



U.S. Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project
Appendix A: Letters of Support

TIGER FY17 Grant Application
October 2017

Appendix A

Letters of Support

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 Eagle Pass Border Rail Capacity project in Maverick County, Texas submitted by 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. Texas is working hard across the state to improve its infrastructure and create economic opportunities while leveraging funding from the private sector and all levels of government. Located in the rural area of Eagle Pass, TX, this TIGER Grant award would be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of a second main line track from north of Eagle Pass to the international rail bridge at the United States and Mexico border. Union Pacific Railroad (UP) owns and operates the track and has been developing this project to include a universal rail cross over at the north end to allow access by trains to any yard, track. As the private sector partner, UP is committed to matching the award.

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

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
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

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

October 10, 2017

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) 784-5023

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

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

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

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 Texas Department of Transportation's TIGER Grant application for the Eagle Pass Border Rail Capacity project in Maverick County, Texas.

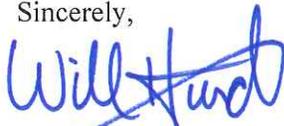
Texas is working hard across the state to improve its infrastructure and create economic opportunities while leveraging funding from the private sector and all levels of government. This work is exemplified in the Eagle Pass Border Rail Capacity Project, which is why I am writing to express my strong support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) application for \$10 million in TIGER Grant funds for this project.

Located in the rural area of Eagle Pass, TX, the TIGER Grant award will be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of a second main line track from north of Eagle Pass to the international rail bridge at the United States and Mexico border. Union Pacific Railroad is committed to matching the award with an additional \$10 million and completing the funding requirements.

The Eagle Pass Border Rail Capacity Project exceeds the criteria requirements outlined in the TIGER Notice of Funding Opportunity. This project improves rail infrastructure to promote regional connectivity for international trade with Mexico and facilitates economic growth for Texas and the United States. Additionally, the second main line will improve fluid movement of trains for the United States and Mexico rail network. Improving our border infrastructure has never been more important and I encourage you to give this application strong consideration.

I appreciate your swift and thoughtful consideration of the Texas Department of Transportation for this important grant program. Should you have additional questions, please feel free to contact my office at 202-225-4511.

Sincerely,



WILL HURD
Member of Congress



September 27, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
United States

LETTER OF SUPPORT - US TRADE CONNECTION AT EAGLE PASS

Dear Secretary Chao:

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project will create jobs for American farmers, factory workers, and coal miners, which is why I am writing to express my strong support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) application for \$9.9 million in TIGER Grant funds to help construct this project.

The TIGER Grant award will be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of railroad track that will enable the increase in exports of manufactured goods made in America. Union Pacific Railroad (UP), as the private partner, will match the federal TIGER award with an additional \$9.9million in private funds — a true public-private partnership.

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project exceeds the criteria requirements outlined in the TIGER Notice of Funding Opportunity. It creates American jobs. It creates economic growth for Texas and the U.S. as a whole. It improves the fluidity, efficiency, and safety of trains. It reduces highway congestion and traffic, which in turn improves highway safety, reduces air emissions without placing costly burdens on shippers, and extends the life of public roadway infrastructure.

Additionally, the increased and hopeful efficient fluidity of trains in downtown Eagle Pass will enhance quality of life of border residents by reducing the amount of time it takes trains to meet each other.

I encourage you to give this application strong consideration.

Sincerely,

Ramsey English Cantu
Mayor
City of Eagle Pass

/rec

Mayor Ramsey English Cantu
Mayor Pro Tem Yolanda P. Ramon
Councilperson Place 1. Gloria E. Hernandez
Councilperson Place 2. Rudy Villalpando
Councilperson Place 4. Luis E. Sifuentes



City Manager Arturo B. Rodriguez
Assistant City Manager Ivan Morua
City Secretary Imelda B. Rodriguez

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
United States

LETTER OF SUPPORT - US TRADE CONNECTION AT EAGLE PASS

Dear Secretary Chao:

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project will create jobs for American farmers, factory workers, and coal miners, which is why I am writing to express my strong support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) application for \$9.9 million in TIGER Grant funds to help construct this project.

