



I-37/US 77 Nueces River Project
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,

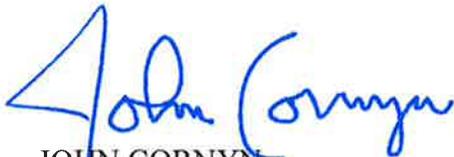
I am writing to express my support for the TIGER application for the I-37/Nueces River Bridge project in Nueces and San Patricio Counties, Texas, to the U.S. Department of Transportation by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

As you and your staff review the proposal, I trust you will give full considerations to the many strengths of this application. The I-37 route in Nueces County is a hurricane evacuation route and provides access to and from the Port of Corpus Christi for various freight including oil, agriculture, and industrial components. The merging of the I-69E two-lane direct connector to the three-lane northbound I-37 mainlanes (five total lanes) quickly drops to three-lanes across the Nueces River Bridge, resulting in a bottleneck causing safety and mobility concerns. This route experienced significant congestion during Hurricane Harvey. Additionally, the elevation of the existing Nueces River Bridge is vulnerable to a potential inundation during extreme flood and storm surge events.

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

BLAKE FARENTHOLD
27TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

2331 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4327
202-225-7742

101 NORTH SHORELINE BLVD, SUITE 300
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78401-2341
361-884-2222

5606 NORTH NAVARRO STREET, SUITE 203
VICTORIA, TX 77904-1727
361-894-6446

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4327

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

JUDICIARY

September 27, 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 I-37/Nueces River Bridge in Nueces and San Patricio Counties, Texas

Dear Secretary Chao,

I would like to express my support for the Texas Department of Transportation's INFRA Grant application for the I-37/Nueces River Bridge project in Nueces and San Patricio Counties, Texas.

The I-37 route in Nueces County is a hurricane evacuation route and provides access to and from the Port of Corpus Christi for various freight including oil, agriculture, and industrial components. The merging of the I-69E two-lane direct connector to the three-lane northbound I-37 mainlanes (five total lanes) quickly drops to three-lanes across the Nueces River Bridge, resulting in a bottleneck causing safety and mobility concerns. This route experienced significant congestion during the Hurricane Harvey event. Additionally, the elevation of the existing Nueces River Bridge is vulnerable to a potential inundation during extreme flood and storm surge events.

Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath have left Texas in a rebuilding mode that will take years to complete. Part of the broader effort must include improving structures that missed the brunt of the storm this year, but may not fare as well in future emergency events. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has a project in development to address the issues along this corridor and has applied for \$23.5 million in TIGER Grant funds to expedite project delivery. I am writing to lend my full support to TxDOT's application.

The TIGER Grant funds will be used to complete the funding needed to add travel lanes creating lane-balance between the two interchanges and to allow for more efficient and safer movement of merging and diverging traffic. The funds will also be used to replace or elevate the northbound Nueces River Bridge to reduce the potential for flooding in emergency situations. As part of a hurricane evacuation route, funding this project is

critical to fully prepare for future emergency events. Additionally, addressing the bottleneck will provide increased connectivity to the many rural communities in this region.

I emphasize my support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the I-37/Nueces River Bridge project for the TIGER program.

Sincerely,



BLAKE FARENTHOLD
Member of Congress



COMMITTEES
FINANCE *Vice Chair*
SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION

THE SENATE OF TEXAS
JUAN "CHUY" HINOJOSA

DISTRICT 20

COMMITTEES
NATURAL RESOURCES &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AGRICULTURE, WATER &
RURAL AFFAIRS

October 5, 2017

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

RE: TxDOT's FY2017-2018 TIGER application for I-37/Nueces River Bridge in Nueces and San Patricio Counties, Texas

Dear Secretary Chao:

I would like to express my support for the Texas Department of Transportation's INFRA Grant application for the I-37/Nueces River Bridge project in Nueces and San Patricio Counties, Texas.

The I-37 route in Nueces County is a hurricane evacuation route and provides access to and from the Port of Corpus Christi for various freight including oil, agriculture, and industrial components. The merging of the I-69E two-lane direct connector to the three-lane northbound I-37 mainlanes (five total lanes) quickly drops to three-lanes across the Nueces River Bridge, resulting in a bottleneck causing safety and mobility concerns. This route experienced significant congestion during the Hurricane Harvey event. Additionally, the elevation of the existing Nueces River Bridge is vulnerable to a potential inundation during extreme flood and storm surge events.

Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath have left Texas in a rebuilding mode that will take years to complete. Part of the broader effort must include improving structures that missed the brunt of the storm this year, but may not fare as well in future emergency events. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has a project in development to address the issues along this corridor and has applied for \$23.5 million in TIGER Grant funds to expedite project delivery. I am writing to lend my full support to TxDOT's application.

The TIGER Grant funds will be used to complete the funding needed to add travel lanes creating lane-balance between the two interchanges and to allow for more efficient and safer movement of merging and diverging traffic. The funds will also be used to replace or elevate the northbound Nueces River Bridge to reduce the potential for flooding in emergency situations. As

612 W. NOLANA, SUITE 410-B
McALLEN, TEXAS 78504-3089
956/972-1841 • FAX: 956/664-0602

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CAPITOL BUILDING
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DIAL 711 FOR RELAY CALLS

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CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78401
361/882-0900 • FAX: 361/882-0902

www.senate.texas.gov

part of a hurricane evacuation route, funding this project is critical to fully prepare for future emergency events. Additionally, addressing the bottleneck will provide increased connectivity to the many rural communities in this region.

I support this project and thank you for your consideration of the I-37/Nueces River Bridge project for the TIGER program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. J. Hinojosa", with a horizontal line through the middle of the first "J".

