



For Immediate Release

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For additional information: Tom Niskala (361) 884-0687

HARBOR BRIDGE PROJECT

“The state commitment to full funding of the Harbor Bridge replacement project is now considered a reality in our region,” stated San Patricio County Judge Terry Simpson (also Transportation Policy Committee Chair for the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization* (MPO)). **The Texas Transportation Commission took action today to commit \$601 million of state funding toward the Harbor Bridge project.** When added to the local commitment of \$100 million - full funding for the replacement of the Harbor Bridge has been pledged.

Local governmental entities have enthusiastically collaborated to deliver on this first of many milestones. “We heard the Commission loud and clear about the need for local support. The replacement of the bridge is a significant undertaking that requires cooperation at all levels because it is important to all our communities,” added Simpson.

The MPO committed funds for FY 2017/2018/2019 totaling approximately \$32 million, the Port of Corpus Christi Authority indicated intent to contribute \$15 million in cash and unspecified land valued at an estimated \$23 million to be used for right of way and the City of Corpus Christi also identified about \$6 million in participation for needed right of way. The counties of Nueces and San Patricio are exploring combined alternatives projected at \$25 million.

“The Harbor Bridge replacement project is truly a regional partnership. With Judge Loyd Neal, Judge Terry Simpson, Port of Corpus Christi, the Metropolitan Planning Organization and many others we’ve taken a major step forward in the Harbor Bridge replacement project,” Corpus Christi Mayor Nelda Martinez said. “The new Harbor Bridge is essential to improve safety, connectivity, and to promote, enhance and spur economic development.”

A local delegation of community leaders, including members of the Legislature Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, Representatives Abel Herrero, Todd Hunter, and J.M. Lozano, Judge Simpson, Nueces County Judge Neal, Corpus Christi Mayor Martinez and Port Commission Chair Carrell, Commissioner Judy Hawley and others traveled to Austin today to underscore the regional significance and local cooperation behind this project at the meeting of the TxDOT Commission. Judy Hawley, Port Commissioner and former vice-chair of House Transportation thanked the Commission and said: “This will be a hundred year bridge - improving safety and accommodating the Coastal Bend’s anticipated and unforeseen economic expansion. Thanks to Senator “Chuy” Hinojosa, Representative Todd Hunter and the rest of our delegation, who along with local officials and the Texas Transportation Commission recognized the urgency and committed the funding to replace the Harbor Bridge.”

** The MPO’s Transportation Policy Committee consists of member agencies that include: Nueces County, San Patricio County, City of Corpus Christi, City of Portland and Gregory, Port of Corpus Christi Authority, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority, and the local Texas Department of Transportation District Office.*