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Additionally, the increased fluidity of trains in downtown Eagle Pass will enhance quality of life of border residents by reducing the amount of time it takes trains to meet each other.

I encourage you to give this application strong consideration.

Sincerely,

Luis Sifuentes
Councilman Place 4
City of Eagle Pass

Mayor Ramsey English Cantu
Mayor Pro Tem Yolanda P. Ramon
Councilperson Place 1. Gloria E. Hernandez
Councilperson Place 2. Rudy Villalpando
Councilperson Place 4. Luis E. Sifuentes



City Manager Arturo B. Rodriguez
Assistant City Manager Ivan Morua
City Secretary Imelda B. Rodriguez

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
United States

LETTER OF SUPPORT - US TRADE CONNECTION AT EAGLE PASS

Dear Secretary Chao:

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The TIGER Grant award will be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of railroad track that will enable the increase in exports of grain, coal, and manufactured goods made in America. Union Pacific Railroad (UP), as the private partner, will match the federal TIGER award with an additional \$9.9million in private funds — a true public-private partnership.

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Additionally, the increased fluidity of trains in downtown Eagle Pass will enhance quality of life of border residents by reducing the amount of time it takes trains to meet each other.

I encourage you to give this application strong consideration.

Sincerely,

Art B. Rodriguez
City Manager
City of Eagle Pass

**City of Spofford
P. O. Box 1541
Brackettville, TX 78832**

September 27, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
United States

LETTER OF SUPPORT - US TRADE CONNECTION AT EAGLE PASS

Dear Secretary Chao:

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project will create jobs for American farmers, factory workers, and coal miners, which is why I am writing to express my strong support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) application for \$9.9 million in TIGER Grant funds to help construct this project.

The TIGER Grant award will be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of railroad track that will enable the increase in exports of grain, coal, and manufactured goods made in America. Union Pacific Railroad (UP), as the private partner, will match the federal TIGER award with an additional \$9.9million in private funds — a true public-private partnership.

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project exceeds the criteria requirements outlined in the TIGER Notice of Funding Opportunity. It creates American jobs. It creates economic growth for Texas and the U.S. as a whole. It improves the fluidity, efficiency, and safety of trains. It reduces highway congestion and traffic, which in turn improves highway safety, reduces air emissions without placing costly burdens on shippers, and extends the life of public roadway infrastructure.

Additionally, the increased fluidity of trains in downtown Eagle Pass will enhance quality of life of border residents by reducing the amount of time it takes trains to meet each other.

This trade connection enhancement is especially helpful to the City of Spofford, Texas. The Union Pacific Kinney County Railport that is served by this connection is the only local employer available to Spofford. This project will not only help to maintain those presently employed here, but also bring additional jobs for our town. With two Union Pacific rail crossings here in Spofford, this project will also do much to speed the rail traffic through our community.

I encourage you to give this application strong consideration.

Sincerely,

Pablo Resendez
Mayor
City of Spofford



COUNTY OF MAVERICK

Office of the County Judge

David R. Saucedo

September 27, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
United States

LETTER OF SUPPORT - US TRADE CONNECTION AT EAGLE PASS

Dear Secretary Chao:

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project will create jobs for American farmers, factory workers, and coal miners, which is why I am writing to express my strong support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) application for \$9.9 million in TIGER Grant funds to help construct this project.

The TIGER Grant award will be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of railroad track that will enable the increase in exports of grain, coal, and manufactured goods made in America. Union Pacific Railroad (UP), as the private partner, will match the federal TIGER award with an additional \$9.9million in private funds — a true public-private partnership.

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project exceeds the criteria requirements outlined in the TIGER Notice of Funding Opportunity. It creates American jobs. It creates economic growth for Texas and the U.S. as a whole. It improves the fluidity, efficiency, and safety of trains. It reduces highway congestion and traffic, which in turn improves highway safety, reduces air emissions without placing costly burdens on shippers, and extends the life of public roadway infrastructure.

Additionally, the increased fluidity of trains in downtown Eagle Pass will enhance quality of life of border residents by reducing the amount of time it takes trains to meet each other.

