

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

November 28, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

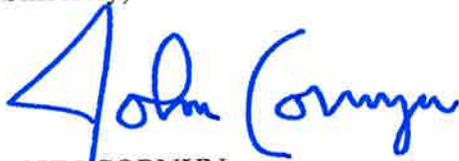
I am writing to express my support for the FASTLANE application for the South Orient Rail Line (SORR) submitted to the United States Department of Transportation by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

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 SORR is a state-owned rail facility that stretches from Coleman, Texas to the Texas/Mexico border at Presidio, Texas. The SORR Railroad Bride is one of eight international rail bridges between the U.S. and Mexico and is the only rail border crossing that is not in service. TxDOT, in partnership with Texas Pacifico Transportation, is working to reopen the international border crossing through rail infrastructure improvements and the reconstruction of the international bridge. This grant, if awarded, will enable TxDOT and Texas Pacifico Transportation to make necessary structural and drainage improvements and rebuild portions of the international bridge crossing that were destroyed in a fire, allowing the line to be reopened to provide international rail service and interchange freight traffic. These improvements will ultimately boost international trade with Mexico, foster permanent job growth in this economically disadvantaged region, reduce truck traffic on roadways, reduce roadway maintenance costs, and improve vehicular safety.

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

WILL HURD
23RD DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
VICE-CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4323

December 5, 2016

317 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4511

17721 ROGERS RANCH PARKWAY
SUITE 120
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78258
(210) 921-3130

TEXAS A&M SAN ANTONIO PATRIOTS' CASA
ONE UNIVERSITY WAY, SUITE 212E & 212F
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78224
(210) 784-6023

1104 WEST 10TH
DEL RIO, TX 78840
(830) 422-2040

100 MOHRE STREETS
EAGLE PASS, TX 78852
(210) 238-4296

124 SOUTH HORIZON
SOCORRO, TX 79927
(915) 235-6421

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

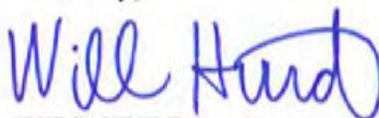
Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing to express my support for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and its FY2017 FASTLANE Discretionary Grant Program application for the South Orient Rail Line (SORR), a state-owned rail facility that stretches from central Texas to the Texas-Mexico border. The funding provided by this grant will allow the State, in partnership with SORR operator Texas Pacifico Transportation, to reopen the international border crossing with Mexico by reconstructing the international bridge and improving rail infrastructure within seventy miles of the border crossing.

As you may know, in February 2008, the SORR Bridge burned to the ground south of the levee on the U.S. side, severing one of eight rail crossings between the U.S. and Mexico. TxDOT has been working closely with Texas Pacifico Transportation and has invested over \$34 million in rehabilitation projects since FY2008. The rehabilitation of the line has resulted in improved operations, safety, and traffic flow. Annual carload crossings have grown from an average of approximately 2,000 to over 25,000 in FY2015. Should TxDOT be awarded the grant, Texas Pacifico Railroad will provide half of the necessary funding. With federal funding, the South Orient Bridge will continue to support this strategically located port of entry that not only benefits the border region, but also contributes to the State of Texas' broader economy.

I appreciate your swift and thoughtful consideration of the Texas Department of Transportation for the FY17 FASTLANE Discretionary Grant Program for the South Orient Rail Line. Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (202) 225-4511.

Sincerely,



WILL HURD
Member of Congress

TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES



CAPITOL OFFICE:
P.O. BOX 2910
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910
(512) 463-0331 PHONE

DISTRICT OFFICE:
36 WEST BEAUREGARD
SUITE 517
SAN ANGELO, TEXAS 76903

(325) 658-7313 PHONE
(325) 659-3762 FAX

Drew Darby

DISTRICT 72

COKE • CONCHO • GLASSCOCK • HOWARD • IRION • REAGAN • RUNNELS • STERLING • TOM GREEN

November 29, 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 Texas Department of Transportation's FY2017 FASTLANE application for the South Orient Rail Line.

