



1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20229

**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

June 11, 2026

Chairman Bernard Barcena Jr.
Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas
PO Box 5218
McAllen, Texas 78502

Email: bbarcena@lipanapache.org

RE: Vehicle Barrier System and Road Construction in Brewster County, Texas Request for Input

Dear Chairman Barcena Jr.,

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, is planning to construct and maintain vehicle barrier system and roads in Brewster County, Texas.

On June 9, 2026, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security issued a waiver covering certain laws, regulations, and other legal requirements to ensure the expeditious construction of the barriers and roads. Consistent with section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, IIRIRA, of 1996, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1103 note, CBP seeks your input on the project's potential impacts to the environment, cultural resources, quality of life and commerce, including socioeconomic impacts.

The planned action includes:

- Construction and maintenance of 17 miles of non-contiguous vehicle barrier system in Brewster County, Texas. Barrier system includes a physical barrier, road, and barrier system attributes. The barrier system for this project will utilize vehicle barrier rather than bollard-style pedestrian barrier. The vehicle barrier will feature steel posts supported by continuous steel rails, with alternating rail heights of approximately 4 and 6 feet, and rails spaced about 4 feet apart. Barrier system attributes may include, as appropriate to U.S. Border Patrol's operational needs, fiber optic cables, utility poles, power cables, surveillance cameras, access and patrol roads and utility shelters along the international border.
- Construction, improvement, and maintenance of approximately 205 miles of Functional Class-2, FC-2, patrol roads, which are up to 24-feet wide. The FC-2 patrol roads will be equipped with detection technology.

A map of the project areas and Spanish-language materials can be found on CBP's Environmental Management page in the Documents Open for Comment section at <https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management>. Los materiales en español están disponibles en línea en <https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management>.

CBP is currently engaged in project planning and invites you to participate in the public review and comment process. Helpful comments are fact-based, include links to data or research, and provide specific information concerning potential impacts on biological, cultural, and natural resources. If you are providing a comment about a specific area, please specify that in your comment.

CBP will be accepting comments until July 13, 2026. Comments can be emailed to CBP at BigBendComments@cbp.dhs.gov. Please include "Brewster County Vehicle Barrier System Construction" in the subject of your email. Comments received in response to this letter, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record.

Comments may also be submitted to CBP by calling (833) 412-2056 or to the following address:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters
Program Management Office Directorate
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. 6.5E Mail Stop 1039
Washington, DC 20229-1100
ATTN: Michelle Barnes

We appreciate your feedback and assistance in the evaluation of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Enriquez".

Paul Enriquez
Infrastructure Portfolio Director
Program Management Office Directorate
U.S. Border Patrol

Enclosure:

Handout 1 –Vehicle Barrier System and Road Construction in Brewster County, Texas



Vehicle Barrier System and Road Construction in Brewster County, Texas

Description of the Project

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, is seeking input on the planned action to construct and maintain vehicle barrier system and roads in Brewster County, Texas.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CBP is planning to construct and maintain vehicle system and roads in Brewster County, Texas. The planned actions include the:

- Construction and maintenance of 17 miles of non-contiguous border barrier system in Brewster County, Texas. The barrier system includes a physical barrier, roads, and barrier system attributes, which may include, as appropriate to U.S. Border Patrol's operational needs, fiber optic cables, utility poles, power cables, surveillance cameras, access and patrol roads and utility shelters along the international border.
- Construction or improvement of 205 miles of roads equipped with detection technology.

BORDER BARRIER SYSTEM

The border barrier system for this project will utilize vehicle barrier rather than bollard-style pedestrian barrier. The vehicle barrier will feature steel posts supported by continuous steel rails, with alternating rail heights of approximately 4 and 6 feet, and rails spaced about 4 feet apart.

In addition to 17 miles of barrier system, CBP will construct or improve and maintain approximately 205 miles of Functional Class-2, FC-2, patrol roads, which are up to 24-feet wide. The FC-2 patrol roads will be equipped with detection technology.

Other components of the planned project include:

- **Bridges:** Bridges may be constructed to permit access across canyons or ravines.
- **Erosion and Drainage Control:** Earth retaining systems and erosion control may be needed to control grades, which could include

items such as concrete or block walls, erosion control mats, low water crossings, culverts, roadside ditches, or riprap.

- **Fiber Optic and Power Cables:** Attributes will be powered by grid power. The fiber optic and power cables will be installed underground adjacent to the patrol road.
- **Handholes:** Handholes will be installed and placed at the base of every utility pole or as needed to meet electric pull distance requirements. Handholes will include sliding cover plates to access fiber optic cables and other utilities.
- **Maintenance:** Routine vegetation removal along the border barrier, maintenance of the patrol road, and/or repair of the barrier will be conducted as needed.
- **Surveillance Cameras:** Cameras could be affixed to the utility poles and spaced out based on viewshed requirements set by USBP. A Closed-Circuit Television, CCTV, feed will be utilized for these cameras.
- **Utility Poles:** The utility poles will be a minimum of 6 inches in diameter at the base of the pole and coated black to resist corrosion.
- **Utility Shelters:** Shelters will be needed to house fiber optic cables and CCTV equipment. Shelters will be placed approximately every 25 miles along the existing border barrier. Shelter dimensions will be 30 x 30-feet, with a height of 9 feet. Placement of the shelters will be within 25 miles of the Port of Entry.
- **Staging Areas and Laydown Yards:** Adjacent areas will be cleared and used to store construction materials and equipment.



- **Water:** Water is anticipated to be needed for construction and dust suppression activities to maintain air quality near the project.

A Story Map of the project and Spanish-language materials can be found on CBP's Environmental Management page in the Documents Open for Comment section at

<https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management>.

Get Involved!

CBP invites you to participate in the comment period for the planned action to construct and maintain vehicle barrier system and roads in Brewster County, Texas.

Specifically, CBP is seeking input regarding the project's potential impacts to the environment, cultural resources, and commerce, including socioeconomic impacts and quality of life. Comments will be accepted until **July 13, 2026**.

How to Provide Comments:

➤ **Call:** (833) 412-2056

➤ **E-mail:** BigBendComments@cbp.dhs.gov

➤ **Mail:**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Program Management Office Directorate
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. 6.5E
Mail Stop 1039
Washington, DC 20229-1100
ATTN: Michelle Barnes

Please reference "Brewster County Vehicle Barrier System Construction" in your response.