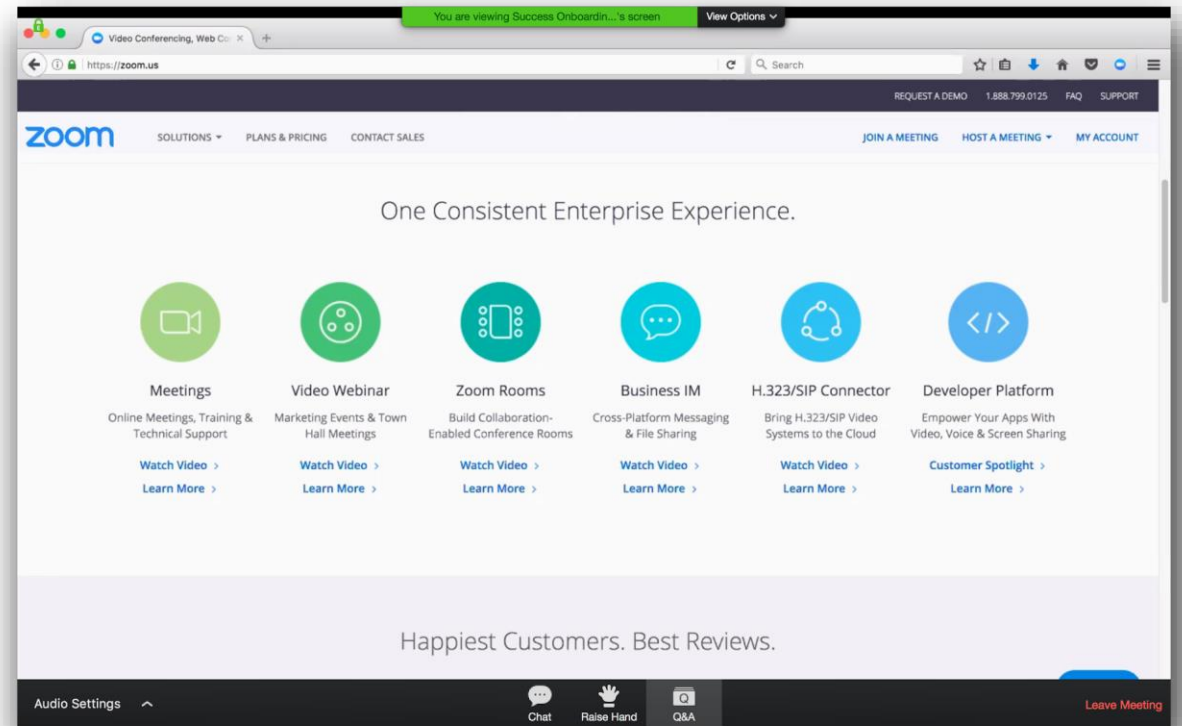


Welcome!

Use the chat box to say hello and tell us your name, your role, and something great!





TEXAS ONCOURSE

**Important updates to the Texas
First Program**

A Few Things...

Webinars



All our webinars are recorded.



The recording is sent out to ALL registrants.



Upcoming webinars and recordings are posted on our webpage.

Professional Learning and Engagement Team



Lara Gueguen
Director of Professional
Learning and Engagement



Andrea Panter
Senior Network
Coordinator



Lauren Discher
Professional Learning
Coordinator



Jared Garza
Network Marketing
Coordinator

Agenda

- Welcome & Overview
- Texas First Program
- District Requirements
- Counselor Role and Resources
- Resource Spotlight
- Q&A

A person with a backpack is hiking on a trail in a mountainous area. The person is seen from behind, wearing a plaid shirt and a large tan backpack. The trail is dirt and leads through a valley with green vegetation and mountains in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in white.

Provide advising professionals with the resources and community they need to deliver exceptional college and career advising to every student.

Overview of Texas First Diploma Program

Texas First Early High School Completion Program



- The Texas First Early High School Completion Program was established by the 87th Texas Legislature.
- The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) adopted rules for the Texas First program that can be found in the [19 Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\), Part 1, Chapter 21](#).
- Student **eligibility requirements** for the program are outlined in [19 TAC, Part 1, §21.52](#).
- The THECB has also adopted rules to implement the Texas First Scholarship Program in [19 TAC, Part 1, Chapter 22, Subchapter T](#).

