



125 EAST 11TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 | 512.463.8588 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

December 13, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing to reaffirm the Texas Department of Transportation's support of and commitment to the I-35/I-69W International Freight Gateway FASTLANE project submittal. TxDOT is a co-applicant with the City of Laredo and will partner with the City and the Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority on funding and building the projects.

The I-35/I-69W International Freight Gateway, also referred to as the "Laredo Bundle", includes two critical projects that will facilitate the movement of freight and passenger vehicles. The Laredo Bundle will improve connectivity between major transportation corridors near the most heavily used inland port along the US/Mexico border: the international crossing at Laredo. The projects will also improve the economic, safety, community and environmental outcomes of the Laredo region by supporting careers in trade and transportation, ensuring good-paying jobs stay in the area, reducing crash rates and improving air quality.

By partnering in this joint application, TxDOT, the City of Laredo and the Regional Mobility Authority have indicated our strong support for these projects. Thank you for your consideration of the I-35/I-69W International Freight Gateway for the FY2017 FASTLANE grant program.

Sincerely,

James M. Bass
Executive Director

OUR VALUES: *People • Accountability • Trust • Honesty*

OUR MISSION: *Through collaboration and leadership, we deliver a safe, reliable, and integrated transportation system that enables the movement of people and goods.*

An Equal Opportunity Employer

HENRY CUELLAR, PH.D. U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 12, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I would like to express my support for the City of Laredo's and the Texas Department of Transportation's FASTLANE application for the Laredo I-35 & I-69W Improvements project. A project that will foster employment and economic growth and alleviate congestion on the Primary Highway Freight System on I-35 as well as major highways U.S. 59 and I-69W.

The State of Texas was responsible for over \$631 billion in total trade in 2015, making Texas the nation's largest exporter and the world's 10th largest economy. Of the total trade through Texas' ports of entry, 32 percent or approximately \$204 billion was attributed to the Laredo border crossing.

Nationally, Laredo is the largest inland port in the nation, and the 3rd largest US Customs District, second only to Los Angeles and New York, and processing over \$284.33 billion in total trade in 2015. The Port of Laredo accounts for 66% of all U.S.-Mexico trade. Within the Port of Laredo, the World Trade Bridge, handles 86% of that trade. The area's growth rate over the past few years has been more than double Texas's growth rate, as trade with Mexico continues growing at approximately six percent each year. The World Trade Bridge continues to function as the preferred port of entry despite congestion issues. The port of entry processes 14,000+ daily commercial truck crossings, numbers that are estimated to double by 2040.

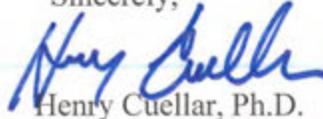
City of Laredo and TXDOT seeks to address these needs by constructing U.S. 59 main lanes over I-35 and a freight railroad crossing, completing the U.S. 59/I-35 interchange with direct connectors, and increasing capacity on the I-69W Loop to and from the World Trade Bridge international border crossing to I-35. These improvements will reduce freight travel times, resulting in shipper savings and reduced emissions, and improve safety by upgrading to current interstate standards, reducing intersection traffic by construction direct connectors and alleviating freight bottlenecks.

The state and national impact of this project cannot be understated, the Texas Comptroller estimates the net benefit of trade to the State of Texas associated with the Laredo

port of entry is a contribution of 363,000 net jobs to Texas and a minimum of \$52 billion gross domestic product (GDP) benefit to the Texas economy. Furthermore a Texas Department of Transportation's 2016 time series analysis on the Truck-Freight Flow from Laredo Texas - Mexico Border to the rest of the United State revealed that in one week trucks originating in Laredo, TX traveled to every state in the contiguous United States.

I fully support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the Laredo I-35 & I-69W Improvements project for the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry Cuellar".

