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LADB Staff

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## **Tamaulipas Expects to Finish Highway Near U.S.-Mexico Border in 1995**

*by LADB Staff*

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According to Tamaulipas state transportation officials, an east-west highway connecting 10 communities near the US- Mexico border is scheduled to be completed sometime in the first half of 1995. The highway, which stretches from Matamoros in the west to Nuevo Laredo in the east, will run parallel to US Highway 83, which connects Brownsville and Laredo, Texas, on the US side. In an interview with the official news agency Notimex, Jose Guerra Trevino head of the Tamaulipas state Department of Municipal Industrial Development (Departamento de Fomento Industrial Municipal) said the new Tamaulipas route will connect with key north-south highways in northern Mexico, including the Monterrey-Nuevo Laredo, Monterrey-Reynosa, and Ciudad Victoria-Matamoros routes. In addition, Guerra noted that the new highway will offer access to the planned Inter-Coastal canal, which will connect Tampico, Tamaulipas state, with the port of Veracruz. According to Guerra, the highway will provide greater access to six major international bridges along the US-Mexico border.

Construction of the highway, which has been concessioned to the engineering company Triturados y Basalticos (Tribasa), is estimated to cost about 700 million nuevo pesos (US\$122.8 million). On a related matter, in January representatives from the state governments of Tamaulipas and Texas started consultations on construction of five new international bridges and expansion of six other crossings in order to accommodate the growing cargo and tourist traffic across the border. According to Miguel Rubaino Reyna, Tamaulipas state secretary for industrial development and tourism, two new bridges are planned for Laredo-Nuevo Laredo, one for rail traffic and the other for motor vehicles. Two new crossings are also planned for the city of Reynosa, Tamaulipas state, one connecting with Mission, Texas, and the other with McAllen, Texas. Rubaino noted that the Texas-Tamaulipas crossings between Laredo-Nuevo Laredo and Brownsville-Matamoros accounts for roughly 50% of the commercial traffic between the US and Mexico. In addition, he said 80% of rail cargo moving between Mexico and the US crosses at points in the area between Laredo and Brownsville. (Source: Notimex, 01/12/95, 01/16/95)

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