Minimum Requirements for Texas First Early High School Completion Program

- 22 high school credits
- Final grade point average (GPA) equivalent to 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Earned an overall score in at least the 80th percentile on one or more of the ACT, SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, TSIA/TSIA2, or GED **or** has a GPA in the top 10% of the student's current class
- Completed assessment requirements for STAAR
 - English I or II
 - Algebra I
 - Biology

***Math: 969; ELAR: 958**





Students are also required to have shown **mastery of each of the following subject areas:**

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

Mastery in the subject areas can be shown in the following ways:

- Meeting the STAAR college readiness benchmarks by scoring 4,000 on Algebra II and English III STAAR tests;*
- Credit earned in the core curriculum of an institution of higher education in which the student earned at least a C; or
- Meeting the standards outlined in [Figure 1](#) of the rule.

**No longer being offered, but results are valid up to five (5) years from date of testing*

Minimum Requirements for Texas First Early High School Completion Program

Figure: 19 TAC §21.52(a)(2)(C)

TEXAS FIRST EARLY HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM
Subject Area Assessments and Benchmarks

ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT	ENGLISH SUBJECT AREA	MS	MATH SUBJECT AREA	MS	SCIENCE SUBJECT AREA Biology, Physics, Chemistry, or other science	MS	SOCIAL STUDIES SUBJECT AREA History, Government, Economics, Psychology, or other social studies	MS	LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH SUBJECT AREA World language or Computer Science	MS
SAT	EBRW	480	Math	530	SAT ST	700	SAT ST	690	SAT ST	730
ACT	English	18	Math	22	Science	23	Reading	22	--	--
PSAT/NMSQT	EBRW	460	Math	510	--	--	--	--	--	--
ACT – Plan	English	19	Math	19	Science	20	Reading	18	--	--
AP	English	3	Math	3	AP ST	3	AP ST	3	AP ST	3
CLEP	English	50	Math	50	CLEP ST	50	CLEP ST	50	CLEP ST	50
IB	Language/Literature	4	Math	4	Sciences ST	4	Individuals and Societies ST	4	Language Acquisition ST	4
TSIA	Reading	351 +4E	Math	450	--	--	--	--	--	--
TSIA2	ELAR	945 ± 5E	Math	950	--	--	--	--	--	--
GED	English	165	Math	165	Science	165	Social Studies	165	--	--
FLATS										P (Pass) 101, 102, or 201

Gray Column indicates **minimum score (MS)**

ST = Subject Test

E= Essay

Figure 1 from 19 TAC §21.52(a)(2)(c)



<https://bit.ly/4ct92ix>

Foreign Language Achievement Testing Service (FLATS) Test

- Effective February 15, 2024, students can take the FLATS test to demonstrate mastery for the language other than English (LOTE) requirement.
- The FLATS test is online and administered by Brigham Young University.
- There is a \$10 cost to the test.
- Score reports are sent directly to institution
- <https://info.flats.byu.edu/>

Required Notification



Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, upon a student's initial enrollment in high school, school districts must provide written notification to the student and the student's parent or guardian listing the eligibility criteria for the Texas First Early High School Completion Program and Texas First Scholarship Program.

We're excited to introduce the **TEXAS FIRST PROGRAM**. This prestigious opportunity enables you to graduate early with the Distinguished Level of Achievement AND receive a scholarship for college.

As one of Texas' top students, you may be eligible to accelerate your path to college and receive a scholarship for one or two semesters at any Texas public institution of higher education, including colleges, universities, and technical colleges.



Talk to your counselor today to see if this exciting new opportunity is the right path for you!

For more information, visit [our website](#) or scan the QR code on the left.

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION



THE FINE PRINT:

Here's what you need to be eligible:

- Texas residency
- FAFSA completion
- At least 22 high school credits and a final GPA equivalent to 3.0 or higher
- Additional academic requirements, including college readiness test scores, STAAR exam participation, and demonstration of mastery in various subjects

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website link above includes a detailed list of eligibility requirements.

