



## 2014 TIGER Grant Application

**Project Title:** South Orient Railroad (SORR) Rehabilitation Project

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Appendix C: Letters of Support

April 24, 2014



April 14, 2014

Mr. Erik Steavens  
Rail Division Director  
Texas Department of Transportation  
125 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

Subject: 2014 TIGER grant application matching funds by Texas Pacifico

Mr. Steavens:

We fully support the initiative to continue the upgrading of the Texas Pacifico rail line. We understand the Texas Department of Transportation will pursue the obtainment of a Federal grant under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program and other funds for a total of \$15,311,949.00 which contribution is broken down in the manner described in the following paragraph.

The Fort Stockton Economic Development Corporation will contribute 1.3% of the total with \$200,000.00, The Texas Department of Transportation will contribute 3.3% with \$500,000.00, the Texas Pacifico will contribute 49.2% of the total with \$7,527,385.00 and finally the TIGER grant funds will reach \$7,084,565.00 or 46.3% of the total.

I do hereby confirm the intention of the Texas Pacifico Transportation company to contribute in this occasion with the above mentioned amount should the other components of the fund be secured.

I look forward to working together as we have in the past to ensure the project is properly carried out.

Sincerely,

Hilario Gabilondo Picollo  
Texas Pacifico Transportation, Ltd.  
CEO and Managing Director



Attn: Doug May  
1000 Railroad Avenue  
Fort Stockton, Texas

Phone: 432/336-2264  
Fax: 432/336-6114  
Email: [edc@fortstockton.org](mailto:edc@fortstockton.org)

March 28, 2014

Anthony Foxx - Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
United States

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The City of Fort Stockton, Texas and the Fort Stockton Economic Development Corporation support the Texas Department of Transportation TIGER Grant application for the rehabilitation of the South Orient Rail from Sulpher Junction to Fort Stockton. Rehabilitation of the rail will allow for the creation of new jobs, increased capital investment and diversification of the local and regional economies. There has been a significant increase in traffic on the line and we have received numerous requests for new service. These requests for service and the new capital investment and job creation associated with increased rail traffic cannot be fully realized until improvements to the rail infrastructure are completed. Therefore, the Fort Stockton Economic Development Corporation agrees to provide TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000) in local funding toward the completion of this project should the Texas Department of Transportation receive TIGER Grant funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug May".

Doug May  
Executive Director, Fort Stockton Economic Development Corporation

*SAL SALAZAR  
PAUL GOLLIHER  
MARY GALLEGOS  
JIM IVY  
PAUL WEATHERBY  
E.D.D.: DOUG MAY*



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

1 April 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write in support of Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT's) application for a TIGER VI (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) discretionary grant for the South Orient Railroad. The South Orient is a lifeline passing through some of the most rural and isolated parts of Texas. **Please note that I am available to speak directly with you about my support of the South Orient Railroad.**

The South Orient Railroad runs for 391 miles from Presidio on the border with Mexico, to Fort Stockton, then to San Angelo and then on to Coleman. It is a vital tool for the economy of the entire West Texas region, allowing the movement of agricultural and other goods through our region. However, because of its isolation, the line was long neglected by its prior owners.

With the grant provided, TxDOT now seeks to rehabilitate the southern portion of the line - from Presidio to San Angelo. The goal is to more than double train speed, cut each trip's length by four and a half hours and allow for a larger number of cars to use the line at once. This is critical as the line intersects with other major lines that head east, west, and further north.

**It is also important to note that this project is "shovel-ready."** It has already been environmentally cleared, meets all state and federal requirements, and can be initiated rapidly. And, the project would make a huge difference in the economically distressed area where the line runs.

As a member of the Texas Legislature, I was responsible for the state's purchase of the South Orient. This project is important to me, personally. I strongly support TxDOT's TIGER VI application and urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to give close and serious consideration to this application. Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Emily German in my DC office at [Emily.German@mail.house.gov](mailto:Emily.German@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Pete P. Gallego  
Member of Congress



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4311

April 11, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write to express my support for the Texas Department of Transportation's TIGER VI (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Discretionary Grants Program application for the South Orient Railroad. This project is vital to increasing the capacity of our railroad and supporting our economy.

The railroad is being utilized by many industries, including the agricultural and wind energy industries to transport their products. These industries are an asset to persevering and utilizing our natural resources. These important lines need bridge maintenance, crossing rehabilitation, and rail replacement to increase the efficiency and safety of the rail. The project has been environmentally cleared, meets all state and federal requirements, and is a "shovel-ready" project that can be initiated rapidly in the Economically Distressed Area where the project improvements are located.

I respectfully submit my support to the Texas Department of Transportation's submittal of the TIGER VI Discretionary Grants Program for the South Orient Railroad project. This project will provide a tremendous boost to both our transportation system and the economy.

Sincerely,

K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress

KMC/hs

**BROWNWOOD OFFICE:**  
BROWNWOOD CITY HALL  
501 CENTER AVENUE  
BROWNWOOD, TX 76801  
TOLL FREE: (866) 882-3811

**LLANO REGIONAL OFFICE:**  
COUNTY ANNEX  
104 WEST SANDSTONE  
LLANO, TX 78643  
PHONE: (325) 247-2826  
FAX: (325) 247-2676

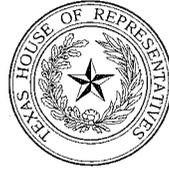
**MIDLAND REGIONAL OFFICE:**  
CLAYDESTA CENTER  
6 DESTA DRIVE, SUITE 2000  
MIDLAND, TX 79705  
PHONE: (432) 687-2390  
FAX: (432) 687-0277

**ODESSA OFFICE:**  
CITY HALL  
411 W. 8TH ST., 5TH FLOOR  
ODESSA, TX 79761  
TOLL FREE: (866) 882-3811

**SAN ANGELO REGIONAL OFFICE:**  
O.C. FISHER FEDERAL BUILDING  
33 EAST TWOHIG, SUITE 307  
SAN ANGELO, TX 76903  
PHONE: (325) 659-4010  
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**WASHINGTON OFFICE:**  
1527 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: (202) 225-3605  
FAX: (202) 225-1783

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



PONCHO NEVÁREZ

DISTRICT 74

3/31/2014

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

Re: Support for the Texas Department of Transportation TIGER VI Discretionary Grants Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to support the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Application that will provide funds for the South Orient Railroad Rehabilitation project.

I am pleased to support this important rural transportation project to rehabilitate the South Orient Railroad. The improvements to the railroad will have a significant impact both on the region and the nation. The project has been environmentally cleared, meets all state and federal requirements, and is a "shovel-ready" project that can be initiated rapidly in the Economically Distressed Area where the project improvements are located.

TxDOT's TIGER VI application for the South Orient Railroad has my full support and I strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to give serious consideration to this application.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Poncho Nevarez".

Poncho Nevarez

# 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

March 25, 2014

Secretary Anthony Foxx  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Texas Department of Transportation TIGER VI Discretionary Grants Program

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing to express my support of the Texas Department of Transportation's application for the South Orient Rehabilitation rail line project under the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Discretionary Grants Program.

As a State Representative I am pleased to support this rehabilitation project that will be used to repair the South Orient Railroad (SORR) from Sulphur Junction through Fort Stockton. These improvements to the railroad will have a significant impact to the region, state and nation. SORR is the only rail line providing services to the cities and businesses in the region which includes agricultural interests, steel manufacturers, mining businesses, and energy resources. It will upgrade the SORR along this rail line to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Class 2 (25 miles per hour) status. Since the loads of freight have greatly increased from 144 car loads in 2007 to over 1,500 carloads in 2012, this project will help improve the railroad's condition and allow more businesses to utilize this transportation opportunity. The project has been environmentally cleared, meets all state and federal requirements, and is a "shovel ready" project that can be initiated rapidly in the Economically Distressed Area where the project improvements are located.