The South Orient Rail Line (SORR) is a state-owned rail facility that stretches from Coleman, Texas to the Texas/Mexican border at Presidio, Texas. The SORR Railroad Bridge is one of only eight international rail bridges between the U.S. and Mexico, and the only one not in service. The state, in partnership with Texas Pacifico Transportation, is working to reopen the international border crossing through the reconstruction of the international bridge and rail infrastructure improvements. Once reopened, Texas Pacifico can provide international rail service and interchange freight traffic with BNSF Railway at Paisano Junction.

Since 2001, TxDOT and Texas Pacifico have invested over \$34 million in rehabilitation projects, resulting in improved safety and operations, and increased traffic. The annual carloads interchanged increased to over 25,000 in 2015, up from an average of 2,000 when the line was acquired in 2001. A FASTLANE award would allow TxDOT to reestablish international trade with Mexico and improve track conditions. This would result in safe, efficient trade, and increased productivity in House District 72 and across the state.

I emphasize my support of this regionally and nationally important project. Thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the South Orient Bridge project for the FASTLANE Discretionary Grant program.

Sincerely,

Drew Darby

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Drew Darby", written over a light blue horizontal line.

**City of Presidio, Texas
PO Box 1899
Presidio, TX 79845
(432) 229-3517**



December 6, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The City of Presidio, Texas would like to express our support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FY2017 FASTLANE application for the South Orient Rail Line.

The South Orient Rail Line (SORR) is a state-owned rail facility that stretches from Coleman, Texas to the Texas/Mexican border at Presidio, Texas. The SORR Railroad Bridge is one of eight international rail bridges between the U.S. and Mexico and is the only rail border crossing that is not in service. The state, in partnership with Texas Pacifico Transportation, is working to reopen the international border crossing with Mexico through the reconstruction of the international bridge and rail infrastructure improvements within 70 miles of the border crossing. The project will include rebuilding the international bridge crossing that was destroyed in a fire and selective structural and drainage improvements that will allow the line to be reopened. Once reopened, Texas Pacifico can provide international rail service and interchange freight traffic with BNSF Railway near Coleman and Union Pacific at Paisano Junction, located 75 miles north of the border.

Since the State of Texas acquired the line in 2001, TxDOT and Texas Pacifico have invested over \$34 million in rehabilitation projects, resulting in improved operations, safety and increased traffic with annual carloads interchanged rising from an average of approximately 2,000 pre-rehabilitation to over 25,000 in 2015. A small federal funding commitment via a FASTLANE award would allow TxDOT to reestablish international trade with Mexico and improve track conditions, resulting in the safe and efficient movement of commodities, increased productivity and job creation.

The City of Presidio emphasizes our support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the South Orient Bridge project for the FASTLANE Discretionary Grant program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Ferguson

Mayor

City of Presidio, Texas

November 24, 2016

Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Federal grant application to fund the westernmost South Orient Rail line rehabilitation

Mr. Foxx:

We fully support the initiative to continue the upgrading of the South Orient rail line operated by Texas Pacifico. We understand the Texas Department of Transportation will pursue the obtainment of a Federal FASTLANE grant which will be matched at 40% by the Texas Pacifico Railroad to be used in the rehabilitation of the rail line between Alpine and Presidio.

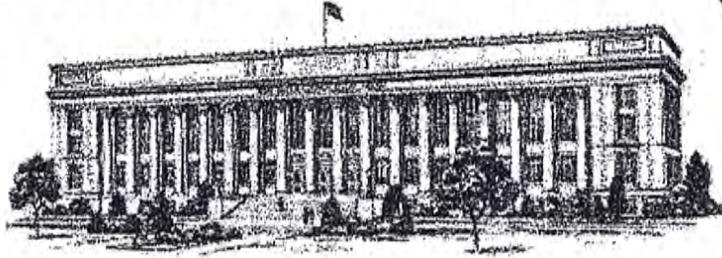
Ferromex is committed to the reconstruction of the Mexican portion of the Presidio – Ojinaga international bridge and will invest an estimated \$5.5 million dollars in this endeavor including the rehabilitation of Ferromex's line "Q" to reconnect this branch into the Mexican rail network. We are partnering with Texas Pacifico to make sure we have a functional rail connection.

Sincerely,



Rogelio Velez Lopez de la Cerda
Chief Executive Officer
Ferrocarril Mexicano S.A. de C.V.