Henry Cuellar, Ph.D.
U.S. Congressman
28th District of Texas

HC: js

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

December 13, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

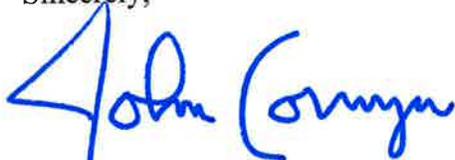
I am writing to express my support for the FASTLANE application for the Laredo I-35 and I-69 Improvements submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

As you and your staff review the proposal, I trust you will give full consideration to the many strengths of this application. As you may know, the Port of Laredo is the busiest inland port in the nation and accounts for 35% of all U.S.-Mexico trade. The roadways and commercial/industrial areas that connect and serve Laredo's four ports of entry act as the backbone of commerce for the region and the nation, particularly as it relates to North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) traffic. Given the continued traffic growth for both commercial and non-commercial vehicles, infrastructure improvements are required to meet increasing demand, expedite system linkages for drivers, local ports and industries; improve mobility; enhance safety; and provide infrastructure to support projected growth in population and cross border trade. This grant, if awarded, would enable TxDOT to construct new mainlanes over I-35 and a freight railroad crossing, completing the U.S. 59/I-35 interchange with direct connectors, increasing capacity on the I-69W Loop to and from the World Trade Bridge international border crossing to I-35, and alleviating congestion and fostering trade transportation growth along the Primary Highway Freight System, of which I-35 is a key element.

I would appreciate your efforts to ensure that I am kept informed of the progress of this application. Please contact Andrea McGee (Andrea_McGee@cornyn.senate.gov), my Grants Coordinator, with any developments regarding this proposal as soon as they are available.

Thank you for your assistance and consideration.

Sincerely,



JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator



Tracy O. King
State Representative

December 7, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Laredo's FASTLANE application for the Laredo I-35 & I-69W Improvements project. The project includes constructing U.S. 59 main lanes over I-35 and a freight railroad crossing, completing the U.S. 59/I-35 interchange with direct connectors, and increasing capacity on the I-69W Loop to and from the World Trade Bridge international border crossing to I-35.

Nationally, Laredo is the busiest inland port along the U.S.-Mexico border, facilitating \$284 Billion in total trade in 2015. The Port of Laredo accounts for 35% of all U.S.-Mexico trade. Within the Port of Laredo, the World Trade Bridge handles 86% of the Port's truck freight and is planned to be expanded in the future to add even more capacity.

Regionally, border trade and transportation are the backbone of the community's commerce and growth. The regional growth rate over the past few years has been more than double Texas's growth rate, and the region is anticipated to increase in population by more than 50% by 2040. Fostering freight growth would provide opportunities to reduce Webb County's unemployment rate, which is higher than Texas and national averages, through the creation of ancillary jobs for truck drivers, warehouse workers, and many others.

The project would also improve freight travel times, thereby resulting in shipper savings and reduced emissions, and improve safety by upgrading to current interstate standards, reducing intersection traffic by construction direct connectors and alleviating freight bottlenecks. The project would have a multitude of traffic benefits that would be implemented with minimal environmental impacts as documented in the approved Categorical Exclusion documents.

I respectfully request your full support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the Laredo I-35 & I-69W Improvements project for the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy O. King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Tracy O. King

Chair, Eagle Ford Shale
Legislative Caucus
Texas Judicial Council
Vice Chair, Agriculture, Water,
and Rural Affairs



Judith Zaffirini
State Senator, District 21
President Pro Tempore, 1997

Committees
Health and Human Services
Natural Resources
and Economic Development
State Affairs

December 2, 2016

The Honorable
Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to support the City of Laredo's FASTLANE application for the Laredo I-35 and I-69W Improvements project. The project includes constructing U.S. 59 mainlanes over I-35 and a freight railroad crossing, completing the U.S. 59/I-35 interchange with direct connectors, and increasing capacity on the I-69W Loop to and from the World Trade Bridge international border crossing to I-35. These improvements would alleviate congestion and foster trade transportation growth along the Primary Highway Freight System, of which I-35 is a key element.

