



# PROPOSED MODERNIZATION BRIDGE OF THE AMERICAS (BOTA) LAND PORT OF ENTRY (LPOE) EL PASO, TEXAS



**PUBLIC SCOPING  
MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY  
June 26, 2024  
5:30 -7:30 PM (MTN)**

**Presented by:  
Karla R. Carmichael**

**U.S. General Services  
Administration**

**Public Building Service  
Region 7**





**PROPOSED MODERNIZATION  
BRIDGE OF THE AMERICAS (BOTA) LAND PORT OF ENTRY (LPOE)  
EL PASO, TEXAS**



## MEETING FORMAT

- ▶ Introductions of Cooperating Agencies
- ▶ Overview of the project including current alternatives developed to implement the project.
- ▶ Overall anticipated project timing (start of construction, finish, etc.)
- ▶ Overview of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.
- ▶ Come-and-go breakout stations staffed for additional questions.

# COOPERATING AGENCIES



## ▶ CBP-CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION



▶ Rob Villarreal, Project Manager

[robert.f.villarreal@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:robert.f.villarreal@cbp.dhs.gov)

▶ Lynn Doiron, Environmental PM

[lynn.doiron@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:lynn.doiron@cbp.dhs.gov)

## ▶ IBWC-INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

▶ Tamara Cortez – Engineering Services Division

▶ Gilbert Anaya – Environmental Management Division

▶ Mark Howe – Environmental Management Division





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EL PASO, TEXAS

## PUBLIC COMMENTS AND INPUT

- ▶ Comment sheets provided. Leave them here tonight or mail them.
- ▶ Comments and input can also be submitted via mail or email:

**Email:** *BOTA.NEPAcomments@gsa.gov*

**Mail:** Karla R. Carmichael  
NEPA Program Manager  
Environmental, Fire and Safety & Health Branch  
GSA/PBS, Facilities Management and Services Programs Division  
Greater Southwest Region 7  
819 Taylor St, Room 12-B, FW, TX 76102

For assistance with translating, reading, writing or any questions please reach out to one of the GSA staff.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

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The purpose and need for the proposed action is multi-dimensional; to provide new/updated Port infrastructure and facilities to correct deficiencies and bring facilities up to standards and current codes - specifically GSA P100 (*Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service*) and the CBP Land Port of Entry Design Standard.

In order to bring the BOTA LPOE in line with CBP's design standards and operational requirements, action is necessary to satisfy the following overriding needs:

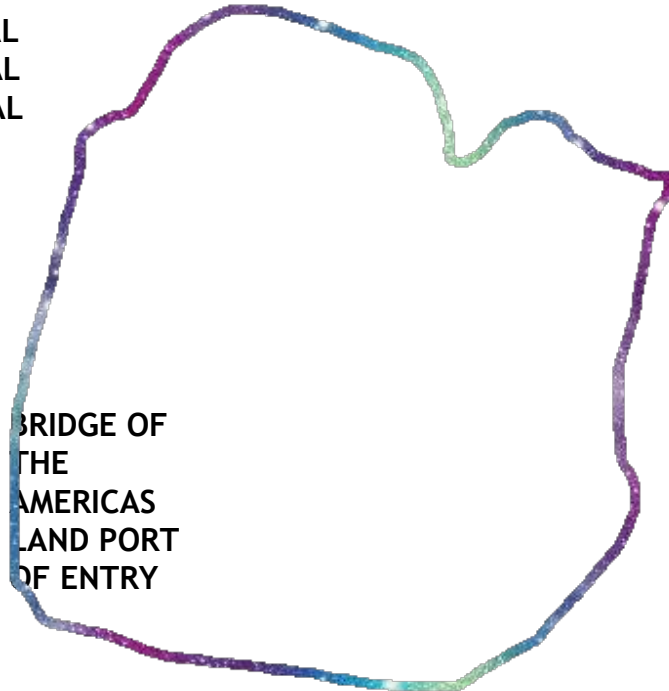
- Improve the capacity and functionality of the LPOE to meet future public demand, while maintaining the capability to meet border security initiatives.
- Ensure the safety and security for the employees and the traveling public.

