

FISCAL YEAR 2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE -- REP. Michael Burgess (TX-26)

Must be completed and submitted NO LATER than COB February 27, 2009

Please submit completed questionnaire to matt.johnson@mail.house.gov

PLEASE NOTE: ALL REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST ON OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD EXPLAINING THE PROJECT. THIS QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD ACCOMPANY, NOT REPLACE, A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST AND ANY OTHER QUESTIONNAIRE

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

1. Please provide a formal name for this project:

Grade Separated Railroad Crossing of BNSF Railroad at Hwy. 1384 and future FM 407 Extension

2. Please describe the project and its purpose:

To provide grade separation for an east-west crossing of the BNSF railroad for public safety, emergency response and regional mobility. Currently the only grade separated crossings are at SH 114 and US 380, a distance of fifteen miles. The proposed crossing would be approximately halfway between these crossings.

3. Please outline the project plan, including the finance plan:

Denton County Commissioners Court recently passed a bond project to determine the best alignment of a future extension of FM 407 north to Highway 1384. In addition, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has dedicated funds to raise the current FM 407 out of the 100 year flood plain at the Denton Creek crossing. The BNSF railroad runs parallel and within 100 yards of FM 156. At the intersection of Hwy. 1384 and FM 156 the railroad grade and surrounding land rises over 20 feet. This would be an ideal location to lower the railroad beneath the roadway to provide much needed east-west access.

II. BENEFIT TO THE 26th DISTRICT AND/OR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Please explain how this project will improve life, the economy or the general welfare of the 26th District and/or the country at-large. Please be specific (i.e. outline number of jobs created, savings to economy or taxpayers, improve national security):

The BNSF railroad along FM 156 is one of the busiest lines in their system. Keeping freight moving along this line provides jobs at the Alliance Global Logistics Hub. However, the communities of Fort Worth, Justin, DISH and Northlake need an east-west thoroughfare that is not prone to flood and not impeded by the steady flow of freight trains. Trains on this line can block at-grade crossing for up to an hour; crucial minutes when emergency services are needed.

2. Please explain why this project should be considered a priority:

With the timing of the funds from Denton County and TxDOT, these projects: re-routing FM 407 across the Denton Creek flood plain; providing a safer east-west route through this area; and creating a grade separated railroad crossing, could be accomplished in one project.

III. REQUEST

1. Amount of money you are requesting:

\$2 million

2. Agency from which you are requesting funds:

Department of Transportation

3. Account from which you are requesting funds:

IV. FUNDING HISTORY

1. What is the total project cost and can you provide a federal-state/local-other funding breakdown?

Total Project \$25 million, Denton County \$4 million, TxDOT \$19 million, USDOT \$2 million

2. Has the project ever received federal funds before? If so, please elaborate.

No

3. Has the project received state, local or private funds before? If so, please elaborate.

No, this is a new project.

4. Can you demonstrate a commitment for future funds from state, local, or private sectors? If so, please elaborate to the extent possible.

No future funds needed.

5. How do you intend to spend federal funds for this project (operating, construction, studies, equipment purchase, salaries, other)?

Design and construction to lower railroad and construction for temporary relocation of railroad

6. Does the project request stem from a currently-funded federal program (i.e., an already existing congressional authorization)? If so, please explain and be as specific as possible.

No.

V. PROJECT HISTORY

1. Please briefly explain the level of support for the project in the local and any other community (if letters of support exist, please attach to this form).

The City of Justin is bisected by the BNSF railroad and a residential community of over 200 homes is cut off from fire service when a train has stopped on the tracks. FM 407 is used by trucks removing water from gas well fracturing operations.

2. Has the project encountered any objections within the local or other interested communities? If so, please describe (if letters or official records exist noting objections to the project, please attach to this form).

No.

3. Please briefly explain the current stage and expected timeline of the project in as great a detail as possible.

This project has not begun.

VI. CONTACTS

1. Who is the primary point of contact for the request?

Drew Corn, Town Administrator, Town of Northlake

2. Contact information (telephone and e-mail):

940.648.3290, dcorn@town.northlake.tx.us

3. Mailing address of entity that would receive the funding?

Town of Northlake, PO Box 729, Northlake, Texas 76247

VII. TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

1. How much of this request can be spent in fiscal year 2009?

\$200,000 for design

2. If this is a highway, transit, rail, or aviation request, did you check eligibility with the state DOT, FTA, FRA, or FAA?

2a. If yes, did the agency indicate the project is eligible under the account requested?

3. If this is an FHWA request, is the project considered by the state and/or regional transportation officials as critical to their needs?

4. If a highway request, is the project on the state's transportation improvement plan?

PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST CRITERIA

CERTIFICATION:

I, Peter Dewing, ATTEST THAT THIS PROJECT REQUEST MADE ON BEHALF OF The Town of Northlake, Texas MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. All appropriations requests must be a priority for the 26th District and/or the country-at large as defined as enhancing life, liberty, or the general welfare.
2. All requests must be a proper and wise use of federal taxpayer dollars and must be justified as such. Projects that include a commitment to match federal funds will receive priority consideration.
3. All requests will be immediately posted on the website and supporting documentation made available to press outlets and interested individuals.
4. None of the funding requested will be used for a building, program, or project that has been named for Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. No request will be made that Congressman Burgess or his spouse has any financial interest.
5. All requests shall be made in accordance with House of Representatives rules, and within Appropriations Committee deadlines. No funding request will be submitted after the deadline established by the Committee

Name of person certifying Peter Dewing

Title of person certifying Mayor

Project name as it will appear in the bill Grade Separated Railroad Crossing of BNSF Railroad at Hwy. 1384 and future FM 407 Extension

Legal name of entity making request Town of Northlake, Texas

Address 1301 FM 407,

Northlake, Texas 76247

Signature

Date

DRAFT