



US 377 Relief Route

Appendix B: Letters of Support

TIGER FY17 Grant Application

October 2017

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

October 5, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express my support for the TIGER application for the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project in Hood County, Texas, 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 considerations to the many strengths of this application. In Texas, the overall population continues to boom and it is crucial not to overlook the rural areas contributing to that growth. In order to keep traffic moving and businesses operating efficiently, TxDOT is developing plans for a relief route on US 377 around the City of Cresson and to bypass an at-grade railroad crossing and a highway intersection at SH 171. As you may know, US 377 in Hood County carries heavy commuter traffic into the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex from Granbury, in addition to truck traffic related to freight and energy sector activities. The US 377 Cresson Relief Route project is environmentally cleared and will soon be shovel ready.

I would appreciate your efforts to ensure that I am kept informed as to 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

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, CPA
11TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2430 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-3605
FAX: (202) 225-1783

<http://conaway.house.gov>



CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 6, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TxDOT's FY2017-2018 TIGER application for US 377 Cresson Relief Route in Hood County, Texas

Dear Secretary Chao,

I would like to express my staunch support for the Texas Department of Transportation's TIGER Grant application for the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project in Hood County, Texas.

US 377 in Hood County carries heavy commuter and freight traffic the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex from Granbury, Texas. The rural communities located within this area depend on this route; unfortunately, it is frequently impacted by switching movements at the railroad freight yard in Cresson, Texas. The high congestion caused by this switch greatly hinders not only the quality of life for the people in the area, but slows the speed of commerce.

TxDOT has made a strong collaborative effort to resolve this issue and I praise them in their achievements. They have worked, from early in the process, to diligently engage a broad range of stakeholders and have earned the support of the community.

This project would provide much needed relief for the people and businesses of Hood County, and I urge your department to give every consideration to TxDOT's TIGER Grant application for the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project in Hood County, Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Michael Conaway". The signature is stylized and includes a large flourish at the end.

K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

ROGER WILLIAMS
25TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MONETARY POLICY
AND TRADE – VICE CHAIR

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM
AND ILLICIT FINANCE



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

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1323 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-9896
FAX: (202) 225-9692

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1005 CONGRESS AVENUE, SUITE 925
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
TEL: (512) 473-8910
FAX: (512) 473-8946

115 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 206
CLEBURNE, TEXAS 76033
TEL: (817) 774-2575
FAX: (817) 774-2576

williams.house.gov

October 6, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

As the Representative for Texas' 25th Congressional district, I would like to express my support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT's) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application for the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project in Hood County, Texas.

As population and industry continue to boom in Texas, it is crucial not to overlook the contribution of rural areas to that growth. In order to keep traffic moving and businesses operating efficiently, TxDOT is developing plans for a relief route on US 377 around the City of Cresson and to bypass an at-grade railroad crossing and a highway intersection at SH 171. To complete the funding needed for this urgent project, TxDOT has submitted a TIGER Grant application for \$16 million. I strongly support this project and respectfully request you give the application careful consideration.

US 377 in Hood County carries heavy commuter traffic into the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex from Granbury as well as truck traffic related to freight and energy sector activities. This traffic is frequently impacted by switching movements at the railroad freight yard in Cresson and hinders the quality of life for the citizens of Hood County. A strong collaborative effort from a broad range of stakeholders is underway to deliver this project. Additionally, the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project is environmentally cleared and will soon be shovel ready.

Total costs for this project amount to \$79 million, with \$52 million already identified by the state and \$11 million already identified by Hood County. The TIGER Grant award of \$16 million will complete the funding needed to begin executing this project.

I understand you have received many strong applications; however, rural projects such as these have a ripple effect throughout Texas and our entire nation's economy. Thank you for your full consideration.

Sincerely,
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger Williams".

Roger Williams
Member of Congress

The Senate of The State of Texas

NOMINATIONS — CHAIRMAN
FINANCE



STATE AFFAIRS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

BRIAN BIRDWELL

October 6, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TxDOT's FY2017-2018 TIGER application for US 377 Cresson Relief Route in Hood County, Texas

Dear Secretary Chao,

I would like to express my support for the Texas Department of Transportation's TIGER Grant application for the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project in Hood County, Texas.

As population and industry continue to boom in Texas, it is crucial not to overlook the rural areas contributing to that growth. In order to keep traffic moving and business operating efficiently, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has developed plans for a relief route on US 377 around the City of Cresson and to bypass an at-grade railroad crossing and switching yard, as well as a highway intersection at SH 171. To complete the funding needed for this urgent project, TxDOT has submitted a TIGER Grant application for \$16 million. I strongly support this project and respectfully request you give the application careful and favorable consideration.

