

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4322

March 27, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting robust funding for the City Development Corporation of El Campo to complete the Right of Way (ROW) acquisition and utility relocation of the section of the future I-69 Corridor on the north side of El Campo, TX.

US 59 is part of the congressionally designated I-69 Corridor and will address infrastructure demands due to growing North American freight volumes, safety and storm evacuation improvements and encourage economic development in the region. The I-69 System in Texas is included in the Texas Primary Freight Network and Development Authority for the project is included in the current Unified Transportation Plan (UTP). Furthermore, this project is located on one of only four priority Statewide/Rural Connectivity Corridors designated by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

The \$3,600,000 million in federal funding requested will be matched by \$400,000 in funding from TxDOT in order to complete the Right of Way (ROW) acquisition and utility relocation of the section of the future I-69 Corridor on the north side of El Campo. The TxDOT Yoakum District has indicated that this is the next segment the Department plans to construct. Since this project is in an Economically Disadvantaged County, the match requirement is 10% by the TxDOT.

The upgrade of US 59 to become I-69 in the economically disadvantaged County of Wharton is lagging due to a lack of funding. The federal funds requested will allow for the ROW acquisition and utility relocation to be completed and to position the project to receive construction funding through the competitive annual state UTP process. Construction of this segment of US 59/I-69 has been submitted for full funding in the next UTP. The City of El Campo has also shown its commitment to the development of I-69 by securing an \$8 million State Infrastructure Bank loan to accelerate the project. The loan will be paid off with local revenue collected through the region's Transportation Reinvestment Zone.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the Federal Highway Administration in Public Law No. 117-328. I also certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress