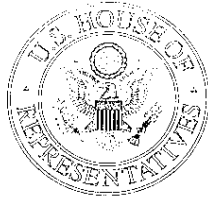


COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
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ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP



JOHN CULBERSON

7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

March 16, 2006

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The Honorable Joe Knollenberg
Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation and Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, The
Judiciary, District of Columbia Appropriations
2358 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Knollenberg:

I am respectfully requesting funding for several important transportation projects that will provide immediate benefits for the Houston region in the FY2007 Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia Subcommittee Appropriations bill.

My highest priority request is \$5 million for the Texas Department of Transportation to build a bypass route to relieve congestion along the Energy Corridor in Houston. The money will be used to build a four lane divided roadway from Texas State Highway 6 to the Eldridge Parkway. This bypass will provide relief for employees and residents of the area from the chronically congested Interstate 10.

My 2nd priority is \$3.65 million for the reconstruction of Long Point Road between Pech Road and Hollister Road in Houston. This reconstruction will further the City of Houston's long range plans for mobility upgrades within the Long Point corridor. Construction will provide for pavement and drainage improvements, improved traffic mobility and will include protected turn lanes.

My 3rd priority is \$10 million for the HAATS program. The Houston Area Air Traffic System funds the expansion of Bush Intercontinental Airport, Hobby Airport, and Ellington Field. The HAATS program, in connection with the new Houston TRACON, will support the expanded air traffic that Houston expects in the future. Each of the last 5 years, the Administration has requested and the subcommittee has provided funding for the HAATS program. Although HAATS is not yet complete, the Administration did not make a funding request for FY2007.

My 4th priority is \$5 million for the Galveston Causeway Railroad Bridge. The Galveston Causeway Railroad Bridge runs adjacent to the highway causeway to Galveston and is the only rail link to the island. The bridge has been declared a hazard to navigation by the Coast Guard under the Truman Hobbs Act. The bridge is a vital transportation link for industries along the Gulf Coast, and a serious barge collision would close the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. The replacement of this link to Galveston Island is necessary to avoid a major accident.

My 5th priority is \$10 million for Houston METRO bus transit service. The funding will also be used for HOV facilities, transit centers, and park and ride lots in the Houston area. In November 2003, Houston voters approved the METRO Solutions plan which called for a 50% increase in bus service throughout METRO's service area, the construction of 9 new park and ride lots, and an all day park and ride service.

This request will help METRO meet the goal of expanding bus service in accordance with the referendum.

My 6th priority is \$20 million for Houston METRO to begin Preliminary Engineering on two light rail lines. My request is \$10 million for each of the two METRO light rail lines the FTA has approved for entry into Preliminary Engineering. In November 2003, Houston voters approved the METRO Solutions plan. This expanded transit plan includes 72 miles of additional light rail, a 50% increase in bus service, and new Park and Ride lots and intermodal terminals. This funding will help METRO begin Preliminary Engineering studies.

My 7th priority is \$4 million for the City of Houston to upgrade and expand the Regional Computerized Traffic Signal System. The City is working with regional traffic management organizations to integrate traffic light coordination plans. Houston Transtar coordinates with regional traffic controllers to reduce congestion along the major transportation arteries in Houston. Part of the solution is synchronizing traffic lights to relieve congested intersections and reduce commute times.

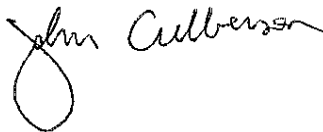
My 8th priority is \$1 million for alternatives analysis and a draft environmental impact statement for the proposed aerial guideway system in the Texas Medical Center. The Texas Medical Center is the world's largest medical center with over 150,000 people traveling in and out of it every day. It is home to over 40 health care and research institutions, including the only two level one trauma centers in Houston, and it employs 65,000 people in the greater Houston area.

My 9th priority is \$350,000 for a feasibility study and preliminary design for a chilled water system utility piping expansion and facilities improvements for the Thermal Energy Corporation to serve Houston Hospice and Ronald McDonald House facilities in the Texas Medical Center.

My 10th priority is \$700,000 for the study, design, and expansion of the Outdoor Life Science Learning Center and for curriculum development and equipment at the Houston Zoo. This funding provides the Zoo with an expanded outdoor classroom and learning center, which is being matched 75/25 by the private sector, for underprivileged young people in the Houston area.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests,

Sincerely,



John Culberson
Member of Congress