

October 3, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the TIGER committee begins the review application submittals for Fiscal Year 2017 funding, we humbly ask for full consideration of the City of Pharr International Bridge application.

As the political makeup on a national level continues to shape our future along the lines of domestic and foreign policy, our Texas/Mexico border communities continue to vigilantly observe the effects those outcomes will have on our cities. The movement of trade and commerce through our international ports of entry will remain as the robust economic engine it is and will continue to supply the country with a foundation of stability as we move products into the hands of the consumer both foreign and domestic.

The Tiger funding grant allows the opportunity to advance the needs of infrastructure projects within a port of entry. Currently, the Pharr International Bridge remains the largest commercial crossing in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas with a regional population close to 1.2 million in transit daily to Mexico, totaling 2.4 million.

The port of entry (POE) serves as an international gateway to the United States for both commercial and vehicular crossings. On a daily basis, the average POE southbound vehicular crossings are approximately 2,500 with a monthly total of 70,893. This does not include the 2,000 commercial trucks that cross each day, totaling 48,000 per month. The daily POE northbound crossings average, 1,300 cargo trucks (full trucks) totaling 37,000 per month with an average weight of 85,000 lbs. Additionally, 460 (empty trucks) cross daily with an average total of 15,000 monthly crossings.

This port of entry supplies the most economic and efficient route for trade and commerce via Mexico's new Mazatlan/Matamoros super-highway encompassing 60 tunnels and 114 bridges entering right into Pharr, Texas. With the Pharr International Bridge now crossing 60% of the nations produce from Mexico and over 30 BILLION in USD annual trade it is vital that we as a community continue to advocate for infrastructure needs surrounding trade and commerce.

The City of Pharr will be submitting one application for following the key projects

1. Port of Entry Dock Expansion- Phase 1
2. Port of entry Dock Expansion- Phase 2
3. Port of Entry Agriculture Laboratory & Training Center

The heartbeat of our economy lies soundly at our international bridges and to continue effective trade and meet the demands of product of every consumer, we must invest in our infrastructure. As you continue the application selection process, we humbly ask for the utmost consideration for the City of Pharr International Bridge project submittal. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Michael Leo at (956) 318-2600. We look forward to your selection announcement.

With warm regards,