Tom Green County



November 30, 2016

Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation

Greetings:

Please review this letter supporting the application for a FastLane grant for upgrades to the existing rail line from Presidio Texas, a border city, to Alpine Texas.

Tom Green County is the most populous along the 373 miles of line operated by the Texas-Pacific Group. This line avoided demolition in the 1990's by the efforts of our visionary State Representative, Rob Junnell. The State of Texas is now the owner.

Our region has long produced food and fiber for domestic and global consumption, now fuel has experienced dramatic re-birth due to hydraulic fracturing. We are cooperatively pursuing mobility corridors both north/south and east/west. I am referring to the Ports-to-Plains corridor and the Forts-to-Ports I-14 corridor which would intersect in Tom Green County.

Texas has a long and rich tradition of having good trade relationships with our southern neighbors. As global trade continues to grow, transportation will continue to be vital for success. The scheduled reconstruction of the International Bridge at Presidio will return this section of railway as a vital mobility link for freight, and possibly passenger service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Handwritten signature of Judge Stephen C. Floyd in blue ink.

Judge Stephen C. Floyd

SCF/slk

PRESIDIO COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

JUDGE CINDERELA GUEVARA PRESIDING

Commissioner Pct. 1:

Jim White

Commissioner Pct. 3:

Lorenzo Hernandez



Commissioner Pct. 2:

Eloy Aranda

Commissioner Pct. 4:

Loretto Vasquez

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

November 17, 2016

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I, Judge Cinderela Guevara and the Presidio County Commissioners, would like to express our support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FY2017 FASTLANE application for the South Orient Rail Line.

The South Orient Rail Line (SORR) is a state-owned rail facility that stretches from Coleman, Texas to the Texas/Mexican border at Presidio, Texas. The SORR Railroad Bridge is one of eight international rail bridges between the U.S. and Mexico and is the only rail border crossing that is not in service. The state, in partnership with Texas Pacifico Transportation, is working to reopen the international border crossing with Mexico through the reconstruction of the international bridge and rail infrastructure improvements within 70 miles of the border crossing. The project will include rebuilding the international bridge crossing that was destroyed in a fire and selective structural and drainage improvements that will allow the line to be reopened. Once reopened, Texas Pacifico can provide international rail service and interchange freight traffic with BNSF Railway near Coleman and Union Pacific at Paisano Junction, located 75 miles north of the border.

Since the State of Texas acquired the line in 2001, TxDOT and Texas Pacifico have invested over \$34 million in rehabilitation projects, resulting in improved operations, safety and increased traffic with annual carloads interchanged rising from an average of approximately 2,000 pre-rehabilitation to over 25,000 in 2015. A small federal funding commitment via a FASTLANE award would allow TxDOT to reestablish international trade with Mexico and improve track conditions, resulting in the safe and efficient movement of commodities, increased productivity and job creation.

1 of 2

Presidio County Courthouse: 300 North Highland Ave, Marfa, TX 79843, P.O. Box 606, Marfa, TX 79843
Ph: 432.729.4452 Email: countyjudge@co.presidio.tx.us

I, Judge Cinderela Guevara and the Presidio County Commissioners emphasize our support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the South Orient Bridge project for the FASTLANE Discretionary Grant program.

Respectfully,



Cinderela Guevara
Presidio County Judge

Texas House of Representatives



PONCHO NEVÁREZ

DISTRICT 74

November 22, 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 Texas Department of Transportation's FY2017 FASTLANE application for the South Orient Rail Line.

The South Orient Rail Line (SORR) is a state-owned rail facility that stretches from Coleman, Texas to the Texas/Mexican border at Presidio, Texas. The SORR Railroad Bridge is one of eight international rail bridges between the U.S. and Mexico and is the only rail border crossing that is not in service. The state, in partnership with Texas Pacifico Transportation, is working to reopen the international border crossing with Mexico through the reconstruction of the international bridge and rail infrastructure improvements within 70 miles of the border crossing. The project will include rebuilding the international bridge crossing that was destroyed in a fire and selective structural and drainage improvements that will allow the line to be reopened. Once reopened, Texas Pacifico can provide international rail service and interchange freight traffic with BNSF Railway near Coleman and Union Pacific at Paisano Junction, located 75 miles north of the border.