If you graduate two or more semesters before your class, you'll receive a two-semester scholarship, equivalent to the amount of the TEXAS grant, upon admission to any Texas public institution of higher education, including colleges, universities, and technical colleges. You may also be eligible for additional financial aid at most of these institutions!

The Texas First Diploma does not guarantee automatic admission for students. Ask your counselor if your grade point average at graduation qualifies you for automatic admission under the state's top 10 percent law.

You can apply to any college or university you choose; however, the scholarship will apply only at the Texas public institution of higher education where you have been admitted.

Use it or lose it! The scholarship offer will expire at the end of the first academic year following your graduation, so we encourage you to attend college directly after high school.

NOTE: Before September 1, 2023, the Texas First Scholarship was only applicable at 10 Texas public universities. However, effective September 1, 2023, the number of

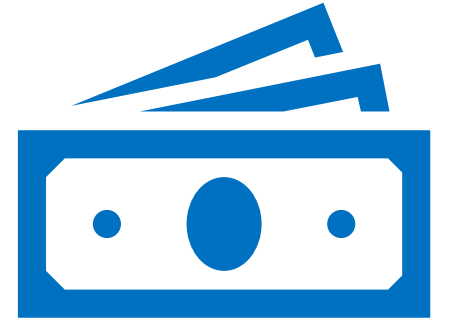
institutions of higher education eligible to award the Texas First Scholarship to eligible Texas First Diploma graduates expanded from 10 universities to all Texas public institutions of higher education, including colleges, universities, and technical colleges (Senate Bill 2294, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session). Please see your high school counselor for information regarding eligibility requirements to graduate early under the Texas First Program and receive a scholarship up to one year upon admission to any eligible Texas public institution of higher education, per Texas Education Code, Section 61.003.



<https://bit.ly/42oTs2S>

Texas First Early High School Completion Program Scholarship

- SB 2294 (88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023) extended the scholarship opportunity from the 10 research institutions in the state to **all Texas public institutions of higher education**, including all public colleges, universities, and technical colleges.
- The scholarship offer will expire at the end of the first academic year after students graduate. Students graduating on the program are encouraged to attend college directly after they graduate.



- Information about the program and scholarship can be found on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) website under *Empowering our Students: [Texas First Program](#)*
- Questions about the scholarship, including what students must do to receive the scholarship, should be directed to the THECB by phone at (888) 311-888 or their [CONTACT US](#) site.



We're excited to introduce the Texas First Program, a program to recognize high-achieving students. Eligible students can graduate early with the Distinguished Level of Achievement and receive a scholarship.

The Texas First Program is designed to keep Texas' best and brightest on a direct track to postsecondary education here in our great state. Texas' top students can accelerate their postsecondary path and earn up to a year in scholarship dollars to attend any Texas public institution of higher education, including colleges, universities, and technical colleges.

Program Details

Students who graduate early and earn a Texas First Diploma receive a scholarship at participating institutions.

Students who graduate two or more semesters before their class receive a two-semester scholarship, equivalent to the amount of the TEXAS grant, to a participating college, university, or technical college. Students who graduate one semester early receive a one-semester scholarship to a participating institution of higher education. Students may also be eligible for additional financial aid at most of these institutions.

The Texas First Diploma does not guarantee automatic admission for students. Students should ask their counselor if their grade point average at graduation qualifies them for automatic admission under the state's top 10 percent law.

Students who graduate early with a Texas First Diploma may apply to any college or university they choose. However, the scholarship will apply only at the Texas public institution of higher education where they have been admitted.

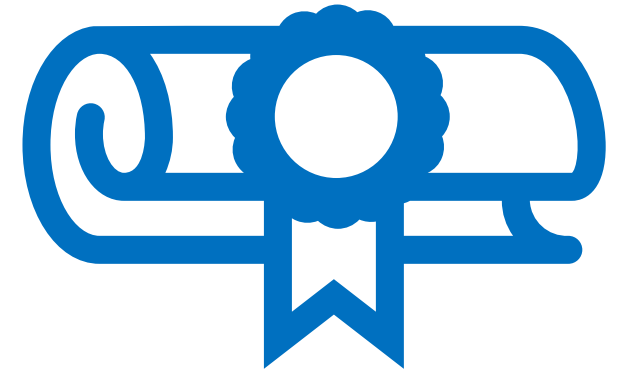
The scholarship offer will expire at the end of the first academic year following a student's graduation, so students are encouraged to attend college directly after high school.

