

Chair, Higher Education Committee
Legislative Budget Board



Judith Zaffirini
State Senator, District 21
President Pro Tempore, 1997

Committees
Administration
Economic Development
Finance
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March 4, 2009

Deirdre Delisi, Chair, and Members
Texas Transportation Commission
125 E. 11th St.
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Chair Delisi and Commissioners:

This is to urge the Texas Transportation Commission to consider the proposed Cuatro Vientos highway project in Laredo for inclusion in the list of new construction projects that will be funded with federal stimulus dollars received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Every day more than 13,000 18-wheel trucks cross the Port of Laredo, the largest inland port in the United States. Despite its vital importance to our state and country, the City of Laredo was overlooked in your agency's released list of potential projects utilizing federal stimulus dollars. In fact, the proposal did not include a single maintenance or construction project in Laredo that could address the congestion and road deterioration caused by hosting this magnitude of commercial transportation.

The Cuatro Vientos project is a proposed roadway parallel to US 83 that will alleviate congestion, enhance mobility, and meet the long-term needs of a rapidly developing commercial corridor that serves Texas and the entire country. Recently, elected state and local officials representing Laredo worked with staff from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), including Executive Director Amadeo Saenz, to formulate options for funding this project with the aid of federal stimulus dollars. These officials and I appreciate the efforts made by TxDOT and the viable solutions that this cooperation produced. Accordingly, I strongly urge the commission to include this project in the list of new construction projects to be funded under the federal stimulus package.

Feel free to contact me for additional support or information. May God bless you and inspire you to agree with my perspective.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Zaffirini".

Judith Zaffirini

JZ/sg

XC: Mayor Raul Salinas, City of Laredo
Members, Laredo City Council
Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, City of Laredo
Amadeo Saenz Jr., P.E., Executive Director, TxDOT
Albert Quintanilla, P.E., Laredo District Engineer, TxDOT

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