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# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2308  
August 23, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to support the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority's Tiger II application for \$23 million dollars for the **East Loop** project in Brownsville, Texas. This project is a priority to the leadership of Brownsville, Cameron County and the Port of Brownsville and is a project that I have personally been briefed on during my visits to the Rio Grande Valley that 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 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 overweight commercial 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.

I ask for favorable consideration of this funding request. If you have any questions regarding this project please feel free to contact me.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
James L. Oberstar, M.C.