Student Eligibility

Eligible students must demonstrate college readiness in academics and attitude. Eligibility requirements include the following:

- Texas residency
- FAFSA or TASFA completion
- At least 22 high school credits
- Final GPA equivalent to 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Overall score in at least the 80th percentile on one or more of the following assessments: ACT, SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, TSIA/TSIA2, or GED; or, alternatively, a GPA in the top 10 percent of the

- A student who earns a diploma by satisfying the requirements of the Texas First Early High School Completion Program must have successful completion of the program indicated on the transcript.
- Students who graduate early through the Texas First Early High School Completion Program are considered to have earned a diploma with a **distinguished level of achievement**.
- School districts are also required to indicate completion of the distinguished level of achievement on a student's high school transcript.





Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS)

A data element (E1736) was added to the Texas Student Data Standards (TSDS) for PEIMS to report students who graduate by completing the Texas First Early High School Completion Program.

Element ID	Data Element	Date Issued	Date Updated	
E1736	TEXAS-FIRST-EARLY-HS-COMPLETION-PROGRAM	12/1/2022		
XML Name				
TX-TexasFirstEarlyHSCompletionProgram				
Definition				
The TEXAS-FIRST-EARLY-HS-COMPLETION-PROGRAM indicates the student graduated early under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program and specifies whether the student graduated two or more semesters or less than two semesters or the equivalent earlier than the expected graduation date of the student's high school cohort.				
Special Instructions				
Code Table ID	Length	Data Type	Pattern	Domain of Values
C233	2	Coded	##	
Used in Complex Types				
StudentGraduationProgramExtension				

The PEIMS data element is reported on the graduate record in Submission 1/Fall.



The code table associated with the data element in TSDS PEIMS (Code Table 233 or C233) identifies whether the students graduated **less than two semesters early** (01) or **two or more semesters early** (02).

Code Table Id	Name	XML Name	Date Issued
C233	TEXAS-FIRST-EARLY-HS-COMPLETION-PROGRAM	TX-TexasFirstEarlyHSCompletionProgram	12/01/2022
Code	Translation		
01	Student Graduated Two Or More Semesters Early		
02	Student Graduated Less Than Two Semesters Early		

Additionally, a new graduation code “40” was added to the graduation type codes in Code Table 62 (C062) in PEIMS.



The following code will apply only to students who graduate by completing the Texas First Early High School Completion Program under Title 19, Part 1, TAC Chapter 21, Subchapter D.

40

Texas First Early High School Completion Program

TAC Chapter 21.52, adopted to be effective August 21, 2022, [47 TexReg 4850]



Texas Records Exchange (TREx) System

A data element (TE148) was added to the TREx system to indicate the completion of the Texas Early High School Completion program on the high school transcript.

Common Name	XML Name	Complex Type	Date Issued	Date Updated
TEXAS-FIRST-EARLY-HS-GRADUATE	TexasFirstEarlyHSG raduate	AcademicStatus Type	9/1/2023	
Definition				
TEXAS-FIRST-EARLY-HS-GRADUATE indicates the student graduated early under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program.				
Special Instructions				
Data Specifications				
Element ID	Code Table ID	Required?	Domain of Values	
TE148 (PEIMS: E1736)	TC16 (PEIMS: C233)	No	0, 1	
Applicable Record	Length	Type	Pattern	
AAR – Transcript	1	Coded	#	

Beginning with 2023-2024 graduates, districts will use new data elements to report graduates who earned the distinguished level of achievement (DISTING-LEVEL-ACHIEVEMENT-GRADUATE).

Districts will use the same data element in PEIMS and TREx to identify **all graduates** who earn the distinguished level of achievement, including graduates who complete the Texas First Early High School Completion Program.

