



CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA
COUNTY JUDGE

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**CAMERON COUNTY TO RECEIVE \$34.5 MILLION TO CONSTRUCT THE
EAST LOOP PROJECT (SH 32)**

County Judge Carlos H. Cascos and Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority (CCRMA) Chairman David E. Alex announced today that the Texas Transportation Commission awarded \$34.5 million under the State's Pass Through Financing Program to the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority to develop the East Loop Project.

The CCRMA submitted a finance application in May for this project. The East Loop Project will provide a new connection from the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates to the Port of Brownsville eventually rerouting commercial traffic off of the current route on SH 48 (International Boulevard) to the new route reducing congestion, improving safety, improving air quality by reducing emissions, and facilitating trade and the movement of goods and services as we increase the level of imports and exports on both sides of the border.

Judge Cascos was extremely thankful to the Texas Transportation Commission for selecting this project. "This project has been in the planning stages for 15 years and shortly we will start turning dirt on this critical transportation project that is a win-win for all of the citizens of Brownsville and the region, Cascos stated. The project will allow us to move commercial vehicles that are overweight and carrying hazardous cargo from residential, commercial, and school zones in one of the most heavily traversed streets in Brownsville. This is a project that enjoys the cooperation and participation of the Brownsville and Port of Brownsville which is another great example of partnership to get things done today, he stated." Cascos also thanked state leaders for their strong support of this application.

David E. Alex also was thankful to Texas Transportation Commission. "Today there are 15 conflicts along SH 48 that affect the movement of goods and services and the new route will improve connectivity leading to the Port of Brownsville." The project will also improve access to the airport in Brownsville and the foreign trade zone providing economic development opportunities in the areas immediately adjacent to the Port of Brownsville and foreign trade zones. We need to continue to find ways to be more efficient in improving our trade routes to Mexico and this project helps do just that, he stated.

Funding for the project will come from leveraged funds using various funding sources such as vehicle registration fees and overweight corridor fees.

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