



**STATE SENATOR  
EDDIE LUCIO, JR.  
DISTRICT 27**



Austin Capitol Office  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, TX 78711  
(512) 463-0127

7 North Park Plaza  
Brownsville, TX 78521  
(956) 548-0227

500 S. Kansas  
Weslaco, TX 78596  
(956) 968-9927

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## **Senator Lucio statement on failure of transportation bill**

**AUSTIN** - Today (Tuesday), Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) releases the following statement on HJR 2:

"After three sessions—one regular and two special sessions—I am disappointed the Texas House of Representatives failed to pass HJR 2.

"True, not everything was included in the proposal. For example, as the author of Texas' Port Access Fund, I sincerely hoped funding for our Texas ports would have been included in the transportation proposal. I have advocated consistently throughout the years—most recently last week in Senate Finance—that our Texas Ports are vital to the livelihoods of our coastal constituents, and are an integral part of our state's economy and infrastructure. It would behoove our state to formally recognize this, especially in light of the of the Panama Canal expansion. Notwithstanding, I recognize that the journey of a lifetime begins with a first step. Although the proposal is not everything, it is a meaningful start to our journey of a thousand miles.

"Speaker Straus described the proposal at hand as a 'Band-Aid to cover a pothole.' I respectfully disagree. To fix a pothole, you need hundreds of pebbles, and every pebble has an important part in filling that hole. The conference committee report to HJR 2 was the first pebble: a proposal worth \$900 million.

"I will continue to work with my fellow legislators to help address the growing traffic needs of the citizens of the State of Texas."

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