



The Alliance for I-69 Texas

Encouraging Cooperation and Seeking Solutions Since 1994

April 3, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

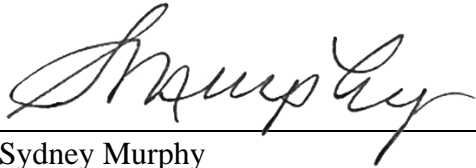
As local leaders, we applaud the swift and bipartisan efforts recently to enact federal legislation to provide critical support to individuals, businesses and local communities during this unprecedented coronavirus pandemic. As leaders on the frontline, we can attest to the importance of this federal support in buoying our communities and state to combat the pandemic and longer-term, to mitigate the wide-spread economic toll. As the Administration and Congress begin work on a fourth stimulus package, we strongly support inclusion of increased federal infrastructure investment as a way to create jobs locally and also invest in projects that will yield ongoing community benefit. Furthermore, we would urge that funding be utilized to advance strategic projects of national significance, such as I-69.

I-69 is a well-established project of national significance that has been under development for more than twenty-five years. The prolonged timeline is due largely to insufficient funding and the lack of guaranteed federal match that, while available during the initial development of the interstate system, is no longer available. Nonetheless, the merits of I-69 as a strategic multi-modal freight corridor that will bring interstate access to hundreds of rural communities is widely accepted. Furthermore, TxDOT has a detailed I-69 Implementation Strategy to complete the interstate corridor in Texas. Other corridor states likewise have I-69 projects to advance if funding becomes available. Additional federal funding could accelerate the completion of I-69 while creating jobs for workers involved in the project development and creating economic opportunity for rural communities along the route that have historically not been served by the interstate system. Furthermore, completion of I-69 will be a banner project to foster enhanced freight movement across the nation for decades to come.

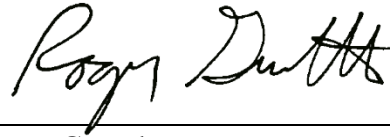
We thank you for your leadership during this challenging time in our nation. Efforts to complete I-69 have been underway for more than a quarter century. Now is the time to harness strong national support for infrastructure investment to complete projects of national significance, like I-69.

Sincerely,

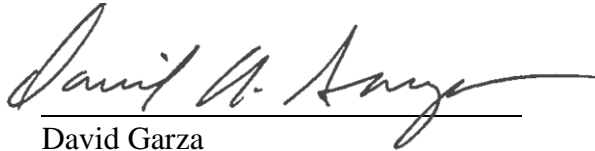
Executive Committee Members of the Alliance for I-69 Texas



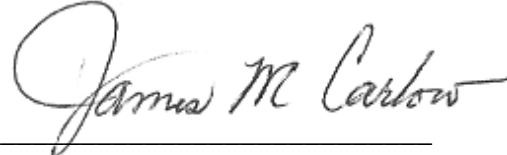
Sydney Murphy
County Judge, Polk County
Alliance Chairman



Roger Guenther
Executive Director
Port of Houston Authority
Alliance Vice Chair



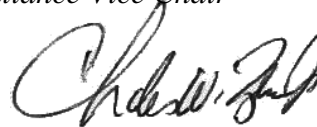
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Alliance Secretary/Treasurer



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County Judge, Bowie County
Alliance Vice Chair



Gerry Schwebel
Executive Vice President, IBC Bank
Alliance Vice Chair



Charlie Zahn
Chairman
Port of Corpus Christi Authority
Alliance Executive Committee Member



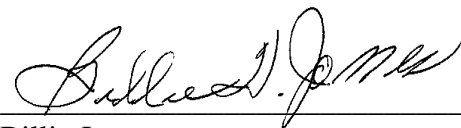
Bob Harvey
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Charles Thomas
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Carthage Improvement Corp.
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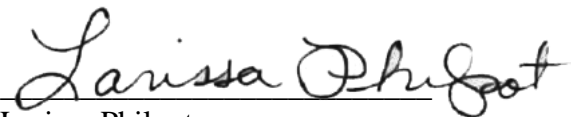
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Wharton Chamber of Commerce
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Barbara Canales
County Judge, Nueces County
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