Nationally, Laredo is the busiest inland port along the U.S.-Mexico border, facilitating \$284 billion in total trade in 2015. The Port of Laredo accounts for 35 percent of all U.S.-Mexico trade. The World Trade Bridge, which is an international gateway to this port, handles 86 percent of the port's truck freight and is planned to be expanded to add even more capacity. Once that expansion occurs, current freight infrastructure challenges within this area will worsen if improvements are not made to the highway system.

Regionally, border trade and transportation are the backbone of the community's commerce and growth. The regional growth rate during the last few years has been more than double Texas' growth rate, and the region's population is anticipated to increase more than 50 percent by 2040. Fostering freight growth also would provide opportunities to reduce Webb County's unemployment rate, which is higher than the Texas and national averages, through the creation of ancillary jobs for truck drivers, warehouse workers, and many others.

This project would have substantial national and regional impacts by fostering employment and economic growth, alleviating congestion, improving freight travel times, thereby resulting in shipper savings and reduced emissions, and increasing safety by upgrading to current interstate standards and alleviating freight bottlenecks. What's more, the proposed plan would create a multitude of traffic benefits that would be implemented with minimal environmental impacts as documented in the approved Categorical Exclusion documents.

Because this project is critically important to regional and national trade and economic development, I support the City of Laredo's application for the FASTLANE program and urge you to consider it favorably. My prayer is that the Lord will bless you and inspire you to agree with my perspective.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Zaffirini".

Judith Zaffirini

JZ/sg



**WEBB COUNTY–CITY OF LAREDO
REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY**

7917 McPherson Road, Suite 203
Laredo, Texas 78045
956-723-9841

November 30, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority would like to express our support for the City of Laredo's FASTLANE application for the Laredo Bundle: I-35/I-69W International Freight Gateway project. The project includes constructing U.S. 59 main lanes over I-35 and a freight railroad crossing, completing the U.S. 59/I-35 interchange with direct connectors, and increasing capacity on the I-69W Loop to and from the World Trade Bridge international border crossing to I-35. This project will alleviate congestion and foster trade transportation growth along the Primary Highway Freight System, of which I-35 is a key element.

Nationally, Laredo is the busiest inland port along the U.S.-Mexico border, facilitating \$284 Billion in total trade in 2015. The Port of Laredo accounts for 35% of all U.S.-Mexico trade. Within the Port of Laredo, the World Trade Bridge, which is the international gateway to this project, handles 86% of the Port's truck freight and is planned to be expanded in the future to add even more capacity. Current freight infrastructure challenges within this area will worsen once that expansion occurs if improvements are not made to the highway system.

Regionally, border trade and transportation are the backbone of the community's commerce and growth. The regional growth rate over the past few years has been more than double Texas's growth rate, and the region is anticipated to increase in population by more than 50% by 2040. Fostering freight growth would provide opportunities to reduce Webb County's unemployment

rate, which is higher than Texas and national averages, through the creation of ancillary jobs for truck drivers, warehouse workers, and many others.

This project would have national and regional impact by fostering employment and economic growth and alleviating congestion on the Primary Highway Freight System on I-35 as well as major highways U.S. 59 and I-69W. The project would also improve freight travel times, thereby resulting in shipper savings and reduced emissions, and improve safety by upgrading to current interstate standards, reducing intersection traffic by construction direct connectors and alleviating freight bottlenecks. The project would have a multitude of traffic benefits that would be implemented with minimal environmental impacts as documented in the approved Categorical Exclusion documents.

The Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority emphasize our support of this regionally and nationally important project, and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the Laredo Bundle: I-35/I-69W International Freight Gateway project for the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruben Soto Jr." in a cursive script.

