

Rio Grande Valley
 **Partnership**
Regional Chamber of Commerce
“One Region, One Voice”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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McALLEN -- Dozens of Texas Legislators, legislative staffers, Valley leaders and others took part in the 20th Rio Grande Valley Partnership Legislative Tour on Thursday, January 22nd to Sunday, January 25th getting briefings on the priorities and issues that impact the region.

The 3-day Legislative Tour took place primarily in Hidalgo County. The Legislative group, which were from all parts of Texas, visited the Paramount Citrus farms to learn about greening, the Pharr International Bridge to see the inspection process first hand, the Royal manufacturing facility in Mission, Doctor's Hospital at Renaissance and other locations.

The tour is held every other year, during the state legislative session, in order to bring lawmakers to the Rio Grande Valley and allow them to see a region many of them do not normally visit and learn about the region's issues first hand. The hope is that they use the new-found knowledge to make informed decisions about the RGV. The legislative leaders and staffers also heard directly from McAllen Mayor Jim Darling, independent insurance agents of the RGV and key business and issue leaders and also took a tour of the Border Patrol's facilities in McAllen.

The meeting got a huge boost when newly sworn in Governor Greg Abbott made his first trip while in office to the Rio Grande Valley to be part of the Legislative Tour. Governor Abbott gave the opening remarks for the tour at DHR and also announced a \$2.8 million grant from the United Health Foundation to the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Medical School. The group was also able to hear from key health professionals and UTRGV leaders.

The 50-person group was also treated to several dinners and lunches while attending the briefings. And while the RGV Partnership takes the lead on planning the tour, it cannot happen without it's sponsors such as Doctor's Hospital at Renaissance, Walmart, City of McAllen, Mission EDC, AEP Texas, City of Harlingen, AT&T, and many more.