US 377 in Hood County carries heavy commuter traffic into the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex from Granbury, as well as truck traffic related to freight and energy sector activities. This traffic is frequently impacted by switching yard operations, which significantly impair predictability of traffic flow for both commuter and commercial traffic at this critical highway intersection. This situation can present an even more critical circumstance for emergency traffic, such as patient ground transport to any of the Level I-III Trauma Facilities in Fort Worth — a resource that is not available in Hood County or points south along US 377. A strong collaborative effort from a broad range of stakeholders is underway to deliver this project, including input from state and federal elected officials, mayors, county officials, land owners, developers, and commuters. Additionally, the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project is environmentally cleared and will soon be ready to transition from concept to execution.



Total costs for this project are \$79 million, with \$52 million already identified by the state and \$11 million already identified by Hood County. The TIGER Grant award of \$16 million will complete the funding needed to begin executing this project.

Let me re-emphasize my support of this important project on a US Highway, and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project for the TIGER program.

Sincerely,



Brian Birdwell
Senate District 22

TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES



DEWAYNE BURNS

DISTRICT 58

October 6, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TxDOT's FY2017-2018 TIGER application for US 377 Cresson Relief Route in Hood County, Texas

Dear Secretary Chao,

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Total costs for this project amount to \$79 million, with \$52 million already identified by the state and \$11 million already identified by Hood County. The TIGER Grant award of \$16 million will complete the funding needed to begin executing this project.

I understand you have received many strong applications; however, rural projects such as these have a ripple effect throughout Texas and therefore our entire nation's economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DeWayne Burns".

State Representative DeWayne Burns





HOOD COUNTY COUNTY JUDGE

DARRELL COCKERHAM

October 4, 2017

100 E. Pearl Street
Granbury, TX 76048

817-579-3200
817-579-3213 Fax
dcockerham@co.hood.tx.us

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TxDOT's FY2017-2018 TIGER application for US 377 Cresson Relief Route in Hood County, Texas

Dear Secretary Chao,

I would like to express our support for the Texas Department of Transportation's TIGER Grant application for the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project in Hood County, Texas.

As population and industry continue to boom in Texas, it is crucial not to overlook the rural areas contributing to that growth. In order to keep traffic moving and businesses operating efficiently, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is developing plans for a relief route on US 377 around the City of Cresson and to bypass an at-grade railroad crossing and a highway intersection at SH 171. To complete the funding needed for this urgent project, TxDOT has submitted a TIGER Grant application for \$16 million. I strongly support this project and respectfully request you give the application careful consideration.

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Total costs for this project amount to \$79 million, with \$52 million already identified by the state and \$11 million already identified by Hood County. The TIGER Grant award of \$16 million will complete the funding needed to begin executing this project.

I understand you have received many strong applications; however, rural projects such as these have a ripple effect throughout Texas and therefore our entire nation's economy. Thank you for your consideration.

I emphasize our support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project for the TIGER program.

Sincerely,



Darrell Cockerham
Hood County Judge



STEVE F. BERRY
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4
HOOD COUNTY
1410 West Pearl Annex 1
GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048
817-579-3300, FAX 817-579-0396



**N. REGIONAL OFFICE - FW
TXDOT MAILROOM**

OCT 17 2013

October 16, 2013

Brian Barth
TXDOT Ft Worth District Office
2501 SW Loop 820
Ft Worth Tx 76133

Brian

I am excited to attach the Hood County/TXDOT MOU for the Hwy 377/ Hwy 171 interchange at Cresson TX. I know this railroad crossing and interchange have been a very busy and public interest area for 7 years I have been in office and many of us have worked on a permanent solution. Hood Co and TXDOT have looked at interchanges, couplets, bypasses, railroad safety arms and long awaited environmental studies for the current relief route plan. I sincerely hope this project finds support (internally at TXDOT and politically from City, County and State leadership) as well as funding methods from all involved. We already have developed a partnership with Michael Morris at NCTCOG in Arlington for funding in Johnson County and for this much needed project. Hood County is supportive of this project both financially and for quality of life issues. This crossing and intersection have long been a delay and headache to TXDOT, Hood County, and Ft Worth Western Railroad, Cresson, Granbury and all of our citizens.

Please let me know if and how I can assist you in moving this project forward as soon as possible and look forward to the date of the Public Meeting.

