



City of Baytown

Stephen DonCarlos, Mayor

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October 1, 2009
Houston – Galveston Area Council
Transportation Policy Council

Re: Support for Amendment of the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the State Highway 146 at Spur 330 Flyover Construction for ARRA Funds

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the City Council and citizens of Baytown, I express our full support for the project to construct the direct connector between Highway 146 South and Spur 330 North in the City of Baytown. The total project cost is an estimated \$16.8 million with \$11.6 million of that amount needed for construction. All of the environmental studies and right-of-way acquisition are complete. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is currently working on the design portion of this much needed project. This project will be ready for bidding and construction in February 2010. The direct connector is in the short-range portion of the air quality conforming Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the State of Texas 2007 Regional Transportation Plan (adopted October 2007).

The direct connector between SH 146 and Spur 330 will remove bottlenecks in the transportation network in the City of Baytown and improve a critical evacuation route serving the 70,000 residents of Baytown located in Harris County as well as improve evacuation alternatives for some residents of Galveston and Chambers Counties. Baytown and significant portions of Galveston and Chambers Counties are located in a mandatory evacuation area as they are in the storm surge zone.

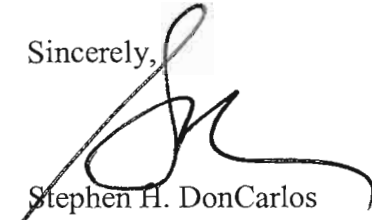
Currently, the residents of Baytown must travel south on Highway 146 to Spur 330 and then turn north for travel to Interstate 10. There is a direct connector from Spur 330 to I-10 westbound. The bottleneck is at the intersection of Highway 146 and Spur 330. All the evacuating residents must exit the main lanes and travel through three signalized intersections before reconnecting with a limited access highway as shown on the attached map. Not only do these intersections create a bottleneck for evacuees, they also make it difficult for local emergency personnel to respond to emergencies.

The proposed project would also greatly improve daily travel within the City of Baytown and provide improvements in freight movement within our region and improve air quality as tractor trailers traveling from port and factory facilities will no longer need to stop and idle as much at traffic signals or in congestion.

This project is a major concern of the Baytown City Council and has been discussed in a public forum that allows our citizens to comment and take part in the discussion. The latest of these public forums was on February 12, 2009 when the Council formally adopted this project as one of the priorities for 2009. Supporting the funding for this project will benefit the citizens of Baytown as well as the surrounding areas and every citizen that travels in and through our city.

We appreciate your consideration in approved the proposed amendment to the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for ARRA funding.

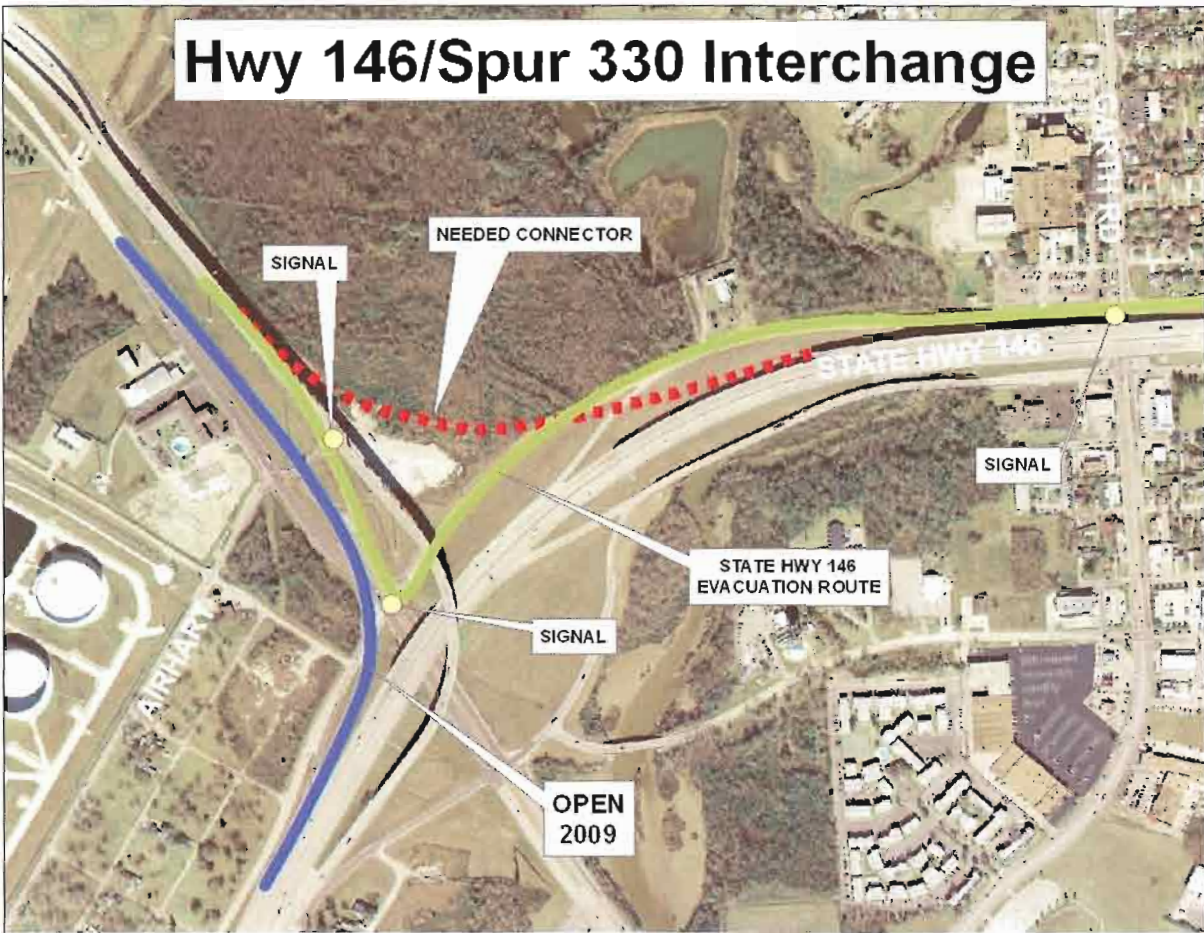
Sincerely,



Stephen H. DonCarlos
Mayor

Enclosure

Hwy 146/Spur 330 Interchange



STATE EVACUATION PLAN

