



CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA
COUNTY JUDGE

1100 E. MONROE STREET
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS
78520

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
(956) 544-0830 FAX: (956) 544-0801
1-866-544-0830

August 16, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: East Loop Project

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing in strong support of the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority's (CCRMA) Tiger II application for \$23 million for the **East Loop** project in Brownsville, Texas. This project is a priority to Cameron County and I ask for your favorable consideration of this project which has state, national, and international significance.

The East Loop is a comprehensive partnership project involving the CCRMA, Cameron County, the City of Brownsville, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Brownsville Navigation District, and numerous partners in Mexico. The project is a critical component in improving the flow of trade from the Port of Brownsville to industrial facilities in South Texas and Northern Mexico. This new corridor will remove heavy truck traffic from one of the most heavily traveled streets in Brownsville improving safety for many children and local residents and reducing congestion.

The application the CCRMA has submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation will enable them to build the ultimate facility along this corridor providing for a more efficient trade route. The CCRMA is planning a complete system of transportation infrastructure additions and upgrades for the entire region that will support economic development. The \$23 million they are requesting for the East Loop will allow them to achieve the maximum benefits of a new freight corridor that will increase safety, enhance connectivity, reduce congestion, improve livability and create a sustainable economic development environment for many years to come. Cameron County has committed funding for the development of the environmental assessment and for right of way acquisition.

I ask for your most favorable consideration of this funding request.

Sincerest regards,

Carlos H. Cascos, CPA
County Judge