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I emphasize my support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the South Orient Bridge project for the FASTLANE Discretionary Grant program.

Capitol: P.O. Box 2910 - Austin, Texas 78768-2910 - (512) 463-0566 - Fax (512) 463-0220

District: 1815 Williams Street - Eagle Pass, Texas 78852 - (830) 773-0860

Counties: Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Loving, Maverick, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell & Val Verde

Texas House of Representatives



PONCHO NEVÁREZ

DISTRICT 74

With kindest regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Poncho Nevárez".

Poncho Nevárez

Capitol: P.O. Box 2910 - Austin, Texas 78768-2910 - (512) 463-0566 - Fax (512) 463-0220

District: 1815 Williams Street - Eagle Pass, Texas 78852 - (830) 773-0860

Counties: Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Loving, Maverick, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell & Val Verde



CHARLES PERRY
TEXAS STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 28

December 2, 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 Texas Department of Transportation's FY2017 FASTLANE application for the South Orient Rail Line.

The South Orient Rail Line is a state-owned rail facility that stretches from Coleman, Texas to the Texas/Mexico border at Presidio, Texas. The South Orient Railroad Bridge is one of eight international rail bridges between the U.S. and Mexico and is the only rail border crossing that is not in service. The state, in partnership with Texas Pacifico Transportation, is working to reopen the international border crossing with Mexico through the reconstruction of the international bridge and rail infrastructure improvements within 70 miles of the border crossing. The project will include rebuilding the international bridge crossing that was destroyed in a fire and selective structural and drainage improvements that will allow the line to be reopened. Once reopened, Texas Pacifico can provide international rail service and interchange freight traffic with BNSF Railway near Coleman and Union Pacific at Paisano Junction, located 75 miles north of the border.

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I emphasize my support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the South Orient Bridge project for the FASTLANE Discretionary Grant program.

Sincerely,

Charles Perry
Senate District 28

COMMITTEES: AGRICULTURE, WATER & RURAL AFFAIRS, CHAIR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE • HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES • HIGHER EDUCATION

P.O. Box 12068 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711



City of Presidio

December 8, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The City of Presidio would like to express our support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FY2017 FASTLANE application for the South Orient Rail Line.

The South Orient Rail Line (SORR) is a state-owned rail facility that stretches from Coleman, Texas to the Texas/Mexican border at Presidio, Texas. The SORR Railroad Bridge is one of eight international rail bridges between the U.S. and Mexico and is the only rail border crossing that is not in service. The state, in partnership with Texas Pacifico Transportation, is working to reopen the international border crossing with Mexico through the reconstruction of the international bridge and rail infrastructure improvements within 70 miles of the border crossing. The project will include rebuilding the international bridge crossing that was destroyed in a fire and selective structural and drainage improvements that will allow the line to be reopened. Once reopened, Texas Pacifico can provide international rail service and interchange freight traffic with BNSF Railway near Coleman and Union Pacific at Paisano Junction, located 75 miles north of the border.

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The City of Presidio emphasize our support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the South Orient Bridge project for the FASTLANE Discretionary Grant program.

Sincerely,

Joe Portillo
Administrator
City of Presidio

**JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ**

STATE SENATOR

SENATE DISTRICT 29

EL PASO, CULBERSON, HUDSPETH, PRESIDIO & JEFF DAVIS COUNTIES

December 1, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I would like to express my/our support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FY2017 FASTLANE application for the South Orient Rail Line.

The South Orient Rail Line (SORR) is a state-owned rail facility that stretches from Coleman, Texas to the Texas/Mexican border at Presidio, Texas. The SORR Railroad Bridge is one of eight international rail bridges between the U.S. and Mexico and is the only rail border crossing that is not in service. The state, in partnership with Texas Pacifico Transportation, is working to reopen the international border crossing with Mexico through the reconstruction of the international bridge and rail infrastructure improvements within 70 miles of the border crossing. The project will include rebuilding the international bridge crossing that was destroyed in a fire and selective structural and drainage improvements that will allow the line to be reopened. Once reopened, Texas Pacifico can provide international rail service and interchange freight traffic with BNSF Railway near Coleman and Union Pacific at Paisano Junction, located 75 miles north of the border.

