

HENRY CUELLAR, PH.D.
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
April 11, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I would like to express my support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FASTLANE application for the Laredo Interstate Highway 35 (IH 35)/US 59 Interchange project. The proposed project includes the US 59 main lanes over IH 35 and the direct connector from westbound US 59 to southbound IH 35.

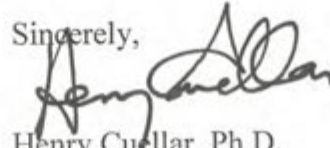
The project facilitates the safety, efficiency, and reliability of freight and passenger traffic along the southern section of IH 35 and a portion of US 59 (future IH 69) in Laredo TX, home to the largest inland port in the country. In 2015, the Laredo Port of Entry ranked in the top five ports by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics for trucks, train, transit, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians. The Laredo Port of Entry handled \$91.8 billion in U.S. exports to the world and \$112.7 billion in U.S. imports from the world, second only to the Port of Los Angeles. According to the International Trade Administration over one million American jobs are supported by exports to Mexico. The City of Laredo's four international bridges account for \$199,144,135,540 of the \$280 billion dollars in trade flowing through the Laredo Customs District. These four international bridges account for 66% of all commercial trucks crossing between Mexico and the U.S., 3,894,842 trucks yearly. Laredo's total trade grew more than any other U.S. Customs District in 2014 and goods shipped through Laredo travel to more than 60 countries.

If funded, this proposed project will have local, state, national and international impact. The interchange project is located near two critical international crossings, including the World Trade Bridge (US59), which is located approximately 3 miles away, and the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge, which is located approximately 8 miles away. The project will provide an overpass that will improve connectivity between the multiple commercial and industrial areas of Laredo that are connected via IH 35, US 59 (IH 69), and US 83 and the U.S./Mexico border through the World Trade Bridge and a direct connector that will provide a for safer movement of traffic through the currently congested IH 35 and US 59 interchange. The roadways and commercial/industrial areas serve as the backbone of commerce for the region and the nation, particularly as it relates to North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) traffic.

The project provides the Laredo region and the U.S. with the ability to increase the already active freight traffic to and from the region. The economic benefits from increasing goods and people along the region and the international border would further increase the global economic competitiveness of the U.S.

I fully support this regionally, nationally and internationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the Laredo IH 35 Bundle project for the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Cuellar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "H".

Henry Cuellar, Ph.D.
U.S. Congressman
28th District of Texas



Tracy O. King
State Representative

April 8, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I would like to express my support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FASTLANE application for the Laredo Interstate Highway 35 (IH 35)/US 59 Interchange project. The proposed project includes the US 59 mainlanes over IH 35 and the direct connector from westbound US 59 to southbound IH 35.

The project facilitates the safety, efficiency, and reliability of freight and passenger traffic along the southern section of IH 35 and a portion of US 59 (future IH 69) in the Laredo area, which ranked in the 2014 top five ports by BTS for trucks, train, transit, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians.

The interchange is located near two critical international crossings, including the World Trade Bridge (US59), which is located approximately 3 miles away, and the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge, which is located approximately 8 miles away. The project will provide an overpass that will improve connectivity between the multiple commercial and industrial areas of Laredo that are connected via IH 35, US 59 (IH 69), and US 83 and the U.S./Mexico border through the World Trade Bridge and a direct connector that will provide a safer movement of traffic through the currently congested IH 35 and US 59 interchange. The roadways and commercial/industrial areas serve as the backbone of commerce for the region and the nation, particularly as it relates to North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) traffic.

The project provides the Laredo region and the U.S. with the ability to increase the already active freight traffic to and from the region. The economic benefits from increasing goods and people along the region and the international border would further increase the global economic competitiveness of the U.S.

I emphasize my support of this regionally and nationally important project, and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the Laredo IH 35 Bundle project for the FASTLANE program.

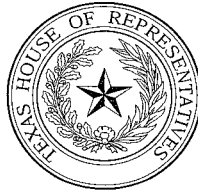
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy O. King".

Tracy O. King

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
CHAIR



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
AND CIVIL JURISPRUDENCE

RICHARD PEÑA RAYMOND

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 42

April 7, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing to express my strong support of the Texas Department of Transportation's FASTLANE application for the Laredo Interstate Highway 35 (IH 35)/US 59 Interchange project. The proposed project includes the US 59 mainlanes over IH 35 and the direct connector from westbound US 59 to southbound IH 35.

The project facilitates the safety, efficiency, and reliability of freight and passenger traffic along the southern section of IH 35 and a portion of US 59 (future IH 69) in the Laredo area, which ranked in the 2014 top five ports by BTS for trucks, train, transit, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians.

