

September 15, 2020

The Honorable Terry Canales
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Chairman Canales:

Thank you for your continuing leadership on a variety of issues critical to El Paso and Texas. Specifically, we are pleased to fully endorse two of your legislative priorities.

First, we support your interim charge to study the current mix of user fee-based funding for the state highway system, including registration fees, tolls, and fuel tax. We also appreciate your efforts in determining if current funding is sufficient to maintain cost demands. We also support examining whether current legislative appropriations, including projections for Proposition 1 (severance tax) and Proposition 7 (sales tax) funds, keep pace with Texas' highway funding needs to accommodate population and economic growth. Additionally, your proposal would make recommendations for additional methods of financing or innovative tools that the state could utilize to deliver road infrastructure projects.

Secondly, we support your interim charge to study the State's seaport and land-ports infrastructure. We support changes to our ports that will improve efficacy, reduce wait times, and support economic growth.

Sincerely,



Jon Barela
CEO
The Borderplex Alliance