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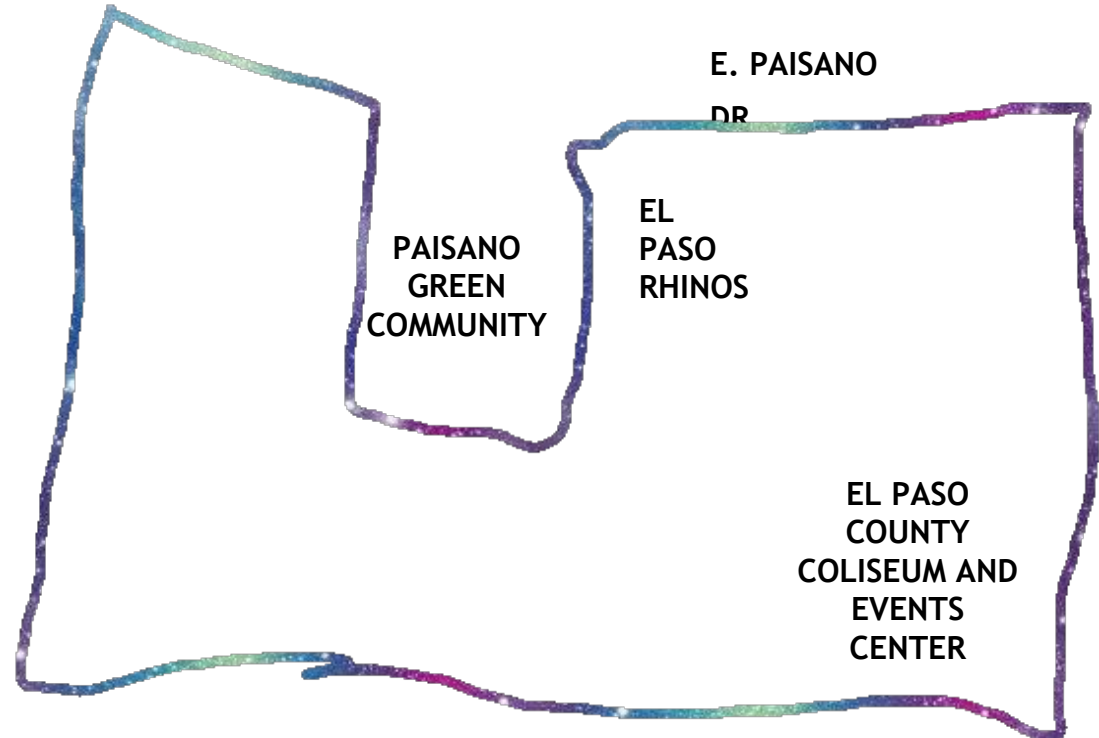
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# ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT

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**As part of initial project planning, the GSA has developed five (5) viable alternatives as potential means of implementing the project.**

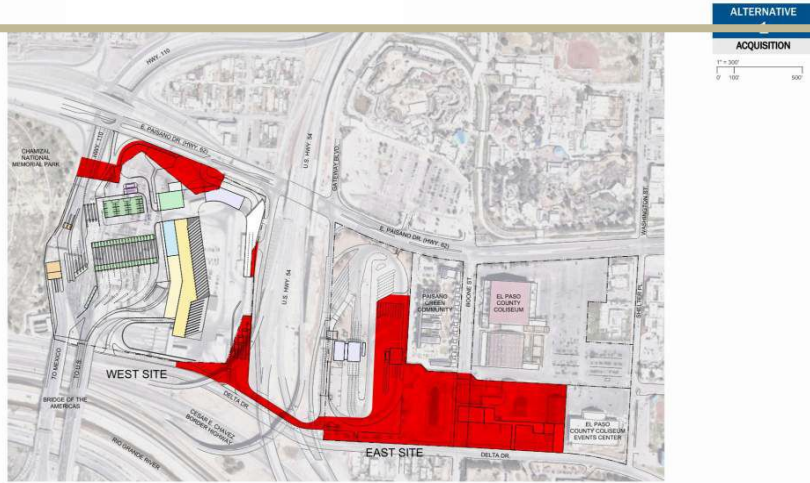
All five alternatives include the phased removal of all existing buildings/structures and infrastructure within the existing LPOE boundaries and construction of new buildings/structures and supporting infrastructure.

All five also include minimal land acquisition in areas immediately adjacent to the port, with some requiring varying degrees of additional land acquisition to the east.