The interchange is located near two critical international crossings, including the World Trade Bridge (US59), which is located approximately 3 miles away, and the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge, which is located approximately 8 miles away. The project will provide an overpass that will improve connectivity between the multiple commercial and industrial areas of Laredo that are connected via IH 35, US 59 (IH 69), and US 83 and the U.S./Mexico border through the World Trade Bridge and a direct connector that will provide a safer movement of traffic through the currently congested IH 35 and US 59 interchange. The roadways and commercial/industrial areas serve as the backbone of commerce for the region and the nation, particularly as it relates to North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) traffic.

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
CHAIR



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
AND CIVIL JURISPRUDENCE

RICHARD PEÑA RAYMOND

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 42

The project provides the Laredo region and the U.S. with the ability to increase the already active freight traffic to and from the region. The economic benefits from increasing goods and people along the region and the international border would further increase the global economic competitiveness of the U.S.

I emphasize my support of this regionally and nationally important project, and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the Laredo IH 35 Bundle project for the FASTLANE program.

If you have questions regarding my support of this proposed development, please contact me at (956) 286-9500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Peña Raymond".

Richard Peña Raymond
State Representative

Chair, Eagle Ford Shale
Legislative Caucus
Texas Judicial Council
Vice Chair, Agriculture, Water,
and Rural Affairs



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

Committees
Health and Human Services
Natural Resources
and Economic Development
State Affairs

April 7, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

This is to express my support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FASTLANE application for the Laredo Interstate Highway (IH) 35/US 59 Interchange project. The proposed project, which includes construction of a US 59 mainlane overpass at IH 35 and a direct connector from westbound US 59 to southbound IH 35, would be a significant boon to both the region and the nation.

The project would improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of freight and passenger traffic along the southern section of IH 35 and a portion of US 59 (future IH 69) in the Laredo area, which the Bureau of Transportation Statistics in 2014 ranked as one of the top five ports for trucks, train, transit, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians. What's more, the interchange is located near two critical international crossings: the World Trade Bridge (US 59), which is approximately three miles away, and the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge, approximately eight miles away.

Constructing an overpass would improve connectivity between the multiple commercial and industrial areas of Laredo and the U.S.-Mexico border, and a direct connector would ensure a safer flow of traffic through the currently congested IH 35 and US 59 interchange. These roadways and commercial and industrial areas serve as the backbone of commerce for the region and the nation, and especially for North American Free Trade Agreement traffic. The economic benefits resulting from the enhanced movement of goods and people in the region and across the international border would further augment our nation's global economic competitiveness.

I would appreciate greatly your favorable consideration of the Laredo-IH 35 Bundle project for the FASTLANE program. 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



Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge

April 8, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I would like to express my strong support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FASTLANE application for the Laredo Interstate Highway 35 (IH 35)/US 59 Interchange project. The proposed project includes the US 59 mainlanes over IH 35 and the direct connector from westbound US 59 to southbound IH 35.

The project facilitates the safety, efficiency, and reliability of freight and passenger traffic along the southern section of IH 35 and a portion of US 59 (future IH 69) in the Laredo area, which ranked in the 2014 top five ports by BTS for trucks, train, transit, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians.

The interchange is located near two critical international crossings, including the World Trade Bridge (US59), which is located approximately 3 miles away, and the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge, which is located approximately 8 miles away. The project will provide an overpass that will improve connectivity between the multiple commercial and industrial areas of Laredo that are connected via IH 35, US 59 (IH 69), and US 83 and the U.S./Mexico border through the World Trade Bridge and a direct connector that will provide a safer movement of traffic through the currently congested IH 35 and US 59 interchange. The roadways and commercial/industrial areas serve as the backbone of commerce for the region and the nation, particularly as it relates to North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) traffic.

The project provides the Laredo region and the U.S. with the ability to increase the already active freight traffic to and from the region. The economic benefits from increasing goods and people along the region and the international border would further increase the global economic competitiveness of the U.S.

I would like to emphasize my support of this regionally and nationally important project, and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the Laredo IH 35 Bundle project for the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tano Tijerina", written in a cursive style.

Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
PETE SAENZ
Laredo, TX

April 11, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The City of Laredo would like to express our support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FASTLANE application for the Laredo Interstate Highway 35 (IH 35)/US 59 Interchange project. The proposed project includes the US 59 main lanes over IH 35 and the direct connector from westbound US 59 to southbound IH 35.

The project facilitates the safety, efficiency, and reliability of freight and passenger traffic along the southern section of IH 35 and a portion of US 59 (future IH 69) in the Laredo area, which ranked in the 2014 top five ports by BTS for trucks, train, transit, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians.

