Pass-Through Toll (P-TT) and Design/Build  
State reimburses developer by paying per vehicle that uses freeway. No tolls.  
SAFETEA-LU, TX HB 3588 and HB 2702 enable P-TT  
P-TT where State reimburses developer based on actual traffic volumes on road  
Local government or Private entity can be developer  
Developer responds to RFP or Submits unsolicited proposal

Spur 601 project subject of unsolicited proposal  
No P-TT interest or commitment until NEPA process anticipated clearance  
TxDOT prepared Draft EA and secured FONSI  
TxDOT agreed to \$367.5 million project including \$55 million traditional funds  
Total project includes Design, ROW acquisition, Utility adjustments, Construction  
Developer accepts risks such as cost of construction & ROW, schedule, utility adjustments, change orders, financing  
Traditional funding requires deliverables at milestones for payment  
Critical that NEPA documentation is complete or anticipate completion  
First known project delivery as private proposal P-TT in U.S.

### **Timeline**

Original concept to develop project in phases with traditional funds  
Traditional project development anticipated to be 10+ years  
Fort Bliss expansion scheduled over 3 to 5 years  
P-TT shortens development schedule of Spur 601  
Dec. 2005 TxDOT received unsolicited proposal from Abrams, LP  
Feb 2006 TxDOT accepted and issued Request for Competing Proposals  
April 2006 TxDOT received two competing proposals  
Dec 2006 Evaluations complete and recommendations to Commission  
Feb 2007 Commission selects Abrams, LP  
June 2007 FONSI by FHWA and FAA, FHWA authorizes preliminary design  
Aug 2007 P-TT Agreement signed between Abrams and TxDOT  
Sep 2007 Spur 601 Project Office mobilized  
Nov 2007 Final Design and Construction authorized by FHWA  
Aug 2008 Scheduled complete Segment A-1  
May 2009 Scheduled complete Segment A-2  
April 2010 Scheduled complete Segment B and project complete

### **Challenges, Opportunities and Recommendations**

First known project of its kind in the U.S.  
Local government, Governor, and Texas Transportation Commission support  
Identify funding and scope of work asap  
All stakeholders support project, none want to stop progress  
Involve FHWA as early as possible and continuous  
Identify project champions in each organization working on project  
Development schedule is short. Project moves quickly.  
NEPA documents and approvals are critical  
Project reports and documentation are critical  
Must be pro-active and responsive/flexible for design/build delivery  
Design/build requires continuous review and intermediate releases to construct  
New procedure requires continuous preparation and monitoring  
Know and follow federal, state, and local regulations and requirements  
State personnel must have approval authority

### **Helpful web links**

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/mega/largeproject.cfm> ,  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/mega/fplans.cfm> ,  
[http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_03/23cfr636\\_03.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_03/23cfr636_03.html) ,  
<http://www.dot.state.tx.us>  
[http://www.txdot.gov/publications/government\\_and\\_public\\_affairs/3588\\_2702\\_comparison.pdf](http://www.txdot.gov/publications/government_and_public_affairs/3588_2702_comparison.pdf)  
[links](#)