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In sum, this is an important project regionally and nationally. Thank you in advance for your consideration, and potentially favorable selection, of the South Orient Railroad Bridge project for the TIGER Discretionary Grant program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "José Rodríguez".

José Rodríguez

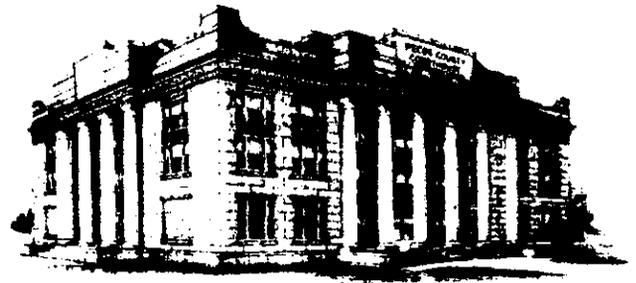
CAPITOL OFFICE
ROOM E1.610
P.O. BOX 12068
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
(512) 463-0129
(512) 463-7100 FAX

EL PASO OFFICE
100 N. OCHOA ST., SUITE A
EL PASO, TEXAS 79901
(915) 351-3500
(915) 351-3579 FAX

MISSION VALLEY OFFICE
206 S.E. 8TH ST., SUITE 201
FABENS, TEXAS 79838
(915) 765-2000
(915) 764-1555 FAX

MARFA OFFICE
300 W. COLUMBIA, ROOM 102
ELEMENTARY BLDG.
P.O. BOX 1105
MARFA, TEXAS 79843
(432) 729-4800
(432) 729-4803 FAX

County of Pecos



JOE SHUSTER

County Judge
103 W. Callaghan
Phones:

(432) 336-2792 & 336-8724
FAX (432) 336-6640

Fort Stockton, Texas 79735
December 7, 2016

PAM HARRIS
Administrative Assistant

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I, County Judge of Pecos County, would like to express Pecos County's support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FY2017 FASTLANE application for the South Orient Rail Line.

The South Orient Rail Line (SORR) is a state-owned rail facility that stretches from Coleman, Texas to the Texas/Mexican border at Presidio, Texas. The SORR Railroad Bridge is one of eight international rail bridges between the U.S. and Mexico and is the only rail border crossing that is not in service. The state, in partnership with Texas Pacifico Transportation, is working to reopen the international border crossing with Mexico through the reconstruction of the international bridge and rail infrastructure improvements within 70 miles of the border crossing. The project will include rebuilding the international bridge crossing that was destroyed in a fire and selective structural and drainage improvements that will allow the line to be reopened. Once reopened, Texas Pacifico can provide international rail service and interchange freight traffic with BNSF Railway near Coleman and Union Pacific at Paisano Junction, located 75 miles north of the border.

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I emphasize Pecos County's support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the South Orient Bridge project for the FASTLANE Discretionary Grant program.

Sincerely,

Joe Shuster
County Judge
Pecos County, Texas



November 24, 2016

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

Subject: Texas Department of Transportation FASTLANE grant application matching funds by Texas Pacifico

Mr. Foxx:

Texas Pacifico as operator of the South Orient rail line fully endorses any and all line upgrading efforts.

We understand the Texas Department of Transportation is pursuing the obtainment of a Federal FASTLANE grant which will be used in the Alpine to Presidio track rehabilitation, we agree to match such grant at 40% by rebuilding at our cost the Presidio – Ojinaga international railroad bridge which has been out of use for 8 years now.

I do hereby confirm the intention of the Texas Pacifico Transportation company, to contribute in this occasion with the above mentioned proportion, in hope for the Texas Department of Transportation to secure the other components of the fund to ensure a seriously needed broader scope rehabilitation work.

Texas Pacifico is coordinating all bridge reconstruction works and efforts with its Mexican counterpart Ferromex who in turn is working with the Mexican authorities to accelerate the bridge construction permitting process in Mexico.

I very highly appreciate your support in the obtainment of the grant and take advantage of the opportunity to send you our best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diaz-Page", with a stylized flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Federico Diaz-Page
Texas Pacifico Transportation, Ltd.
Executive Vice President