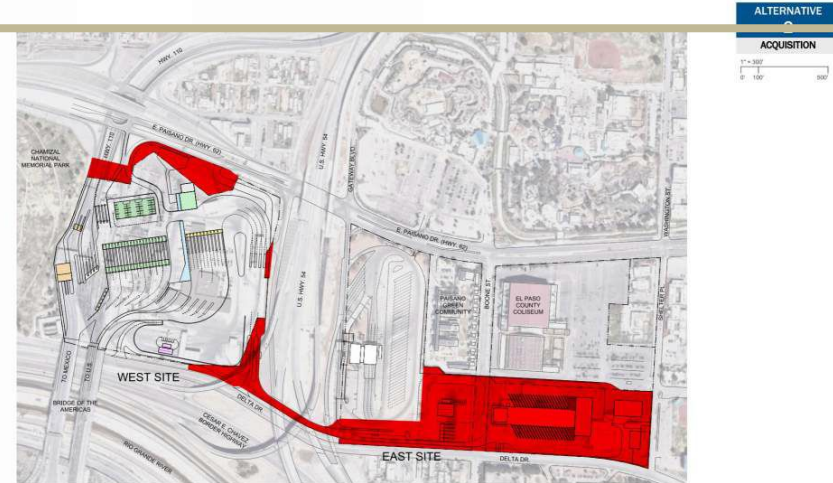
The GSA NEPA process always includes the **NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE** which brings the total number within the EIS document to six.