Ruben Soto, Jr.
Presiding Officer

email:

Mayor Pete Saenz
County Judge Tano Tijerina
Congressman Henry Cuellar
State Senator Judith Zaffirini
State Representative Richard Raymond
State Representative Tracy King
City of Laredo Manager Jesus Olivarez
TxDOT Laredo District Engineer Pete Alvarez
TxDOT Laredo District Administrator Melisa Montemayor
City Planning Director Nathan Bratton

MPO RESOLUTION 2016-14

Laredo Urban Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee

SUPPORTING A JOINT CITY OF LAREDO, COUNTY OF WEBB, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT), AND THE WEBB COUNTY-CITY OF LAREDO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY FASTLANE APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Laredo Urban Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (hereinafter referred to as the “Laredo MPO”) is charged with coordinating and programming funding for on and off system road projects; and

WHEREAS, Laredo plays an important role in facilitating trade between Texas and the United States and Mexico and Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, the border is an economic engine that the state and nation rely on; and

WHEREAS, Laredo’s total trade, total exports and total imports, grew more than any other U.S. Customs District in 2015; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that Laredo’s trade numbers will continue to grow; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo’s four international bridges account for \$199,144,135,540 of the \$280 billion dollars in trade flowing through the Laredo Customs District and 66% of all commercial trucks crossing between Mexico and the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Laredo Custom’s District is 3rd in the nation surpassed only by Los Angeles and New York; and

WHEREAS, an average of 14,000 commercial vehicles cross Laredo’s International Bridge system daily; and

WHEREAS, the large volume of traffic passing over Laredo’s International Bridges places a tremendous strain on the area’s transportation infrastructure making it imperative that the infrastructure around this port and remain in peak condition to ensure our economy keeps moving forward; and

WHEREAS, using current anticipated funding, both state and federal, the majority of these projects will not be built for decades; and

WHEREAS, given the importance of Laredo as an economic conduit for the State of Texas and the nation additional funding is warranted; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo, County of Webb, and TxDOT/Webb County-Laredo Regional Mobility have developed a joint FASTLANE Grant application composed of projects which will address Laredo's commercial mobility issues and which is supported by the Laredo MPO.

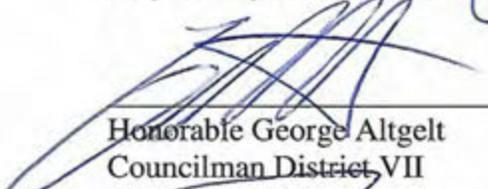
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAREDO MPO THAT:

- Section 1: The Laredo MPO Policy Committee strongly supports the joint FASTLANE Grant Application submitted by the City of Laredo, County of Webb, TxDOT and the Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority.
- Section 2: The projects submitted in the grant application will alleviate many of the mobility problems plaguing the Laredo Metropolitan area.
- Section 3: This resolution be sent to the Honorable Henry Cuellar, U.S. Representative, District 28, and to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Policy Committee Members:



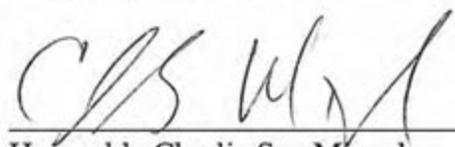
Honorable Pete Saenz Honorable
Mayor, City of Laredo and Chairperson



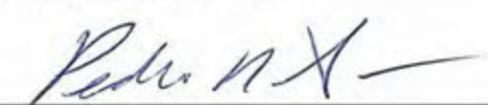
Honorable George Altgelt
Councilman District VII



Honorable Roberto Balli
Councilman District VIII



Honorable Charlie San Miguel
Councilman District VI

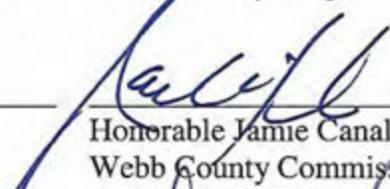


Pete Alvarez, P.E.,
Laredo District Engineer, TxDOT

Policy Committee Members:



Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge and Vice- Chairperson



Honorable Jamie Canales
Webb County Commissioner Precinct 4



Honorable John Galo
Webb County Commissioner Precinct 3



Melissa Montemayor
Laredo District Administrator, TxDOT



December 7, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Please accept this as a letter of support for the City of Laredo's FASTLANE application currently under consideration by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Located on the southernmost end of I-35 and with direct connection to Mexico's highway 85, Laredo is unequivocally the most important commercial point of crossing on the U.S-Mexico border. In 2015 alone, the Port of Laredo processed \$284 Billion in total trade, which represents 35% of all U.S.-Mexico trade. It is important to note that the larger percentage of goods crossing through this port did so overland, and, of these, the majority crossed by truck over Laredo's World Trade Bridge – which crossed an average of 14,000 trucks per day (both southbound and northbound). Given the rate of growth in trade over the last decade, it is estimated that the World Trade Bridge, which currently handles 86% of the Port's truck freight, will soon maximize capacity. In anticipation of this, plans have been formulated to expand the bridge's capacity by increasing its number of lanes. Current freight infrastructure challenges within this area are sure to worsen once that expansion occurs. Improvements to the highway system accessing and exiting this bridge for this reason are necessary.

The City of Laredo for this reason is requesting support for funding three projects, in particular, that will facilitate movement of cargo exiting the bridge along I-35 and I-69. The proposed projects include: 1) constructing U.S. 59 mainlanes over I-35 and a freight railroad crossing; 2) completing the U.S. 59/I-35 interchange with direct connectors; and 3) increasing capacity on the I-69W Loop to and from the World Trade Bridge international border crossing to I-35. This entire project will alleviate congestion and foster trade transportation growth along the Primary Highway Freight System, of which I-35 is a key element.

It is important to note that the port of Laredo is a point of crossing for cargo – it is not the destination. Goods moving through this port are destined for markets along the eastern seaboard, the east coast, Midwestern states, the south central region and even the west coast. Congestion at the port of Laredo impacts assembly plants and distribution points in Texas and a large number of other states.

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx

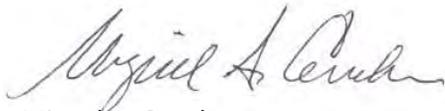
September 7, 2016

Page 2

This project, should it be funded, will have national and regional impact by fostering employment and economic growth and alleviating congestion on the Primary Highway Freight System on I-35 as well as major highways U.S. 59 and I-69W. The project will also improve freight travel times, thereby resulting in shipper savings and reduced emissions, and improve safety by upgrading to current interstate standards, reducing intersection traffic by construction direct connectors and alleviating freight bottlenecks. This project will ultimately result in a multitude of traffic benefits resulting in minimal environmental impacts as documented in the approved Categorical Exclusion documents.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce I urge you to consider support for this regionally and nationally important project. I thank you in advance for your consideration and hopeful selection of the Laredo I-35 & I-69W Improvements project for the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Miguel A. Conchas".

Miguel A. Conchas
President/CEO

**Laredo Development Foundation**

Serving Los Dos Laredos Since 1966

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The Laredo Development Foundation expresses our full support for the City of Laredo's FASTLANE application for the Laredo I-35 & I-69W Improvements project. The project includes constructing U.S. 59 main lanes over I-35 and a freight railroad crossing, completing the U.S. 59/I-35 interchange with direct connectors, and increasing capacity on the I-69W Loop to and from the World Trade Bridge international border crossing to I-35. This project will alleviate congestion and foster trade transportation growth along the Primary Highway Freight System, of which I-35 is a key element.

Nationally, Laredo is the busiest inland port along the U.S.-Mexico border, facilitating \$284 Billion in total trade in 2015. The Port of Laredo accounts for 35% of all U.S.-Mexico trade. Within the Port of Laredo, the World Trade Bridge, which is the international gateway to this project, handles 86% of the Port's truck freight and is planned to be expanded in the future to add even more capacity. Current freight infrastructure challenges within this area will worsen once that expansion occurs if improvements are not made to the highway system.

Regionally, border trade and transportation are the backbone of the community's commerce and growth. The regional growth rate over the past few years has been more than double Texas's growth rate, and the region is anticipated to increase in population by more than 50% by 2040. Fostering freight growth would provide opportunities to reduce Webb County's unemployment rate, which is higher than Texas and national averages, through the creation of ancillary jobs for truck drivers, warehouse workers, and many others.

