



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TOM CRADDICK

DISTRICT 82

CRANE DAWSON MARTIN MIDLAND UPTON

July 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing today in support of the TIGER Grant joint submission by the MOTRAN Alliance and Ports to Plains Coalition for the expansion of SH 349 between Midland-Odessa and Lamesa, Texas, and connection to the proposed US 87 Relief Route in Lamesa, Texas.

“La Entrada Al Pacifico” corridor (National High Priority Corridor #56) links the Port of Topolobampo with a proposed West Texas transportation corridor from Presidio through the Odessa-Midland area to Lamesa, Texas. The “Ports to Plains” corridor (National High Priority Corridor #38) links the Odessa Midland combined statistical area and the City of Lamesa to the Lubbock and Amarillo metropolitan statistical areas, and on to Denver, Colorado.

These two National High Priority Corridors, provide critical linkages to Mexico and Canada, as well as, accessibility to major east-west routes in the U.S., thus enhancing the United States trade potential with Mexico and Canada and the ability for goods to reach major eastern and northern markets.

Dr. Ray Perryman estimated the potential impact of this proposed four lane linkage on the export potential to Mexico along the route from Amarillo to Odessa/Midland through Lubbock could be as much as \$15 billion in total expenditures; \$6.8 billion in Gross Area Product; \$3.7 billion in annual Personal Income; \$2.8 billion in annual Wages and Salaries; \$1.4 billion in Retail Sales; and over 131,000 Permanent Jobs based on 1995 levels of overall economic activity.

It is estimated that the potential impact of this proposed four lane linkage on the export potential to Mexico along the route from Amarillo to Odessa/Midland through Lubbock could be as much as \$33 billion in total expenditures; \$14 billion in Gross Area Product; \$8 billion in annual Personal Income; \$6 billion in annual Wages and Salaries; \$3 billion in Retail Sales; and over 283,000 Permanent Jobs by 2020.

July 21, 2009

Page 2

The expansion of this segment of roadway would enhance domestic and international trade in Texas, Mexico, Canada, and the United States; and save over \$300 in trucking costs, three hours in driving time, and three hours in wait time on a one way trip from Chihuahua City to Midland-Odessa further enhancing the competitive advantage in U.S. trade.

The MOTRAN Alliance and Ports to Plains Coalition and their respective community members have formed an innovative partnership in effort to promote the development of this crucial segment of roadway through funding from the TIGER Grant program and I fully support the submission of this project for funding via the TIGER Grant program of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Sincerely,



TOM CRADDICK

Texas State Representative
House District 82