



PORT HOUSTON
THE INTERNATIONAL PORT OF TEXAS

October 29, 2018

Mr. Alan Clark
Director of Transportation Planning
Houston-Galveston Area Council
P.O. Box 22777
Houston, TX 77227-2777

Dear Mr. Clark:

The Port of Houston Authority respectfully requests inclusion of the Port Road Total Crossing Railroad Overpass Project into the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), as part of the Houston-Galveston Area Council's 2018 Transportation Call for Projects. This project would construct a grade separation at the intersection of Port Road and the rail line serving the Total Petrochemicals & Refining USA, Inc. facility. The Port Authority, which is committed to its successful implementation, would expect to fund 20 percent of the overall project cost.

Our region has seen significant increases in petrochemical manufacturing and exports in and around the Port of Houston region, and these gains are expected to continue. The Port Road Overpass project will support this growth, by helping ensure the continued efficient flow of trucks along Port Road, a critical roadway serving the Port Authority's Bayport Container Terminal.

This project is consistent with regional efforts to proactively mitigate potential delays on major freight corridors and Texas Department of Transportation facilities. Without this overpass, Port Road can experience reduced efficiency and significant delays when railroad operation hours conflict with truck flows. These challenges can as well impact the traffic flow of roadways beyond Port Road – most prominently State Highway 146.

In addition to the safety and efficiency benefits of the project, more efficient commerce movement promises environmental gains by reducing and preventing emissions from idling vehicles.

I thank you for your consideration of the Port Authority's proposal and look forward to an opportunity to partner with H-GAC on the Port Road Total Crossing Railroad Overpass Project. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Roger Guenther
Executive Director