This project will have national as well as regional impact fostering employment and economic growth, alleviating congestion on the Primary Highway Freight System on I-35 as well as major highways U.S. 59 and I-69W. The project will improve freight travel times, thereby resulting in shipper savings and reduced emissions, and improve safety by upgrading to current interstate standards, reducing intersection traffic by construction direct connectors and alleviating freight bottlenecks. The project will have a multitude of traffic benefits as documented in the approved Categorical Exclusion documents.

The Laredo Development Foundation requests your support of this regionally and nationally important project and thanks you for your favorable consideration. Your selection of the Laredo I-35 & I-69W Improvements project for the FASTLANE program will greatly support our trade and supply chain efficiencies, from our port to your door.

Sincerely,



Olivia Varela
Executive Director



William B. Green
President Board of Directors

616 Leal St.
P.O. Box 2682
Laredo, Texas 78044-2682

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AEDO
Accredited Economic Development Organization

(956) 722-0563
1-800-820-0564
www.ldfonline.org



The Alliance for I-69 Texas

Encouraging Cooperation and Seeking Solutions Since 1994

December 5, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The Alliance for I-69 Texas would like to express our support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FASTLANE application for the I-69 W/ US 59 Loop Expansion & Direct Connectors project. The Alliance is a coalition made up of cities, counties, port authorities and community leaders working through grassroots support to ensure completion of the entire Interstate 69 route in Texas.

The I-69 W/ US 59 Loop Expansion and Direct Connectors project will improve freight movement on segments of I-69. The project adds capacity and relieves congestion along the corridor leading to/from the Laredo port of entry which serves 12,000+ daily commercial truck crossings. These numbers are projected to double by 2040 so timing is critical to get this infrastructure built in order to facilitate the burgeoning freight movement. Furthermore, the direct connectors will facilitate a safer movement of truck and vehicle traffic through the congested I-35 and US 59 (future I-69) interchange.

The project facilitates the safety, efficiency, and reliability of freight and passenger traffic along the southern section of I-35 and a portion of US 59 in the Laredo area, which ranked in the top five ports in 2014 by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics for trucks, train, transit, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians. The roadways and commercial/industrial areas served by this project are the backbone of commerce for the region and the nation, particularly as it relates to North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) traffic.

The Alliance for I-69 Texas strongly supports this regionally and nationally significant freight project and we urge funding of this project through the FASTLANE grant program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel L. Neal", written over a horizontal line.

Samuel L. Neal
County Judge, Nueces County
Chairman, Alliance for I-69 Texas

C: Texas Transportation Commission
James Bass, Executive Director, TxDOT



**LAREDO LIC.
U.S. CUSTOMS BROKERS ASSOC., INC.**

1211 SAN DARIO AVE. PMB 720
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040

TEL: (956) 722-9898 FAX: (956) 722-8785

Web Site: <http://www.lluscba.org> E-mail: admin@lluscba.org

December 7, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

We, The Laredo Licensed U.S. Customs Brokers Association, Inc. would like to express our support for the City of Laredo's FASTLANE application for the Laredo I-35 & I-69W Improvements project. The project includes constructing U.S. 59 main lanes over I-35 and a freight railroad crossing, completing the U.S. 59/I-35 interchange with direct connectors, and increasing capacity on the I-69W Loop to and from the World Trade Bridge international border crossing to I-35. This project will alleviate congestion and foster trade transportation growth along the Primary Highway Freight System, of which I-35 is a key element.

Nationally, Laredo is the busiest inland port along the U.S.-Mexico border, facilitating \$284 Billion in total trade in 2015. The Port of Laredo accounts for 35% of all U.S.-Mexico trade. Within the Port of Laredo, the World Trade Bridge, which is the international gateway to this project, handles 86% of the Port's truck freight and is planned to be expanded in the future to add even more capacity. Current freight infrastructure challenges within this area will worsen once that expansion occurs if improvements are not made to the highway system.