# ACTION ALTERNATIVES INCLUDED IN THE EIS (What we started with)



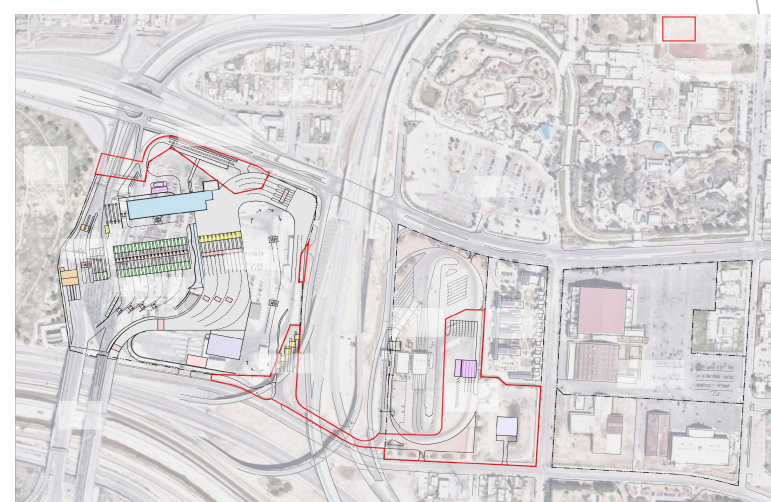
Action Alternative #1



Action Alternative #2



Action Alternative #3



Action Alternative #1A

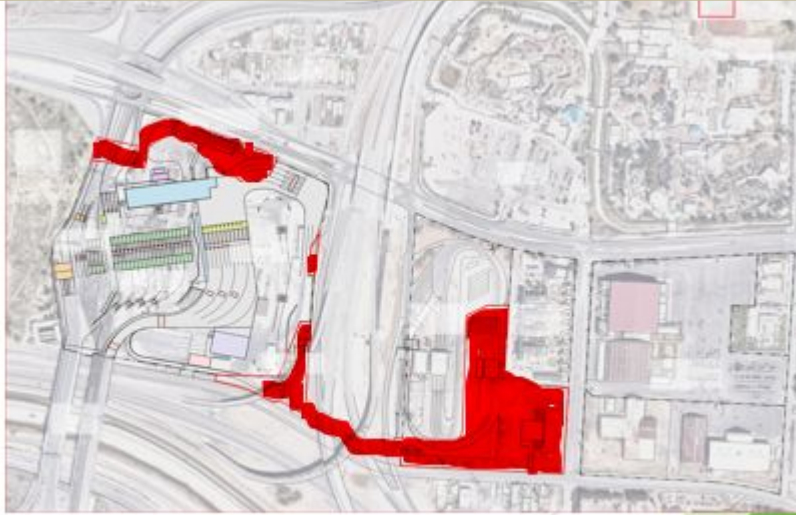




