

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

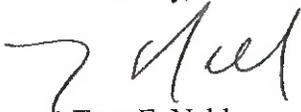
I am requesting \$3,920,400 in funding for Wharton County to complete much-needed overpass bridge will enable emergency responders to quickly and efficiently respond to emergency situations thereby saving the lives of Wharton County residents living and working to the south and east of our regional airport.

This bridge overpass project is necessary because current designs for I-69 upgrades only provide for one-way access roads. Under the I-69 design, the newly constructed interstate does provide intermittent cross-over access which in essence walls-off the nearest emergency responders from servicing the homes and business located on the east side of I-69. Emergency responders from the City of Wharton (approx. 9 miles to the north) will be forced to travel an additional 10-15 minutes south to reach the nearest crossover so they can then circle around and return back the same 10-15 minute drive before rescuing county residents living along CR 423. Bottom line: the construction of this highway overpass bridge is tantamount to ensuring the safety and well-being of Wharton County residents and their guests.

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 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 a solution to our joint emergency response connectivity issues. Wharton County has been collaborating with TxDOT and the City of Wharton to identify plausible solutions to our joint emergency response connectivity issues.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133. 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