Regionally, border trade and transportation are the backbone of the community's commerce and growth. The regional growth rate over the past few years has been more than double Texas's growth rate, and the region is anticipated to increase in population by more than 50% by 2040. Fostering freight growth would provide opportunities to reduce Webb County's unemployment rate, which is higher than Texas and national averages, through the creation of ancillary jobs for truck drivers, warehouse workers, and many others.

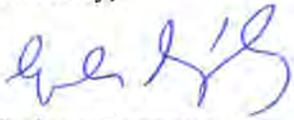
AFFILIATE MEMBER OF
**NATIONAL CUSTOMS BROKERS & FORWARDERS
ASSOC. OF AMERICA, INC.**



This project would have national and regional impact by fostering employment and economic growth and alleviating congestion on the Primary Highway Freight System on I-35 as well as major highways U.S. 59 and I-69W. The project would also improve freight travel times, thereby resulting in shipper savings and reduced emissions, and improve safety by upgrading to current interstate standards, reducing intersection traffic by construction direct connectors and alleviating freight bottlenecks. The project would have a multitude of traffic benefits that would be implemented with minimal environmental impacts as documented in the approved Categorical Exclusion documents.

We, The Laredo Licensed U.S. Customs Brokers Association, Inc. emphasize our support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the Laredo I-35 & I-69W Improvements project for the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,



Enrique Gonzalez
President

AFFILIATE MEMBER OF
**NATIONAL CUSTOMS BROKERS & FORWARDERS
ASSOC. OF AMERICA, INC.**





014/2016
12/07/2016
Laredo, TX

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I / We / The Association of Laredo Forwarding Agents, Inc. would like to express my/our support for the City of Laredo's FASTLANE application for the Laredo I-35 & I-69W Improvements project. The project includes constructing U.S. 59 mainlanes over I-35 and a freight railroad crossing, completing the U.S. 59/I-35 interchange with direct connectors, and increasing capacity on the I-69W Loop to and from the World Trade Bridge international border crossing to I-35. This project will alleviate congestion and foster trade transportation growth along the Primary Highway Freight System, of which I-35 is a key element.

Nationally, Laredo is the busiest inland port along the U.S.-Mexico border, facilitating \$284 Billion in total trade in 2015. The Port of Laredo accounts for 35% of all U.S.-Mexico trade. Within the Port of Laredo, the World Trade Bridge, which is the international gateway to this project, handles 86% of the Port's truck freight and is planned to be expanded in the future to add even more capacity. Current freight infrastructure challenges within this area will worsen once that expansion occurs if improvements are not made to the highway system.

Regionally, border trade and transportation are the backbone of the community's commerce and growth. The regional growth rate over the past few years has been more than double Texas's growth rate, and the region is anticipated to increase in population by more than 50% by 2040. Fostering freight growth would provide opportunities to reduce Webb County's unemployment rate, which is higher than Texas and national averages, through the creation of ancillary jobs for truck drivers, warehouse workers, and many others.

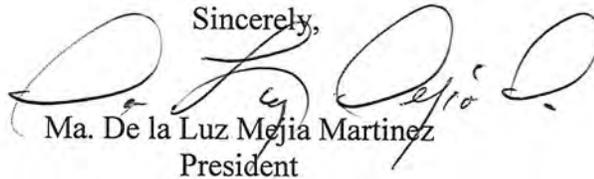
This project would have national and regional impact by fostering employment and economic growth and alleviating congestion on the Primary Highway Freight System on I-35 as well as major highways U.S. 59 and I-69W. The project would also improve freight travel times, thereby resulting in shipper savings and reduced emissions, and improve safety by upgrading to current interstate standards, reducing intersection traffic by construction direct connectors and alleviating freight bottlenecks. The project would have a multitude of traffic benefits that would



be implemented with minimal environmental impacts as documented in the approved Categorical Exclusion documents.

