



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
December 22, 2017

### **DONIPHAN DRIVE CORRIDOR PLAN AND BORDER WEST EXPRESSWAY PROJECT ON AGENDA FOR JANUARY 11 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL PASO**

The Rio Grande Citizens Forum (RGCF) of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will discuss the Doniphan Drive Corridor Plan, the Border West Expressway Project, and a water conservation project at an upcoming public meeting. The meeting will take place on **Thursday, January 11, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the USIBWC Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa Street, The Commons, Building C, El Paso, Texas 79902.** The Rio Grande Citizens Forum was established to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters.

Jeremy Wyndham, Program Manager with Jacobs Engineering Group, will discuss the 15-mile section of State Highway 20 (Doniphan Drive) between the Texas/New Mexico state line and Racetrack Drive in El Paso. The primary objective of the study is to create a corridor plan that will document the community's future vision for transportation and development for Doniphan Drive from 2016 through 2040. One of the results of this process will be the identification of a set of projects for short, medium, and long-term implementation. The development of this plan will be accomplished through a process including data collection, public outreach, analysis of current and future transportation needs, and identification of potential projects.

Jennifer Wright, Public Information Officer, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), El Paso District, will give an overview on the Border West Expressway Project. The project extends

approximately 7.4 miles from Racetrack Drive near Doniphan Road to one mile east of Park Street, near Bowie High School. The project is currently about 70% complete, and is scheduled for completion around April 2019. TxDOT recently opened McNutt Road connecting to New Mexico from Paisano. The next big milestone is the opening of the Paisano Direct Connectors, ramps connecting to the Cesar Chavez Border Highway in and out of downtown, projected for March 2018.

In other business, Zack Libbin, District Engineer with the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), will present on a project EBID is constructing near Rincon, New Mexico which conserves water and energy while creating habitat. This project was partially funded by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and is referred to as Rincon WHEN (Water-Habitat-Energy-Nexus). This project was cost shared by EBID and benefited farmers for a total project budget of about \$1.8 million, of which roughly \$700,000 was provided by Reclamation. While this project helps supply water more timely to a benefited area of 2,242 acres of farmland, it also saves water for the entire District by reducing delivery losses. The habitat being created is within 31 acres of private land adjacent to the Rio Grande that area farmers donated towards the project. This habitat will benefit both endangered species and a wide variety of wildlife in the area. EBID has shown its innovative spirit by proposing and constructing such a project with diverse objectives. Mr. Libbin will present the design and objectives of the project and provide an update on the progress of its construction.

The USIBWC established the Rio Grande Citizens Forum in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of information with the public regarding USIBWC activities and related matters on the Rio Grande between Percha Dam, New Mexico and Fort Quitman, Texas. It is designed to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between USIBWC and the public, environmentalists, irrigation districts, municipalities, and others interested in the river.

Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact the Public Affairs Office at 915-832-4106 or [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov).

Lori Kuczanski  
(915) 832-4106  
[Lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:Lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov)

**RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Thursday, January 11, 2018**  
**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**USIBWC Headquarters**  
**4171 N. Mesa Street, The Commons, Building C \***  
**El Paso, Texas 79902**

**Agenda**

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Jose Nuñez, Citizens Forum Co-Chair and Principal Engineer, USIBWC
- **Doniphan Drive Corridor Plan** – Jeremy Wyndham, P.E., Project Manager, Jacobs Engineering Group
- **Border West Expressway** – Jennifer Wright, Public Information Officer, El Paso District, Texas Department of Transportation
- **Project to Conserve Water and Energy While Creating Habitat** – Zack Libbin, P.E., District Engineer, Elephant Butte Irrigation District
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

**\*Directions:** Exit I-10 at Executive Center Boulevard and head east toward Mesa St. Turn right on Mesa. USIBWC Headquarters building is in the Commons business complex to your right. Please arrive at least 30 minutes early because all visitors and employees must pass through security screenings.

*If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information, call 915- 832-4106 or e-mail [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov)*