Additionally, the SORR is a valuable asset to ensure long-term continued trade partnership with Mexico. The rail line runs from San Angelo Junction to Coleman County, Texas to Presidio at the Texas/Mexico border. This continued support from Mexico is a tremendous boost to both our transportation system and the economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew Darby". The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Drew Darby  
State Representative

CAPITOL OFFICE  
P.O. Box 12068  
ROOM E1.804  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711  
(512) 463-0119  
FAX: (512) 463-1017  
DIAL 711 FOR RELAY CALLS

EAGLE PASS DISTRICT OFFICE  
MAVERICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
501 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 114  
EAGLE PASS, TEXAS 78852  
(830) 758-0294  
FAX: (830) 758-0402

# The Senate of The State of Texas



## Senator Carlos Uresti District 19

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT OFFICE  
2530 SW MILITARY DR., SUITE 103  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78224  
(210) 932-2568  
FAX: (210) 932-2572

PECOS DISTRICT OFFICE  
312 SOUTH CEDAR  
PECOS, TEXAS 79772  
(432) 447-0270  
FAX: (432) 447-0275

DIAL TOLL FREE: 1-800-459-0119

April 7, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Foxx:

I am writing to urge your support for an infrastructure project that is important to Pecos County, the City of Fort Stockton and other South Texas border counties with infrastructure needs as the area has seen monumental increases in energy activity—both oil & gas as well as solar and wind development.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is requesting a TIGER IV grant to be used for the rehabilitation of the South Orient rail line from Sulphur Junction through Fort Stockton. This area has infrastructure deficiencies that limit speeds to 10 mph. The project has been environmentally cleared, meets all state and federal requirements, and is a “shovel-ready” project that can be initiated rapidly in the Economically Distressed Area.

I have endorsed this project in previous letters dated Sept. 10, 2009, Oct. 27, 2011, and March 12 2012. It still enjoys my enthusiastic support, as well as that of the elected leaders and residents of the communities involved. I respectfully request that you give this TIGER application submitted by TxDOT and the other partners your full consideration. I believe it represents the kind of projects that President Obama and Congress had in mind when this program was created.

Thank you for your service to the nation and for taking the time to consider our request. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you need any further information on this project or if I can be of service in any other way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "CU", written over a faint, large watermark of the word "TRANSPORTATION" in the background.

CARLOS I. URESTI

CIU/mr/jh

# County of Pecos



**JOE SHUSTER**

County Judge  
103 W. Callaghan  
Phones:  
(432) 336-2792 & 336-8724  
FAX (432) 336-6640

Fort Stockton, Texas 79735

March 31, 2014

**PAM HARRIS**  
Administrative Assistant



Anthony Foxx - Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
United States

Dear Secretary Foxx,

Pecos County supports the Texas Department of Transportation TIGER Grant application for the rehabilitation of the South Orient Rail from Sulphur Junction to Fort Stockton. Rehabilitation of the rail will allow for the creation of new jobs, increased capital investment and diversification of the local and regional economies. We ask that you give this request for funding your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Shuster".

Joe Shuster  
Pecos County Judge

JS:ph

# BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Asa Stone, Commissioner, Pct. 1

Kathy Killingsworth, County Judge

Tom Williams, Commissioner, Pct. 2

Ruben Ortega, Commissioner, Pct. 3

Mike Pallanez, Commissioner, Pct. 4

March 25, 2014



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

Re: Support for the Texas Department of Transportation TIGER VI Discretionary Grants Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Commissioners Court is writing to support the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Application that will provide funds for the South Orient Railroad Rehabilitation project.

Commissioners Court is pleased to support this important rural transportation project to rehabilitate the South Orient Railroad. The improvements to the railroad will have a significant impact both on the region and the nation. The project has been environmentally cleared, meets all state and federal requirements, and is a "shovel-ready" project that can be initiated rapidly in the Economically Distressed Area where the project improvements are located.

