

August 6, 2023

Mr. J. Bruce Bugg, Jr.
Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission
Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Suggested Additions to the 2024 Unified Transportation Program

Dear Chairman Bugg and Commissioners,

In our previous letter to you dated, June 6, 2023, myself and many of the Texas legislators representing districts along the Ports-to-Plains Future Interstate-27 (I-27), encouraged the Texas Transportation Commission (Commission), and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to identify projects along the Ports-to-Plains Corridor for inclusion in the 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP).

After reviewing the initial draft of the 2024 UTP, we would like to commend the Commission and TxDOT on its commitment to funding transportation projects in rural Texas and more specifically for identifying multiple projects along the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in the initial draft of the 2024 Unified Transportation Program. In particular, we are pleased to support the following projects that were identified in the 2024 draft UTP, the widening of US 83 in Webb County and the upgrades of SL 480 in Maverick County near Eagle Pass.

As you work to finalize the 2024 UTP, we ask that the Commission and TxDOT seriously consider adding several additional projects to the 2024 UTP. Specifically, we ask that in the 2024 UTP, the Commission begin developing two relief routes on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor to interstate standards, the Eagle Pass Relief Route on State Loop 480 around Eagle Pass in Maverick County and the Del Rio Relief Route on the Loop 79 extension around Del Rio in Val Verde County. We encourage you to plan to spend \$40 million, \$20 million for each location, to help partially fund these projects. We are making this additional request to upgrade these roadways to interstate standards because these projects will help address the ever increasing international crossings at

Eagle Pass and Del Rio, and these projects will allow these communities to further connect to the Future Interstate-27.

We greatly appreciate all of the thoughtful work that went into identifying these projects along the Future I-27. The funding of these projects is a critical next step to ensure that commerce in Texas continues to flourish for generations to come.

We look forward to continue working with the Commission and TxDOT on the development of the Ports-to-Plains Future I-27.

Respectfully,

Sen. Charles Perry Senate District 28

Petal. In Sen. Pete Flores

Senate District 24

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Rep. Andrew S. Murr House District 53

Rep. Eddie Morales House District 74

Rep. Dustin Burrows House District 83 Sen. Roland Gutierrez Senate District 19

Sen. Kevin Sparks Senate District 31

Rep. Stan Lambert House District 71

Rep. Tracy O. King House District 80

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Rep. Carl H. Tepper House District 84 Sen. Judith Zaffirini Senate District 21

Judith Toffine

Rep. Ryan Guillen House District 31

Rep. Drew Darby House District 72

Rep. Brooks Landgraf House District 81

cc: Texas Transportation Commission