Respectfully

Steve Berry
Hood Co Commissioner Pct 4

Cc- State Senator Brian Birdwell
State Representative Jim Keffer
TXDOT Director Phil Wilson



Resolution

**Hood County Commissioners' Court
In Support of Signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
With the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
Regarding US 377 and SH 171 Intersection at Cresson, Hood County**

Whereas, a strong partnership between the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Hood County is needed to address the growing needs in our transportation system at the US 377 and SH 171 intersection, and;

Whereas, current estimates to build a relief route around Cresson are approximately \$50.5M including the design, construction, right of way and utility adjustments, and;

Whereas, the Pass-Through Finance proposal that Hood County was contemplating with TxDOT included a contribution of approximately \$11.8M by Hood County, and;

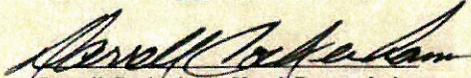
Whereas, a partnership plan that would include TxDOT assuming full responsibility for designing and constructing this project has been proposed by TxDOT to Hood County, and;

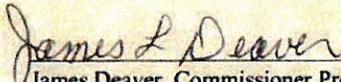
Whereas, in the proposed TxDOT plan, Hood County would continue to participate in this project as a financial partner only by contributing \$11.8M, and;

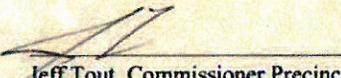
Whereas, in the proposed potential funding agreement with TxDOT, the contract would be structured whereby Hood County's funding commitment would be capped at the amount of \$11.8M, and;

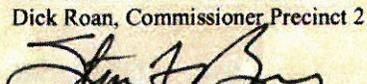
Therefore be it resolved by the Commissioners' Court of Hood County, Texas, to support the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TxDOT detailing the partnership plan offered by TxDOT to Hood County regarding the US 377 and SH 171 Intersection at Cresson, Hood County.

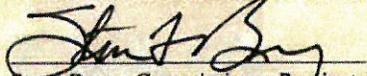
Signed on this 8th day of October, 2013.

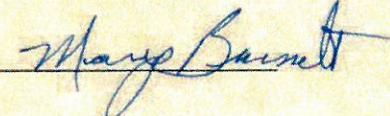

(Darrell Cockerham, Hood County Judge)


James Deaver, Commissioner Precinct 1


Jeff Tout, Commissioner Precinct 3


Dick Roan, Commissioner Precinct 2


Steve Berry, Commissioner Precinct 4

Attest: 





125 EAST 11TH STREET | AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 | (512) 463-8700 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

August 29, 2013

US 377/SH 171 Intersection
Cresson, Hood County

The Honorable Darrell Cockerham
Judge, Hood County
Hood County Courthouse
Granbury, Texas 76048

Dear Judge Cockerham:

We appreciate the strong partnership between the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Hood County and our joint efforts to address the growing needs in our transportation program. In this spirit, I propose a partnership to deliver the much needed improvements in Cresson at the US 377 and SH 171 intersection.

Current estimates to build a relief route around Cresson are approximately \$50.5M including the design, construction, right of way and utility adjustments. This estimate is to build the roadway through both Hood and Johnson counties.

The Pass-Through Finance proposal that Hood County was contemplating with TxDOT included a contribution of approximately \$11.8M by the county. I am proposing a partnership plan that would include TxDOT assuming full responsibility for designing and constructing this project. Hood County would continue to participate in this project as a financial partner only by contributing \$11.8M. In a potential funding agreement, the contract would be structured whereby the county's funding commitment would be capped at this amount. We can also consider an installment plan if that facilitates the county's participation. I am requesting a meeting to further explore and discuss this offer. Along with this financial discussion, we can develop some project activity timelines.

If you would like to discuss this partnership plan further, please contact Brian Barth, P.E., Deputy District Engineer by phone (817) 370-6514, e-mail brian.barth@txdot.gov, or mail, TxDOT-Fort Worth District, 2501 SW Loop 820, Fort Worth, Texas 76133.

Sincerely,

Maribel P. Chavez, P.E.

TxDOT - Fort Worth District Engineer

cc: The Honorable Steve Berry, Hood County Commissioner, Precinct 4



**HOOD COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

1410 W. Pearl St., Annex #1
Granbury, Texas 76048



02 1R
0006556265 OCT 16 2013
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 76048

**N. REGIONAL OFFICE - FW
TXDOT MAILROOM**

OCT 17 2013

**Brian Barth
TXDOT Ft Worth District Office
2501 SW Loop 820
Ft. Worth TX. 76133**

76133230001





City of Cresson

P.O. Box 619
Cresson, Texas 76035

October 9, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TxDOT's FY2017-2018 TIGER application for US 377 Cresson Relief Route in Hood County, Texas

Dear Secretary Chao,

The City of Cresson would like to express our support for the Texas Department of Transportation's TIGER Grant application for the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project in Hood County, Texas.