TxDOT's TIGER VI application for the South Orient Railroad has the enthusiastic support of Commissioners Court and strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to give serious consideration to this application.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Asa Stone in black ink.

Asa Stone, Commissioner, Pct. 1

Handwritten signature of Tom Williams in black ink.

Tom Williams, Commissioner, Pct. 2

Handwritten signature of Kathy Killingsworth in black ink.

Kathy Killingsworth, Brewster County Judge

Handwritten signature of Ruben Ortega in black ink.

Ruben Ortega, Commissioner, Pct. 3

Handwritten signature of Mike Pallanez in black ink.

Mike Pallanez, Commissioner, Pct. 4

**PAUL HUNT**  
**PRESIDIO COUNTY**  
**JUDGE**



300 N. Highland  
P.O. Box 606  
Marfa, TX 79843  
432 729-4452 tel.  
432 729-4453 fax  
[presidiocounty@att.net](mailto:presidiocounty@att.net)

March 11, 2014

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

Subject: *Support for the Texas Department of Transportation TIGER VI Discretionary Grants Application*

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to support the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Application that will provide funds for the South Orient Railroad Rehabilitation project.

The South Orient Railroad serves an important trade corridor connecting Chihuahua in northern Mexico with the heartland of the United States. Here in Presidio County we have been very active in coordinating transportation infrastructure projects with planners in Mexico as well as our own State and Federal Government. I can report with confidence that TxDOT's application is enthusiastically supported for its potential contribution to our regional transportation plans. The improvements to the railroad will have a significant impact both on the region and the nation. The project has been environmentally cleared, meets all state and federal requirements, and is a "shovel-ready" project that can be initiated rapidly in the Economically Distressed Area where the project improvements are located.

TxDOT's TIGER VI application for the South Orient Railroad has the enthusiastic support of Presidio County and I strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to give serious consideration to this application.

Sincerely,

Paul Hunt  
[eljuez@att.net](mailto:eljuez@att.net)



Shundrekia Stewart  
Director, TransCon Corridor  
Public Private Partnerships

BNSF Railway Company  
2500 Lou Menk Drive, AOB-3  
Fort Worth, Texas 76131  
Tel: 817.352.4440  
Fax: 817.352.7154  
Cell: 817.313.5439  
shundrekia.stewart@bnsf.com

April 25, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

BNSF Railway supports efforts by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to secure TIGER 2014 Discretionary Grant funding for the South Orient Railroad (SORR) Rehabilitation Project.

The SORR line interchanges with BNSF Railway at San Angelo Junction, Texas. TxDOT is requesting a tiger grant to support Sulphur Junction to Fort Stockton. This will allow them to continue their ongoing strategy (uninterrupted) to also invest in its east end infrastructure to support its growing business there. Without the grant dollars will likely be spread more broadly and limit improvements to support current, growing volumes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shundrekia Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# FORT WORTH & WESTERN RAILROAD

A Tarantula Corporation Company

April 2, 2014

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

Re: Support for the Texas Department of Transportation TIGER VI Discretionary Grants Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to support the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Application that will provide funds for the South Orient Railroad Rehabilitation project.

Our railroad, Fort Worth & Western Railroad (FWWR) connects with the railroad that operates over the South Orient Railroad, and TXDOT's efforts to help secure funding to the operator will help maintain competitive access for many receivers/shippers along the railroad. The railroad line is of utmost importance to FWWR and we fully support any assistance that can be provided to this important rail link. The improvements to the railroad will have a significant impact both on the region and the nation. The project has been environmentally cleared, meets all state and federal requirements, and is a "shovel-ready" project that can be initiated rapidly in the Economically Distressed Area where the project improvements are located.

TxDOT's TIGER VI application for the South Orient Railroad has the enthusiastic support of the Fort Worth & Western Railroad and I strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to give serious consideration to this application.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Lesikar  
VP – Business Development  
Fort Worth & Western Railroad  
6300 Ridglea Place, Suite 1200  
Fort Worth, Texas 76116  
[www.fwwr.net](http://www.fwwr.net)

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