I encourage you to give this application strong consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Saucedo", is written over a large, stylized, circular scribble.

David R. Saucedo
Maverick County Judge



Office: 830-563-2401

Tully Shahan
KINNEY COUNTY JUDGE
Post Office Box 348
Brackettville, Texas 78832-0348
county.judge@co.kinney.tx.us



Fax: 830-563-9163

October 6, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
United States

LETTER OF SUPPORT - US TRADE CONNECTION AT EAGLE PASS

Dear Secretary Chao:

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project will create jobs for American farmers, ranchers, factory workers, and coal miners, which is why I am writing to express my strong support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) application for \$9.9 million in TIGER Grant funds to help construct this project.

The TIGER Grant award will be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of railroad track that will enable the increase in exports of grain, coal, and manufactured goods made in America. Union Pacific Railroad (UP), as the private partner, will match the federal TIGER award with an additional \$9.9million in private funds — a true public-private partnership.

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project exceeds the criteria requirements outlined in the TIGER Notice of Funding Opportunity. It creates American jobs. It creates economic growth for Texas and the U.S. as a whole. It improves the fluidity, efficiency, and safety of trains. It reduces highway congestion and traffic, which in turn improves highway safety, reduces air emissions without placing costly burdens on shippers, and extends the life of public roadway infrastructure.

Additionally, the increased fluidity of trains in downtown Eagle Pass will enhance quality of life of border residents by reducing the amount of time it takes trains to meet each other.

I encourage you to give this application strong consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tully Shahan".

Tully Shahan
Kinney County Judge



MIDDLE RIO GRANDE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

PO Box 1199 · 307 West Nopal Carrizo Springs · Texas · 78834 · 830.876.3533 · [FAX] 830.876.9415

TEXAS WORKFORCE CENTERS

PO Box 1199
307 West Nopal
Carrizo Springs
Texas · 78834
830.876.3533
[FAX] 830.876.9415

613 West Zavala
Crystal City
Texas · 78839
830.374.2308
[FAX] 830.374.2209

1927 Bedell Avenue
Del Rio
Texas · 78840
830.774.4741
[FAX] 830.775.4550

1200 Ferry Street
Eagle Pass
Texas · 78852
830.773.1191
[FAX] 830.773.1194

216 West Main Street
Uvalde
Texas · 78801
830.278.4491
[FAX] 830.278.7297

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WORKFORCE CENTERS

106 West Main Street
Rocksprings
Texas · 78880
830.683.5248
[FAX] 830.683.5247

201 East Spring Street
Brackettville
Texas · 78832
830.563.2021
[FAX] 830.563.2049

707 Buckley
Cotulla
Texas · 78014
830.879.3053
[FAX] 830.879.3465

106 East Fourth Street
Camp Wood
Texas · 78833
830.597.3356
[FAX] 830.597.3357

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
[1200 New Jersey Avenue SE](#)
[Washington, D.C. 20590](#)
[United States](#)

LETTER OF SUPPORT - US TRADE CONNECTION AT EAGLE PASS

Dear Secretary Chao:

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project will create jobs for American farmers, factory workers, and coal miners, which is why I am writing to express our Middle Rio Grande Development Council of Governments strong support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) application for \$9.9 million in TIGER Grant funds to help construct this project.

The TIGER Grant award will be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of railroad track that will enable the increase in exports of grain, coal, and manufactured goods made in America. Union Pacific Railroad (UP), as the private partner, will match the federal TIGER award with an additional \$9.9million in private funds — a true public-private partnership.

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project exceeds the criteria requirements outlined in the TIGER Notice of Funding Opportunity. It creates American jobs. It creates economic growth for Texas and the U.S. as a whole. It improves the fluidity, efficiency, and safety of trains. It reduces highway congestion and traffic, which in turn improves highway safety, reduces air emissions without placing costly burdens on shippers, and extends the life of public roadway infrastructure.

Additionally, the increased fluidity of trains in downtown Eagle Pass will enhance quality of life of border residents by reducing the amount of time it takes trains to meet each other.

As a Council of Governments that represent nine counties within our region that includes Maverick County, we encourage your office to give this application its strongest consideration.

