STUDY BACKGROUND

The BI 20 Traffic Operations and Safety Study is an access and safety management study performed at the request of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Odessa District as part of an on-call traffic engineering services contract. The purpose of the study was to identify operational and safety concerns on approximately 15 miles of Business Interstate 20 (BI 20) between 8th Street in Odessa and Midkiff Road in Midland, and to recommend short-term and long-term improvements to the corridor. Short-term improvements were defined as those that could be implemented within 24 months, while long-term improvements are those that can be implemented after 24 months.

This ten-month study began in October 2004, and was designed to include a large amount of local involvement by using a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and holding three public forums. The TAC was comprised of two TxDOT Odessa District representatives, one representative from the City of Midland city offices, and one representative from the City of Odessa city offices. Five TAC meetings were held throughout the course of the study to gather input and direction from each of the entities and to serve as benchmarks for the development of the study. Additionally, three public forums were held throughout the course of the study. The first public forum on January 19, 2005 was held at the MCM Grande Hotel to present existing conditions and to gather public input on perceived issues along the corridor. The second public forum was held on May 3, 2005 at the Airport Plaza Inn and served to present draft recommendations of short-term and long-term improvements to the public for comment. Public comments from the initial two public forums were evaluated and incorporated into the final study recommendations, which were presented at the third public forum on June 21, 2005 at the Airport Plaza Inn.

Each of these three public forums was publicized via a variety of methods, including the Business 20 Traffic Study website (www.business20trafficstudy.com), flyer distribution to over 100 businesses along the corridor, press releases sent to the Midland and Odessa newspapers, and involvement of Public Information Officers from TxDOT and the Cities of Midland and Odessa which drove additional television and radio advertisements of the upcoming meetings. Opportunities for the public to provide input were available at the three public forums, as well as via a public comment form on the study website. Additionally, project members and TxDOT and City representatives were available to receive public comments throughout the course of the study.

This document summarizes the results of this study evaluating and recommending safety and operations improvements to Business Interstate 20.