Common Name	XML Name	Complex Type	Data Issued	Date Uploaded
DISTING-LEVEL-ACHIEVEMENT-GRADUATE	DistingLevelAchievementGraduate	Academic Status	7/1/2024	
Definition				
DISTING-LEVEL-ACHIEVEMENT-GRADUATE indicates the student has successfully completed the distinguished level of achievement as provided by TEC §28.025 or TEC §28.0253				

Recommended Steps to Texas First Diploma (TFD) Early Graduation

- 1) Counselor identifies interested students
- 2) Counselor reviews student's record to verify eligibility and/or provide guidance for student to meet eligibility
- 3) Counselor and student review admissions requirements for institution(s) where the student is interested in attending, including special requirements for early high school graduates (if any)
- 4) Student contacts early graduation admissions advisor at the institution(s) where the student plans to attend for additional admissions guidance
- 5) Student completes and submits ApplyTX admissions application or follows other instructions provided by the admissions advisor (e.g., special admissions application or process)
- 6) Student completes and submits FAFSA or TASFA



Steps to Texas First Diploma Verification

- Counselor or school district administrator completes and submits the Verification Form **after** the student has graduated with the TFD
- Form easily accessible within the Texas OnCourse Academy:
 - Scholarship Application Texas OnCourse module
 - High School Graduation Plan Texas OnCourse module
- ISD reporting official uses TFD PEIMS codes to report TFD graduation



1. Student receives Texas First Program Scholarship Certificate via email at the email address reported by the counselor on the Verification Form (check junk folders!)
2. Student contacts the financial aid office at the institution where the student is or will be enrolled to submit the Scholarship Certificate and other requested information needed to secure the scholarship award from the institution
3. The institution's financial aid office will provide additional steps and further guidance for the scholarship award



Texas First Scholarship Amounts

- The amount of state credit offered to the student is contingent on the number of semesters the student graduates early and the maximum annual (two semester) Toward Excellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant award amount for the applicable academic year, which is determined by the THECB.
- For example: A student could receive up to \$10,774 if the student graduated two or more semesters early in Dec 2024.

Texas First Scholarship Amounts

- Upon enrollment of an eligible Texas First Early High School graduate, the institution must apply a state credit to the student's charges that is equal to the lesser of:
 - the amount of the state credit available to the student; or
 - the student's actual tuition, mandatory fees, and other costs of attendance at the institution

- Texas First Diploma –
 - Suzanne Morales-Vale, PhD
 - Suzanne.morales-vale@highered.Texas.gov
 - 512.427.6262
- Texas First Scholarship –
 - Troyling Johnson
 - Troyling.johnson@highered.Texas.gov
 - 512.427.6461





Resource Spotlight

Texas OnCourse Academy

Scholarship Applications Module

Texas First Program content:

- Diploma requirements
- Scholarship requirements
- Eligibility confirmation form
- Additional practice

The screenshot displays the 'Dashboard' interface of the Texas OnCourse Academy. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with icons for 'Academy', 'Account', 'Dashboard', 'Courses', 'History', 'Search', and 'Help'. The main content area is a grid of nine modules. The 'Scholarship Application Process' module, located in the second row, first column, is highlighted with a red border. Other modules include 'Guide to the new Academy', 'Module Directory', 'Financial Aid Application Process', 'College Cost', 'Financial Aid: Foundational Knowledge', 'Admission and Application Process', 'Entrance and Placement Exams', and 'Postsecondary Pathways: Foundational Knowledge'.

