

- SUBJECT:** Requiring a study on potential improvements to Interstate Highway 27
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Canales, Landgraf, Bernal, Y. Davis, Hefner, Krause, Leman, Martinez, Ortega
- 0 nays
- 4 absent — Goldman, Raney, Thierry, E. Thompson
- WITNESSES:** For — Jared Miller, City of Amarillo; Milton Pax, The Ports to Plains Alliance; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Leticia Van de Putte, City of Del Rio; Joseph Streck, City of Lubbock; Cheri Huddleston, The Ports to Plains Alliance)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Brian Barth, Texas Department of Transportation)
- BACKGROUND:** Some have called for additional research into the improvement of existing interstate highways to facilitate the movement of goods and services from Mexico into Texas and beyond.
- DIGEST:** HB 1079 would require the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to conduct a study on the feasibility, costs, and logistical matters associated with improvements to extend Interstate Highway 27:
- from its northern terminus to Dumas;
 - from Dumas to Stratford; and
 - from Stratford to the Oklahoma border.
- The study also would be required to consider improvements to extend Interstate Highway 27:

- from its northern terminus to Dumas;
- from Dumas to Dalhart; and
- from Dalhart to the New Mexico border.

TxDOT would have to submit a report on the results of the study to the governor, lieutenant governor, House speaker, and the chairs of each standing committee with jurisdiction over transportation issues by January 1, 2021.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.