I/ We / The Association of Laredo Forwarding Agents, Inc. emphasize my / our support of this regionally and nationally important project, and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the Laredo I-35 & I-69W Improvements project for the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,



Ma. De la Luz Mejia Martinez
President

cc:



MPO RESOLUTION 2016-14

Laredo Urban Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee

SUPPORTING A JOINT CITY OF LAREDO, COUNTY OF WEBB, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT), AND THE WEBB COUNTY-CITY OF LAREDO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY FASTLANE APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Laredo Urban Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (hereinafter referred to as the “Laredo MPO”) is charged with coordinating and programming funding for on and off system road projects; and

WHEREAS, Laredo plays an important role in facilitating trade between Texas and the United States and Mexico and Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, the border is an economic engine that the state and nation rely on; and

WHEREAS, Laredo’s total trade, total exports and total imports, grew more than any other U.S. Customs District in 2015; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that Laredo’s trade numbers will continue to grow; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo’s four international bridges account for \$199,144,135,540 of the \$280 billion dollars in trade flowing through the Laredo Customs District and 66% of all commercial trucks crossing between Mexico and the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Laredo Custom’s District is 3rd in the nation surpassed only by Los Angeles and New York; and

WHEREAS, an average of 14,000 commercial vehicles cross Laredo’s International Bridge system daily; and

WHEREAS, the large volume of traffic passing over Laredo’s International Bridges places a tremendous strain on the area’s transportation infrastructure making it imperative that the infrastructure around this port and remain in peak condition to ensure our economy keeps moving forward; and

WHEREAS, using current anticipated funding, both state and federal, the majority of these projects will not be built for decades; and

WHEREAS, given the importance of Laredo as an economic conduit for the State of Texas and the nation additional funding is warranted; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo, County of Webb, and TxDOT/Webb County-Laredo Regional Mobility have developed a joint FASTLANE Grant application composed of projects which will address Laredo's commercial mobility issues and which is supported by the Laredo MPO.

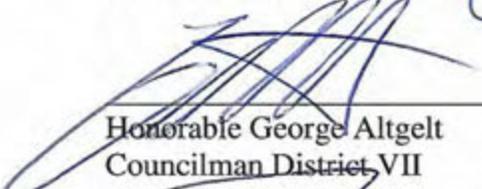
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAREDO MPO THAT:

- Section 1: The Laredo MPO Policy Committee strongly supports the joint FASTLANE Grant Application submitted by the City of Laredo, County of Webb, TxDOT and the Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority.
- Section 2: The projects submitted in the grant application will alleviate many of the mobility problems plaguing the Laredo Metropolitan area.
- Section 3: This resolution be sent to the Honorable Henry Cuellar, U.S. Representative, District 28, and to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Policy Committee Members:



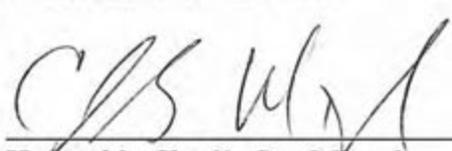
Honorable Pete Saenz Honorable
Mayor, City of Laredo and Chairperson



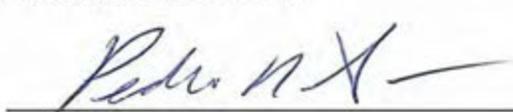
Honorable George Altgelt
Councilman District VII



Honorable Roberto Balli
Councilman District VIII



Honorable Charlie San Miguel
Councilman District VI

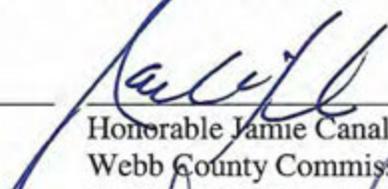


Pete Alvarez, P.E.,
Laredo District Engineer, TxDOT

Policy Committee Members:



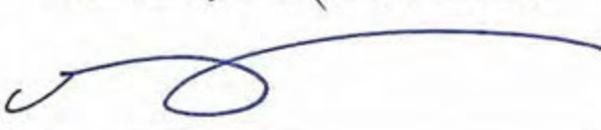
Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge and Vice- Chairperson



Honorable Jamie Canales
Webb County Commissioner Precinct 4



Honorable John Galo
Webb County Commissioner Precinct 3



Melissa Montemayor
Laredo District Administrator, TxDOT