Juan J. Hinojosa
State Senator, District

Vice Chair, Natural Resources
and Economic Development
Texas Judicial Council
Chair, Eagle Ford Shale
Legislative Caucus



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

Committees
Administration
Business and Commerce
State Affairs

October 6, 2017

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

This is to express my support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the Interstate (I) 37/Nueces River Bridge project in Nueces and San Patricio counties in Texas.

The I-37 route in these counties is an essential hurricane evacuation route and provides access to and from the Port of Corpus Christi for various freight including oil, agriculture, and industrial components. The I-69E two-lane direct connector merges with the three-lane northbound I-37 main lanes, but the total number of lanes quickly drops to three across the Nueces River Bridge, resulting in a bottleneck which causes safety and mobility concerns. This route experienced significant congestion during the Hurricane Harvey event. The elevation of the existing Nueces River Bridge also makes it vulnerable to potential inundation during extreme flood and storm surge events.

Hurricane Harvey caused significant and unprecedented damage to public infrastructure that will take years to rebuild. Part of the broader effort must include improving structures that missed the brunt of the storm this year, but that may not fare as well in future emergency events. TxDOT is developing a project to address issues along this corridor, and the requested grant funding would expedite project delivery.

Letter to Secretary Chao
October 6, 2017
Page 2 of 2

Specifically, the funds would be used to add travel lanes creating lane-balance between the two interchanges, allowing for more efficient and safer movement of merging and diverging traffic. The funds also would be used to replace or elevate the northbound Nueces River Bridge to reduce the potential for flooding. As part of a hurricane evacuation route, this project is critical to prepare fully for future emergency events. What's more, addressing the bottleneck would provide increased connectivity to the many rural communities in this region.

Accordingly, I would appreciate greatly your favorable consideration of TxDOT's INFRA grant application for the I-37/Nueces River Bridge project. Feel free to call upon my staff or me regarding this issue or whenever we may be of assistance.

May God bless you.

Very truly yours,

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

Judith Zaffirini

JZ/kk



October 6, 2017

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Joe McComb
Joe.McComb@ctexas.com

Elizabeth Hardin
Chief of Staff
ElizabethH12@ctexas.com

1201 Leopard St., 78401
PO Box 9277
Corpus Christi
Texas 78469-9277
Phone 361-826-3100
Fax 361-826-3103
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To Whom It May Concern,

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has a project in development to address the issues below along the I-37 corridor and has applied for \$23.5 million in TIGER Grant funds to expedite project delivery. I am writing to lend my full support to TxDOT's application.

The I-37 route in Nueces County is a hurricane evacuation route and provides access to and from the Port of Corpus Christi for various freight including oil, agriculture, and industrial components. The merging of the I-69E two-lane direct connector to the three-lane northbound I-37 main lanes (five total lanes) quickly drops to three-lanes across the Nueces River Bridge, resulting in a bottleneck causing safety and mobility concerns. This route experienced significant congestion during the Hurricane Harvey event. Additionally, the elevation of the existing Nueces River Bridge is vulnerable to a potential inundation during extreme flood and storm surge events.

Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath have left Texas in a rebuilding mode that will take years to complete. Part of the broader effort must include improving structures that missed the brunt of the storm this year, but may not fare as well in future emergency events.

The TIGER Grant funds will be used to complete the funding needed to add travel lanes creating lane-balance between the two interchanges and to allow for more efficient and safer movement of merging and diverging traffic. The funds will also be used to replace or elevate the northbound Nueces River Bridge to reduce the potential for flooding in emergency situations. As part of a hurricane evacuation route, funding this project is critical to fully prepare for future emergency events. Additionally, addressing the bottleneck will provide increased connectivity to the many rural communities in this region.

Please accept this letter as my statement of full support to TxDOT's application for the TIGER Grant.

Sincerely,



Joe McComb
Mayor, City of Corpus Christi



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

October 5, 2017

Chris Caron, P.E.,
District Engineer
TxDOT - Corpus Christi District
1701 S. Padre Island Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX 78416

**TRANSPORTATION
POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Honorable
Terry A. Simpson, Chair
San Patricio County Judge

Charles Zahn, Vice Chair
Board Chairman,
Port of Corpus Christi

The Honorable
Samuel L. Neal, Jr.
Nueces County Judge

The Honorable
David R. Krebs, Mayor
City of Portland

The Honorable
Joe McComb, Mayor
City of Corpus Christi

Curtis Rock,
Board Chairman,
Corpus Christi Regional
Transportation Authority

Chris D. Caron, P.E.
District Engineer,
Corpus Christi District - Texas
Department of Transportation

RE: Letter of Support - 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program Application

It is with great pleasure that I am writing on behalf of the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) in support of the Texas Department of Transportation Corpus Christi District's (TxDOT-CRP) submittal to the 2017 TIGER Discretionary Grant Program.

TxDOT-CRP is seeking support to add much needed capacity on I-37 in South Texas between the I-69E Interchange and the U.S. 77 Interchange. The proposed project, which includes elevation of the Nueces River Bridge, is of critical importance to region safety in terms of both safe operation on I-37 as well as system reliability for coastal communities under condition of evacuation. The I-37 corridor supports much of the freight movement associated with the petrochemical industry in South Texas, and thus its functionality is of national significance, making it that much more worthy of support through the TIGER Program.

The project is currently identified in the Texas Department of Transportation's 2018 Unified Transportation Program and both CCMPO's 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvements Program. The CCMPO's Technical Advisory Committee, which comprises representatives from all jurisdictions within the MPO, voted unanimously to recommend a statement of collaborative support for this TIGER application.

Best of luck with the application.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Pollack". The signature is stylized and loops around the text below it.

Jeffrey Pollack, AICP
Transportation Planning Director