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For Immediate Release
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CAMERON COUNTY SECURES \$25.5 MILLION TO CONSTRUCT SH 550 DIRECT CONNECTORS TO U.S. 77

Cameron County Judge Carlos H. Cascos and Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority (CCRMA) Chairman David E. Alex announced today that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) awarded \$25.5 million under the state's Pass Through Financing Program to the Regional Mobility Authority to develop the SH 550 Toll Road Connectors to U.S. 77.

The CCRMA submitted a finance application in March for this project to the Texas Transportation Commission. The SH 550 Connectors will provide a critical direct connection from U.S. 77 to SH 550 improving mobility, providing safety, improving air quality by reducing emissions, and facilitating the trade and the movement of goods and services as we increase the level of imports and exports on both sides of the border.

Judge Cascos was extremely thankful to the Texas Department of Transportation for selecting this project. "This project has been in the planning stages for several years and shortly we will start turning dirt on this critical transportation project that is a win-win for all of the citizens of Brownsville and the region", Cascos stated.

David E. Alex also was thankful to TxDOT. "Today not having a direct connection from U.S. 77 onto SH 550, affects the movement of goods and services and the new connectors will improve connectivity leading to the Port of Brownsville. The project will also improve access to the airport in Brownsville and the foreign trade zone providing economic development opportunities in the areas immediately adjacent to the Port of Brownsville and Foreign Trade Zones. We need to continue to find ways to be more efficient in improving our trade routes to Mexico and this project helps do just that", he stated.

CCRMA Vice-Chairman John Wood also addressed the commission stating "the importance of the transportation network in the Rio Grande Valley and how the CCRMA development program strategically ties into major corridors, our Port of Brownsville and our International Bridges will continue to be a priority to us".

With this announcement, the CCRMA in the last five years has secured and leveraged close to \$200 million dollars from federal, state and local sources for construction of critical infrastructure improvements in Cameron County as well as improvements along U.S 77 in Willacy County.

Attending the monthly TxDOT meeting today in Austin were RMA Chairman David Alex, RMA Vice-Chairman John Wood and County Commissioner Sofia C. Benavides.

About the Mobility Authority

The Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority (CCRMA) is a local, independent government agency created to improve the regional transportation system. Its mission is to make significant contributions by providing effective, accelerated mobility improvements to encourage economic development in South Texas. The CCRMA will build transportation projects sooner, providing alternatives to save time, increase safety for the local traveling public, and create an environment to support job creation. The CCRMA, in existence for six years, was created to meet the region's various transportation needs in a new, better and more efficient manner.

Effective Mobility..... From Borders To Beaches

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