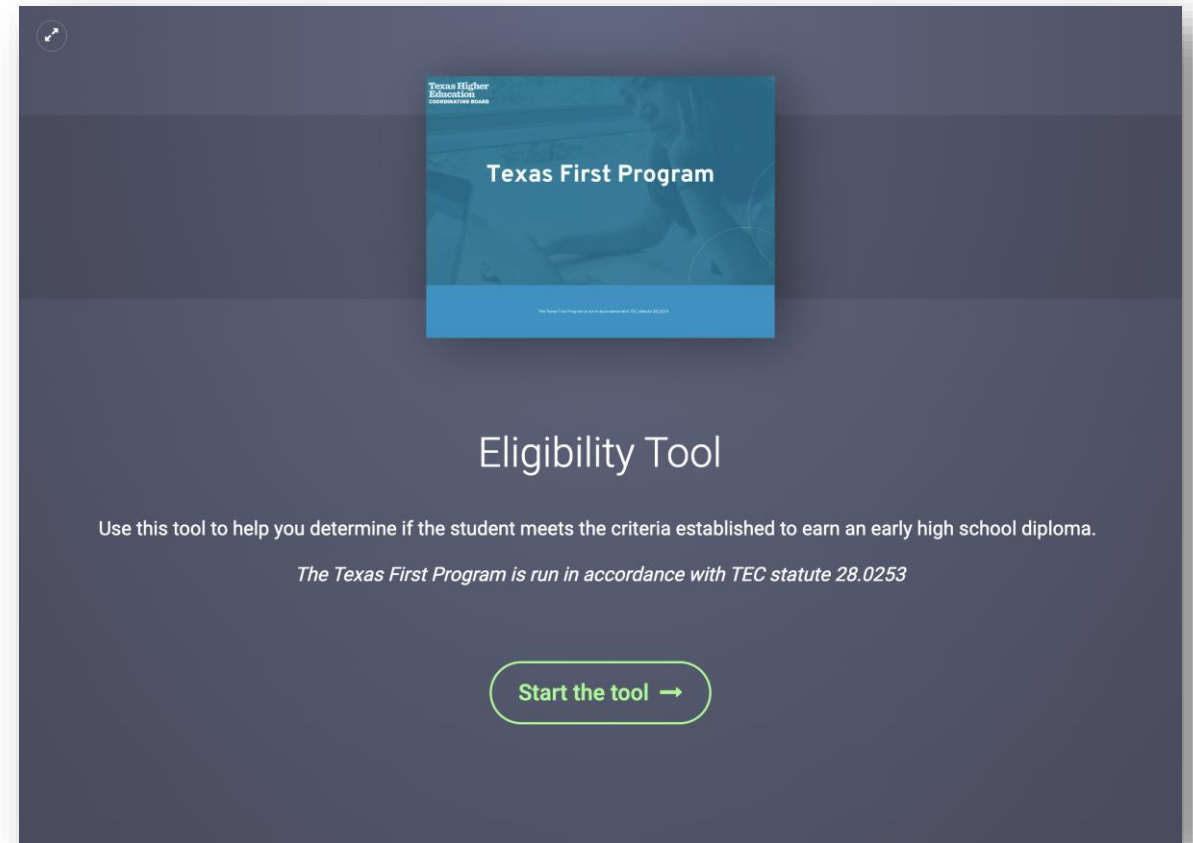
Module Title	Sub-Title
Guide to the new Academy	Getting Started
Module Directory	Module Directory
Financial Aid	Financial Aid Application Process
Financial Aid	Scholarship Application Process
Financial Aid	College Cost
Financial Aid	Financial Aid: Foundational Knowledge
Postsecondary Pathways	Admission and Application Process
Postsecondary Pathways	Entrance and Placement Exams
Postsecondary Pathways	Postsecondary Pathways: Foundational Knowledge

Texas OnCourse Academy

Texas First Program Eligibility Tool

Additional practice within the module:

- Practice verifying if your students meet all eligibility requirements



Important Updates to the Texas First Program
March 27, 2024

Texas OnCourse Resources	
Texas OnCourse Website	Texas OnCourse
Texas OnCourse Academy	Academy
Texas OnCourse on YouTube	Texas OnCourse YouTube
Sign up for monthly Professional Learning Sessions and Coffee Chats!	Professional Learning Sessions
Check out all our upcoming Professional Learning Sessions!	Professional Learning Series Document

Texas First Diploma Program
Texas First Diploma website
Foreign Language Achievement Testing Service (FLATS) Website
Texas First Diploma Eligibility confirmation form 2023-2024
Texas First Diploma Texas Administrative Code
Texas First High School Completion program webinar on YouTube with TEA and THECB
Texas First Program flyer for parents and students
There are two Texas OnCourse Academy modules with more details about the Texas First Program: Scholarship Applications module and High School Graduation Plan module
Texas First Program subject area assessments and benchmarks chart



A long, straight asphalt road stretches into the distance through a desert landscape. The road has a dashed yellow center line and solid yellow edge lines. The surrounding terrain is arid with sparse, low-lying vegetation. In the background, there are several mountain peaks, some with snow or light-colored rock. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Questions and Comments

**We appreciate
your feedback!**