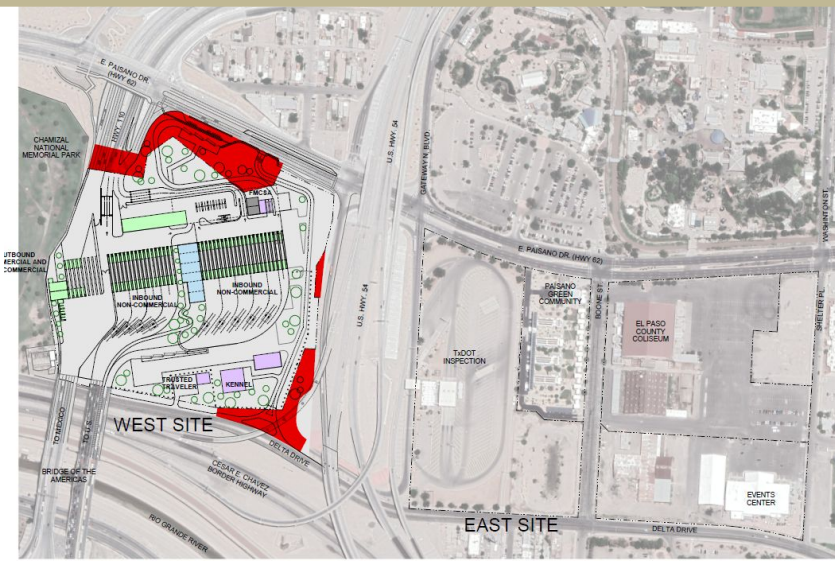
# ALTERNATIVES CARRIED FORWARD FOR DETAILED REVIEW

VIABLE  
ALTERNATIVE 4

LAND ACQUISITION



Action Alternative #1A

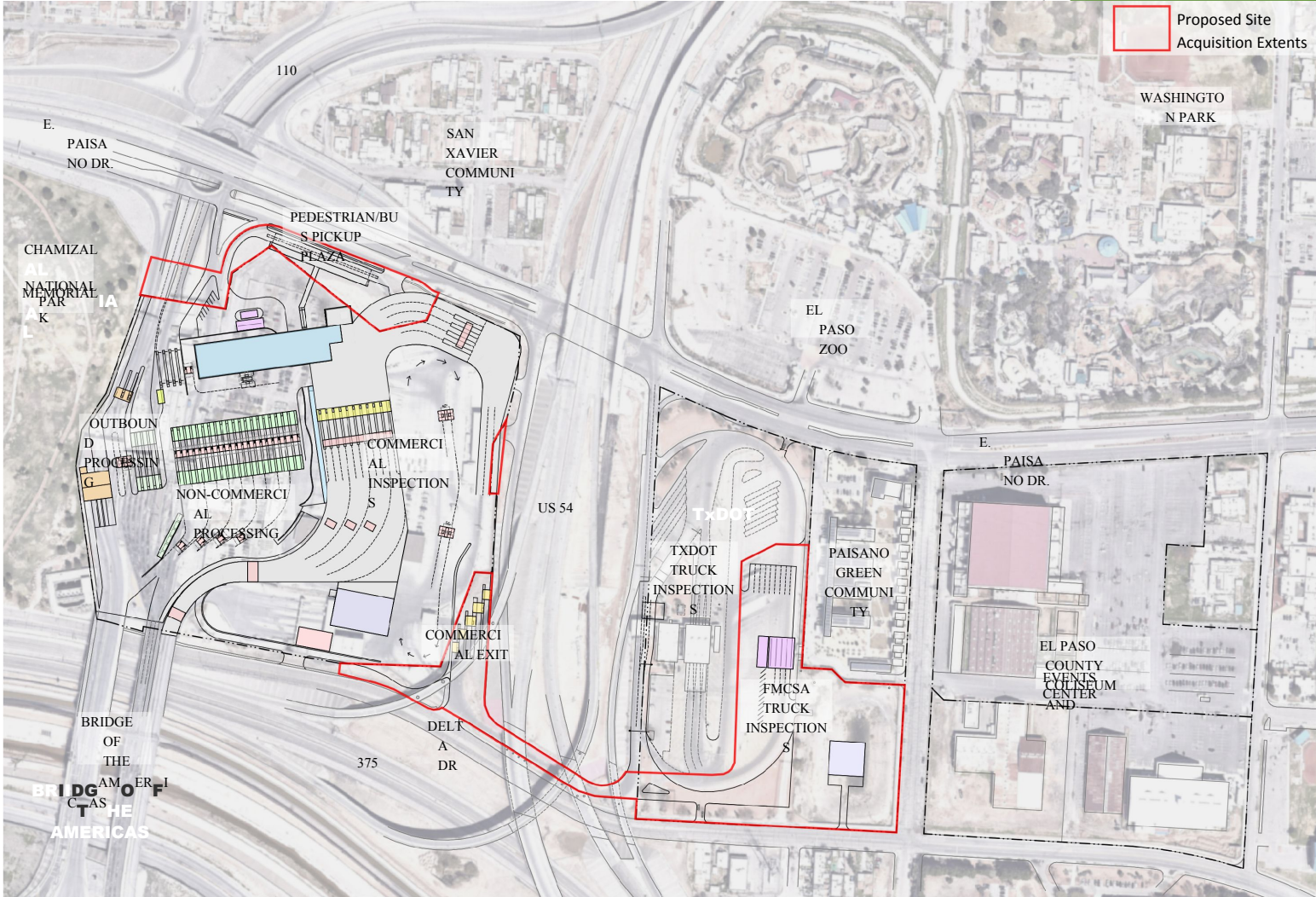
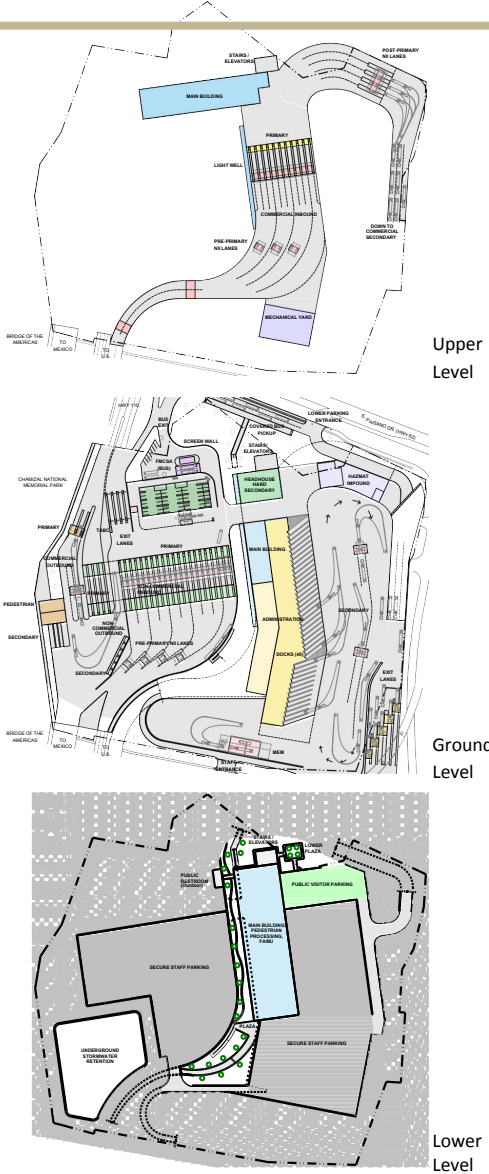