As population and industry continue to boom in Texas, it is crucial not to overlook the rural areas contributing to that growth. *In order to keep traffic moving and businesses operating efficiently, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is developing plans for a relief route on US 377 around the City of Cresson and to bypass an at-grade railroad crossing and a highway intersection at SH 171. To complete the funding needed for this urgent project, TxDOT has submitted a TIGER Grant application for \$16 million. I strongly support this project and respectfully request you give the application careful consideration.*

US 377 in Hood County carries heavy commuter traffic into the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex from Granbury as well as truck traffic related to freight and energy sector activities. This traffic is frequently impacted by switching movements at the railroad freight yard in Cresson and hinders the quality of life for the citizens of Hood County. A strong collaborative effort from a broad range of stakeholders is underway to deliver this project, including input from state and federal elected officials, mayors, county officials, ranch owners, land developers, and commuters. Additionally, the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project is environmentally cleared and will soon be shovel ready.

Total costs for this project amount to \$79 million, with \$52 million already identified by the state and \$11 million already identified by Hood County. The TIGER Grant award of \$16 million will complete the funding needed to begin executing this project.

I understand you have received many strong applications; however, rural projects such as these have a ripple effect throughout Texas and therefore our entire nation's economy. Thank you for your consideration.

The City of Cresson emphasize our support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project for the TIGER program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.R. Cornett", written over a horizontal line.

W.R. Cornett
Mayor



The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)

October 16, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The RTC is pleased to support the 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant application for the **US 377 Cresson Relief Route Project** in Hood County, Texas, submitted by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

TxDOT is developing plans for a relief route on US 377 around the City of Cresson to bypass an at-grade railroad crossing and a highway intersection at SH 171. To complete the funding needed for this urgent project, TxDOT has submitted a TIGER Grant application for \$16 million.

US 377 in Hood County carries heavy commuter traffic into the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex from Granbury, as well as truck traffic related to freight and energy sector activities. This traffic is frequently impacted by switching movements at the railroad freight yard in Cresson and hinders the quality of life for the residents of Hood County. A strong collaborative effort from a broad range of stakeholders is underway to deliver this project, including input from state and federal elected officials, mayors, county officials, ranch owners, land developers, and commuters. Additionally, the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project is environmentally cleared and will soon be shovel ready.

Total costs for this project amount to \$79 million, with \$52 million already identified by the state and \$11 million already identified by Hood County. The TIGER Grant award of \$16 million will complete the funding needed to begin executing this project.

The project is included in Mobility 2040: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas. All federally funded surface transportation projects must also be included in the Transportation Improvement Program. The project is included in the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program for North Central Texas.

October 16, 2017

Again, the RTC supports the 2017 TIGER grant application for TxDOT's US 377 Cresson Relief Route project in Hood County, Texas. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me or Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation for the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), at (817) 695-9241.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Franke". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Rob Franke, P.E., Chair
Regional Transportation Council
Mayor, City of Cedar Hill

RH:tw

cc: Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation, NCTCOG

TXDOT - FTW
OCT 10 2017
DISTRICT MAILROOM



October 4, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TxDOT's FY2017-2018 TIGER application for US 377 Cresson Relief
Route in Hood County, Texas

Dear Madam Secretary Chao:

Cresson Crossroads, LLC would like to express its support for the Texas Department of Transportation's TIGER Grant application for the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project in Hood County, Texas.

As population and industry continue to boom in Texas, it is crucial not to overlook the rural areas contributing to that growth. In order to keep traffic moving and businesses operating efficiently, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is developing plans for a relief route on US 377 around the City of Cresson and to bypass an at-grade railroad crossing and a highway intersection at SH 171. To complete the funding needed for this urgent project, TxDOT has submitted a TIGER Grant application for \$16 million. Cresson Crossroads, LLC and its managers strongly support this project and respectfully request you give the application careful consideration.

US 377 in Hood County carries heavy commuter traffic into the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex from Granbury as well as truck traffic related to freight and energy sector activities. This traffic is very often impacted by switching movements at the railroad freight yard in Cresson and hinders the quality of life for the citizens of Hood County. A strong collaborative effort from a broad range of stakeholders is underway to deliver this project, including input from state and federal elected officials, mayors, county officials, ranch owners, land developers, and commuters. Additionally, the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project is environmentally cleared and will soon be shovel ready.

P.O. Box 2337
110 N Crockett St.
Granbury, TX 76048

817.243.8130

I understand you have received many strong applications; however, rural projects such as these have a ripple effect throughout Texas and therefore our entire nation's economy.

On behalf of Cresson Crossroads, I emphasize our support of this regionally and nationally important project and sincerely thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the US 377 Cresson Relief Route project for the TIGER program.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ike Thomas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ike Thomas

Manager
Cresson Crossroads, LLC

IT:kd

cc: John Cordary, P.E.
Director of TP&D
TxDOT - Fort Worth District
2501 SW Loop 820
Fort Worth, TX 76133

P.S. Secretary Chao,

I had the pleasure of meeting you a couple of times a few years ago at various dinners and receptions there in the Capital. My brother-in-law was Leader Bill Frist, and we were there on record occasions when you and Senator McConnell were in attendance. We do appreciate both of you and your service to our Country.