Sincerely,

Nick Gallegos

Executive Director

Middle Rio Grande Development Council



October 9, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Border Trade Alliance believes strongly in supporting policies and freight mobility strategies that will fuel economic growth in the United States. That is why the BTA is writing to express its strong support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) application for \$9.9 million in TIGER Grant funds to help construct the US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project, which will create jobs for American farmers, factory workers, and coal miners, and enhance the country's economic competitiveness.

The TIGER Grant award will be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of railroad track that will enable the increase in exports of grain, coal, and goods manufactured in America. Union Pacific Railroad (UP), as the private partner, will match the federal TIGER award with an additional \$9.9million in private funds — a true public-private partnership.

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project exceeds the criteria requirements outlined in the TIGER Notice of Funding Opportunity. It creates American jobs. It creates economic growth for Texas and the U.S. as a whole. It improves the fluidity, efficiency, and safety of trains. It reduces highway congestion and traffic, which in turn improves highway safety, reduces air emissions without placing costly burdens on shippers, and extends the life of public roadway infrastructure.

Additionally, the increased fluidity of trains in downtown Eagle Pass will enhance quality of life of border residents by reducing the amount of time it takes trains to meet each other.

The Border Trade Alliance believes the project is essential to the local, regional and national economies. We appreciate your consideration of the application and look forward to your selection announcement.

Sincerely,

Britton Clarke
President



October 12, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project will create jobs for American farmers, factory workers, and coal miners, which, as neighbor and direct user, is why I am writing to express my strong support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) application for \$9.9 million in TIGER Grant funds to help construct this project.

As far as we understand, the TIGER Grant award will be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of railroad track that will enable the increase in exports of grain, coal, and manufactured goods made in America. We have been informed that Union Pacific Railroad (UP), as the private partner, will match the federal TIGER award with an additional \$9.9million in private funds – a true public-private partnership.

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project creates American jobs and economic growth for Texas and the U.S. as a whole. Also, it improves the fluidity, efficiency, and safety of trains. It reduces highway congestion and traffic, which in turn improves highway safety, reduces air emissions without costly requiring costly burdens on consumers, and extends the life of public roadway infrastructure.

I encourage you to give this application strong consideration.

Sincerely,

Dos Republicas Coal Partnership

Andres Gonzalez-Saravia Coss
President of Eagle Pass Coal Corporation,
General Partner of Dos Republicas Coal Partnership



2000 Clearwater Drive
Oak Brook, IL 60523

P 630.271.3600
F 630.964.6475
HUBGROUP.COM

October 10, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
United States

Re: U.S. Trade Connection at Eagle Pass

Dear Secretary Chao:

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project will create jobs for American farmers, factory workers, and coal miners, which is why Hub Group is writing to express its strong support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) application for \$9.9 million in TIGER Grant funds to help construct this project.

The TIGER Grant award will be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of railroad track that will enable the increase in exports of grain, coal, and manufactured goods made in America. Union Pacific Railroad (UP), as the private partner, will match the federal TIGER award with an additional \$9.9million in private funds — a true public-private partnership.

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project exceeds the criteria requirements outlined in the TIGER Notice of Funding Opportunity. It creates American jobs. It creates economic growth for Texas and the U.S. as a whole. It improves the fluidity, efficiency, and safety of trains. It reduces highway congestion and traffic, which in turn improves highway safety, reduces air emissions without imposing costly burdens on consumers, and extends the life of public roadway infrastructure.

We encourage you to give this application strong consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald Maltby', written over a white background.

Donald G. Maltby
President and Chief Operating Officer

October 10, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing you regarding the good numbers that were reflected on the last report of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics that showed a 7.4% increase in the value of U.S.-Mexico freight flows, in which railways represent a 4.2%, ranking as the second largest transportation system in terms of value: 15.1% of all U.S.-NAFTA freight.

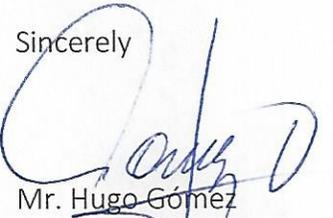
Concerning this information Ferromex is convinced of the need to improve the efficiency of our cross-boarder points, with emphasis on the ones located in Texas (Cd. Juarez-El Paso and Piedras Negras-Eagle Pass), considering the importance they have to expand trade and bilateral commerce, and to boost competitiveness.