Action Alternative 4

No Action Alternative



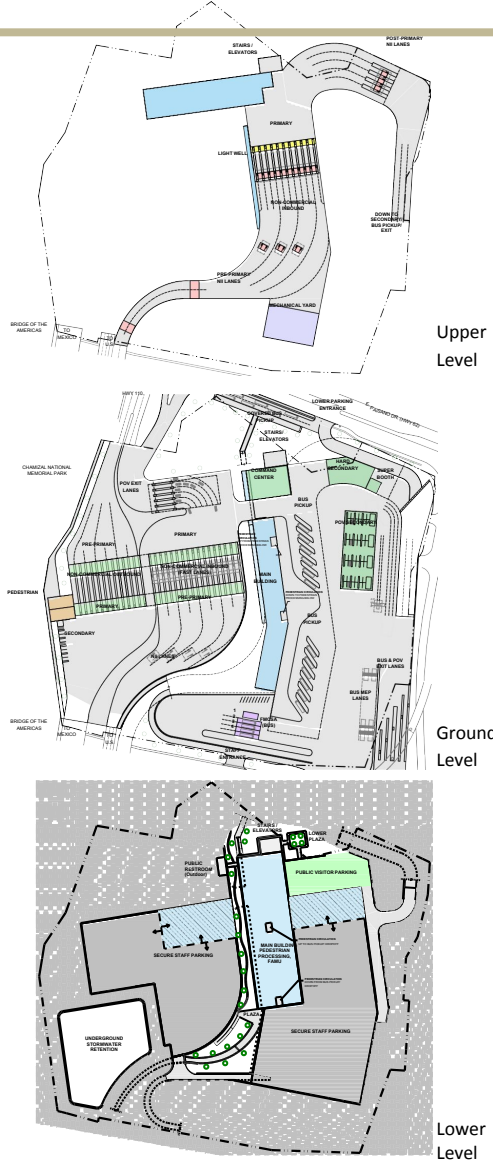
# ACTION ALTERNATIVE 1A: FLEXIBLE WITH HIGH – LOW BOOTHS



Site Plan



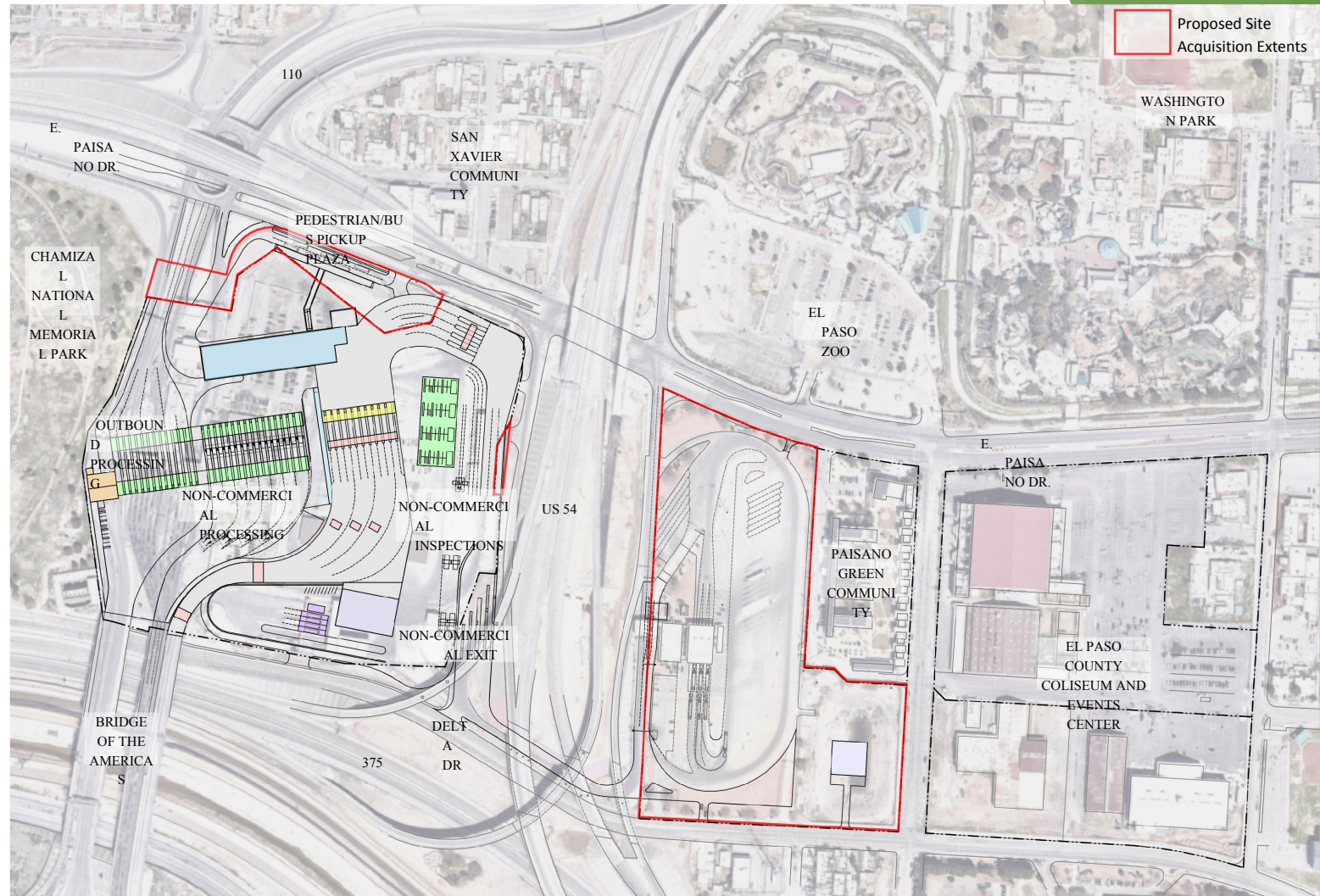
# ACTION ALTERNATIVE 1A: FUTURE NO COMMERCIAL



Upper Level

Ground Level

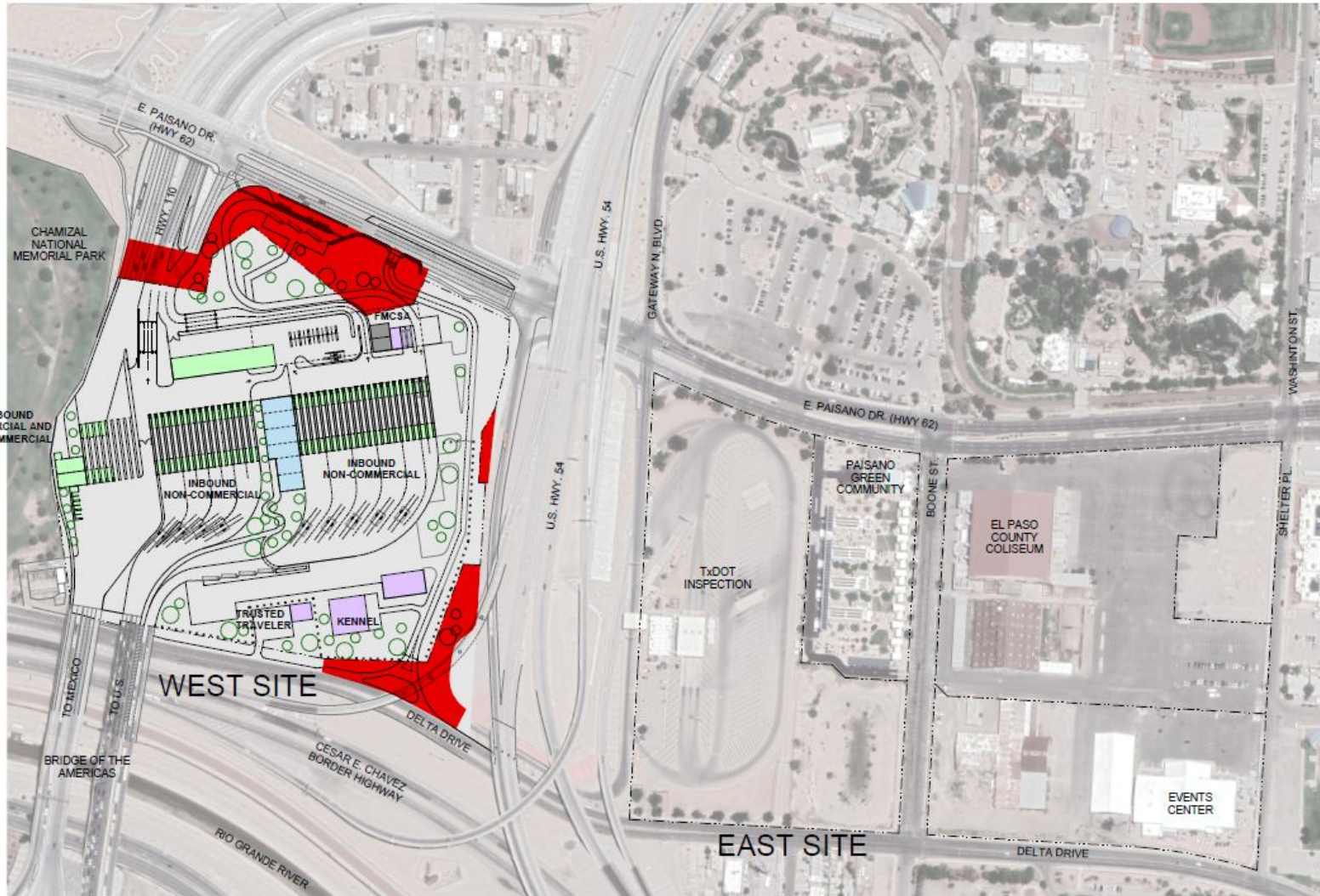
Lower Level



Site Plan



# ACTION ALTERNATIVE 4 – NO COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC



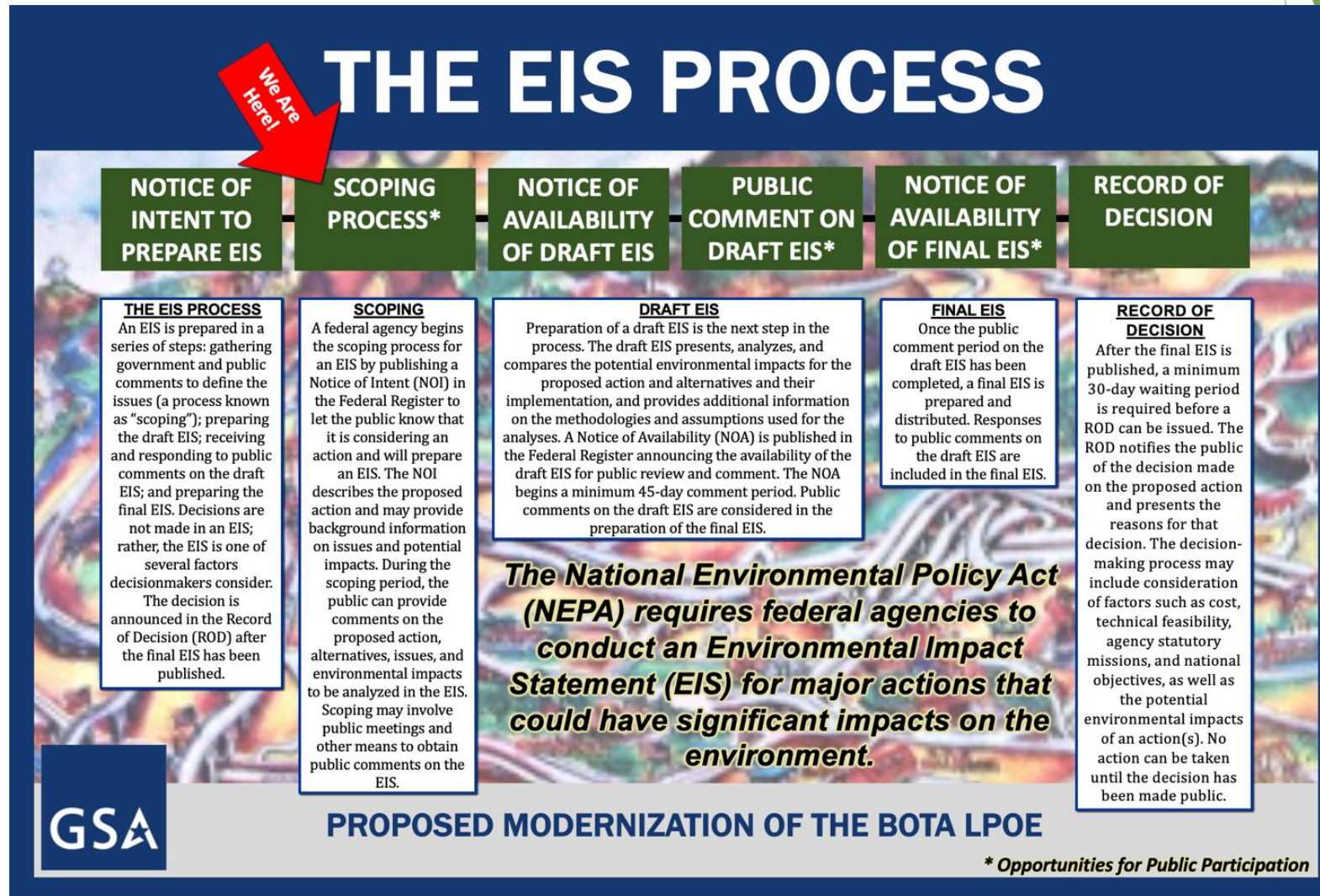
**VIABLE  
ALTERNATIVE 4**  
LAND ACQUISITION

**PROPOSED LAND  
ACQUISITION**





# THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROCESS



The EIS is prepared, and the process conducted in accordance with prevailing GSA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidance and implementation regulations.



## WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE EIS?

The EIS will identify, describe, and analyze the potential effects of the action alternatives developed to implement the proposed action and the no action alternative. This will include direct, indirect, and cumulative effects. At present, GSA has identified the following resources/issues for analysis of both beneficial and adverse potential impacts:

