

Toribio Garza, JR.

600 W. US Expressway 83

Pharr, Texas 78577

Mr. Garza,

First, we would like to thank you and the TxDOT organization for its continued support on numerous projects vital to the continued progression of Hidalgo County and all those who utilize Hidalgo County roadways as they journey to their destinations. As you are well aware, the rapid growth in our area has required our organizations to focus on transportation infrastructure to accommodate and sustain such expansion.

As part of that need to sustain, the county now faces the challenge of constructing a new courthouse to administer justice and services vital to our communities. Our existing courthouse has safety concerns, and we have inmates in custody walking the same halls utilized by the victims of their alleged crimes, and the victims' families. We have makeshift courtrooms around the courthouse, and courtrooms away from the premises. The courthouse built in 1954 to accommodate 5 courts cannot withstand the 24 courts we have today. And remodeling the existing courthouse will not address the demand, nor future growth.

Therefore, Hidalgo County is undertaking the responsibility of constructing a new courthouse, across Closner, east of the existing courthouse in the current parking lot. The design calls for the closing of Closner, from Cano St. to McIntyre St. We are working in partnership with the City of Edinburg on this project, and we expect them to submit a formal request to TxDOT for such closure at the appropriate time. With this notice, Hidalgo County would like to express our support in the closure of Closner within the Courthouse square. With the thousands of visitors daily, and the direct and indirect jobs resulting from this new construction, the economic impact will be promising.

We thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working in unison with the City of Edinburg and TxDOT in furtherance of this project.

Respectfully,

Ramon Garcia

Hidalgo County Judge