For this reason, we have focused our attention in the US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project. The Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) application for \$9.9 million in TIGER Grant funds for this project will increase the development of Texas particularly in terms of international trade, expanding the capacity on Texas' freight rail network. The TIGER Grant award will be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of railroad track that will enable the increase in exports of grain, coal, and manufactured goods made in America. Union Pacific Railroad (UP), as the private partner, will match the federal TIGER award with an additional \$9.9million in private funds — a true public-private partnership.

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project exceeds the criteria requirements outlined in the TIGER Notice of Funding Opportunity. It creates American jobs. It creates economic growth for Texas and the U.S. as a whole. It improves the fluidity, efficiency, and safety of trains. It reduces highway congestion and traffic, which in turn improves highway safety, reduces air emissions without costly requiring costly burdens on consumers, and extends the life of public roadway infrastructure.

I respectfully encourage you to give this application strong consideration.

Sincerely


Mr. Hugo Gómez
Chief Operations Officer



BUILDING AMERICA®

October 11, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the Texas Department of Transportation's US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Union Pacific Railroad, I am writing to express our strong support of the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) 2017 TIGER grant application for the US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass project. The TIGER Grant award will be used to construct approximately 2.5 miles of railroad track that will enable the increase in exports of grain, coal, and manufactured goods made in America.

Union Pacific has a very strong working relationship with TxDOT and looks forward to working with them if awarded a TIGER grant. Additionally, Union Pacific Railroad, as the private partner, will match the federal TIGER award with an additional \$9.9million in private funds — a true public-private partnership.

The US Trade Connection at Eagle Pass project enjoys broad public and private support but is unlikely to be completed in the near future without a public private partnership. Given the many public benefits associated with this important project, I urge you to support their application. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brenda Mainwaring



Sarah W. Bailiff
Assistant Vice President
Contracts and Joint Facilities

BNSF Railway Company
2500 Lou Menk Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76131
Tel: 817.352.2354
sarah.bailiff@bnsf.com

October 13, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

BNSF Railway is pleased to provide its support for the "Construct Second Main Track" project to increase train volume and improve fluidity for BNSF and Union Pacific Railroad (UP) through the Eagle Pass border gateway.

The Eagle Pass gateway is an important part of BNSF's network. BNSF accesses the gateway utilizing trackage rights that were granted to BNSF out of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific (UP/SP) merger. BNSF handles trains in the area at our newly constructed Cadet Yard located just off our trackage rights on UP in San Antonio, Texas. BNSF has invested heavily in this corridor to accommodate the volume growth we have experienced and anticipate will continue to grow in the future.

BNSF's trackage rights over UP to the Eagle Pass gateway begin as far east as Temple, Caldwell and Sealy, and eventually extend over UP's Del Rio and Eagle Pass Subdivisions. The rights were originally established within the UP/SP Merger Settlement Agreement and approved by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board and they guarantee BNSF parity in dispatching and equal access to the Mexico border crossing at Eagle Pass. In addition, general protocols were put in place that outline a broad understanding between UP and BNSF on train handling whereby trains operating would be guaranteed equal dispatch. This additional infrastructure at Eagle Pass and the management of its use is expected to adhere to these protocols. The UP/SP Merger Settlement Agreement also requires BNSF's financial contribution to shared capacity improvement projects on the trackage rights line extending to Eagle Pass, and we would provide financial support to this project in accordance with those terms.

Today, our ability to interchange trains effectively and efficiently through the Eagle Pass gateway is negatively impacted by limited track capacity restricting BNSF's access to the border. Our support for this project is driven by the expectation that this project will increase interchange volume for both BNSF and UP and enable more consistent interchange access for BNSF to achieve the parity contemplated by the UP/SP Merger Settlement Agreement.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this grant application. Please let me know if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Bailiff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Bailiff
AVP Contracts and Joint Facilities
BNSF Railway