- Hazardous Materials, Waste, and/or Site Contamination
- Socioeconomics (including Environmental Justice)
- Public Services, Infrastructure, and Utilities
- Surface Waters, Drainage, and Floodplains
- Land Use and Zoning (including Visual and Aesthetics)
- Traffic (Vehicular and Pedestrian), Transportation, and Parking
- Air Quality (including Greenhouse Gas Emissions)
- Noise and Vibration
- Cultural and Historic Resources

The EIS will document measures that could potentially avoid, minimize, or mitigate any identified adverse impacts. GSA welcomes public input on these potential impacts and other resources that could be considered.

## PROJECTED PROJECT TIMING

Key anticipated milestones which are subjected to change:

- Second Public Scoping Meeting June 26, 2024 Comment period to follow
- NOI Publication of the Draft EIS to EPA End of August 2024
- NOA of Draft EIS Published in the Federal Register Mid September 2024
- Public Comment Period 45 days (depends on actual publication date) End Oct 24/ Early Nov 24
- Notice of Availability of Final EIS published in the Federal Register End of November 24
- Record of Decision signed by December 31, 2024 30 days after the NOA is published
  
- Site Acquisition – late-2024
- Design Build Two Stage Procurement
  - Stage 1- mid to late 2024
  - Stage 2 early to mid 2025
- Design Completion – early to mid 2028

## COME-AND-GO BREAKOUT STATIONS

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Media contact: Jorge Pineda, Public Affairs Officer, [jorge.pineda@gsa.gov](mailto:jorge.pineda@gsa.gov)

Your participation and input is vital in ensuring the development of a modernized Port that serves the needs of the Government, the Traveling Public, and the Community.

Again, comment sheets have been provided.

Comments and input can also be submitted via mail or email:

Email: [BOTA.NEPAcomments@gsa.gov](mailto:BOTA.NEPAcomments@gsa.gov)

Mail: Karla R. Carmichael

NEPA Program Manager

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