The interchange is located near two critical international crossings, including the World Trade Bridge (US59), which is located approximately 3 miles away, and the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge, which is located approximately 8 miles away. The project will provide an overpass that will improve connectivity between the multiple commercial and industrial areas of Laredo that are connected via IH 35, US 59 (IH 69), and US 83 and the U.S./Mexico border through the World Trade Bridge and a direct connector that will provide a safer movement of traffic through the currently congested IH 35 and US 59 interchange. The roadways and commercial/industrial areas serve as the backbone of commerce for the region and the nation, particularly as it relates to North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) traffic.

The project provides the Laredo region and the U.S. with the ability to increase the already active freight traffic to and from the region. The economic benefits from increasing goods and people along the region and the international border would further increase the global economic competitiveness of the U.S.

I emphasize my support of this regionally and nationally important project, and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the Laredo IH 35 Bundle project for the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,


Pete Saenz
Mayor



The Alliance for I-69 Texas

Encouraging Cooperation and Seeking Solutions Since 1994

April 11, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The Alliance for I-69 Texas would like to express our support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FASTLANE applications for the Laredo I-35 /US 59 (future I-69) interchange project and the Grand Parkway project. The Alliance is a coalition made up of cities, counties, port authorities and community leaders building grassroots support for upgrading the entire Interstate 69 route in Texas. Both the Laredo and Grand Parkway projects will improve freight movement on segments of I-69.

The Laredo project includes construction of the US 59 (future I-69) main lanes over I-35 and the direct connector from westbound US 59 to southbound I-35. The project facilitates the safety, efficiency, and reliability of freight and passenger traffic along the southern section of I-35 and a portion of US 59 in the Laredo area, which ranked in the top five ports in 2014 by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics for trucks, train, transit, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians. The roadways and commercial/industrial areas served by this project are the backbone of commerce for the region and the nation, particularly as it relates to North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) traffic.

The State Highway 99 Grand Parkway project in the Houston region will facilitate the movement of goods and services to and from the Port of Houston, ranked first in US ports in terms of foreign tonnage, and the Trans-Global Solutions Cedar Port Industrial Park, the fifth largest intermodal logistics facility in the world. It will also enhance connectivity between existing interstate systems including I-69, I-10 and I-45.

The Alliance for I-69 Texas emphasizes our support for both of these regionally and nationally important projects, and we thank you for your consideration of them for the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel L. Neal".

Samuel L. Neal
County Judge, Nueces County
Chairman, Alliance for I-69 Texas

C: Texas Transportation Commission
James Bass, Executive Director, TxDOT

April 12, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I, Dennis E. Nixon, would like to express my support for the Texas Department of Transportation's FASTLANE application for the Laredo Interstate Highway 35 (IH 35)/US 59 Interchange project. The proposed project includes the US 59 main lanes over IH 35 and the direct connector from westbound US 59 to southbound IH 35.

The project facilitates the safety, efficiency, and reliability of freight and passenger traffic along the southern section of IH 35 and a portion of US 59 (future IH 69) in the Laredo area, which ranked in the 2014 top five ports by BTS for trucks, train, transit, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians. In fact in 2015, Laredo became the third most important inland port in the country behind New York and Los Angeles.

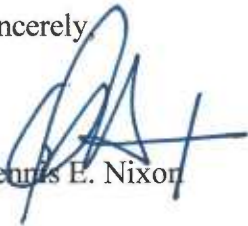
The interchange is located near two critical international crossings, including the World Trade Bridge (US 59), which is located approximately 3 miles away, and the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge, which is located approximately 8 miles away. The project will provide an overpass that will improve connectivity between the multiple commercial and industrial areas of Laredo that are connected via IH 35, US 59 (IH 69), and US 83 and the U.S./Mexico border through the World Trade Bridge and a direct connector that will provide a safer movement of traffic through the currently congested IH 35 and US 59 interchange. The roadways and commercial/industrial areas serve as the backbone of commerce for the region and the nation, particularly as it relates to North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) traffic.

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
April 12, 2016
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The project provides the Laredo region, Texas, and the U.S. with the ability to increase the already active freight traffic to and from the region. This is particularly valuable for the State of Texas and the entire country since Laredo continues to be the funnel point of entry for the rapidly growing trade in North America. Trade has become increasingly important in light of the decreasing trends in the oil and gas sectors of Texas. The economic benefits from facilitating the movement of goods and people along the region and the international border would further increase the global economic competitiveness of the U.S. and improve the economic prospects for Texas.

I strongly wish to emphasize my support of this regionally and nationally important project and thank you for your consideration and hopeful selection of the Laredo ITT 35 Bundle project for the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis E. Nixon". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dennis E. Nixon

Cc: Tryon D. Lewis, Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission
J. Bruce Bugg, Jr. Commissioner, Texas Transportation Commission