



## **For Immediate Release**

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# **Edinburg First in the RGV to Make Use of Bike Box with New Traffic Signal**

**Edinburg Texas:** The City of Edinburg is once again leading the way in making roadways friendly for all users with the construction of the first of its kind bike box in the Valley. It is part of the City's newest traffic signal on University Drive and Joe Ochoa Avenue, which will become fully operational on Monday, November 18th.

The project is part of a working partnership with UTPA, South Texas ISD, TxDOT and surrounding businesses to help alleviate congestion on University as well as provide a north/south access to Fay, Cano, Mahl and Stubbs Streets. Joe Ochoa Avenue has accommodated the new South Texas ISD bus routes and helped relieve bottlenecks on Sprague and Sugar.

Constructed and placed at the main entrance of the UTPA campus, this street signal will now also give drivers getting on and off campus another alternative. The signal includes a turning lane, a bike box and a pedestrian head complete with a timing countdown for safe crossings.

Edinburg was the first City in the Valley to adopt a Safe Passing Ordinance aimed at protecting vulnerable road users, which include pedestrians, bicyclists, construction workers and people on horseback.

Mayor Richard H. Garcia says this traffic signal was designed and constructed with this ordinance in mind and furthers the City's goal of making Edinburg a bicycle friendly community.

For the past two weeks the traffic signal has been in a flashing yellow mode as required to let drivers know of its existence. It will become fully operational between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. once the morning rush is over.

Since this is the first time a bike box is used in the Valley, Edinburg leaders encourage drivers to become familiar with pavement markings. This box is intended to:



- improve awareness and visibility of all cyclists
- prevent dangerous right hook collisions
- allow easy left turn access for cyclists

Drivers will now be required to stop behind the 24 inch white stop bar.

The City of Edinburg reminds motorists that cyclists have the same road privileges as drivers. Cyclists need to be aware that they must follow all driving requirements.