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CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS  
CHAIR, 107<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS

May 18, 2010

The Honorable B. Glen Whitley  
Chair, Regional Transportation Council (RTC)  
North Central Texas Council of Governments  
616 Six Flags Drive  
Arlington, TX 76005

VIA FACSIMILE – 817/640-7806

Dear Chairman Whitley:

As Congress, the State of Texas and the Dallas-Fort Worth region move forward in addressing our significant transportation challenges, I want to convey what I consider to be the two most important projects in the North Texas region – the Margaret McDermott Bridge over the Trinity River and the SM Wright/IH45 to US175 Connector Project in southern Dallas County. It is my understanding that the City of Dallas shares my priorities in support of these two projects.

The Margaret McDermott (I-30) replacement bridge over the Trinity River is an important component in solving the Mixmaster traffic bottleneck in downtown Dallas, which as you know is one of the worst in the nation. Additionally, the bridge is in dire need of replacement due to capacity and safety concerns. As such, it is critical that we get this project underway. I have worked to secure tens of millions of dollars for this project since 2003, and I am fully committed to ensuring that it gets completed expeditiously.

The SM Wright/IH45 to US175 Connector project in Southern Dallas County is another critical project that will improve safety and create a more convenient, more efficient route for motorists traveling to and from communities in South Dallas, southern Dallas County, and beyond to major employment centers such as Downtown Dallas and the Medical/Market Center northwest of Downtown. The project will also allow for the reconstruction of US 175 (SM Wright Freeway) from a high-speed freeway to a low-speed arterial, helping city and community rejuvenation efforts. Also, moving forward with SM Wright will solve an environmental injustice that has plagued the community for years.



*Eddie Bernice Johnson*  
Congress of the United States  
30th District, Texas

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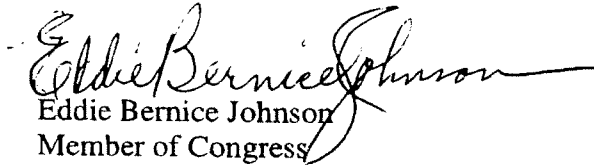
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I am looking at every opportunity at the local, state and federal level to secure funding for these two worthwhile projects, and I am confident that TxDOT and the RTC are doing the same. With that in mind, I would like to know how the RTC plans on getting these projects completed and what I can do to help. I would also like to know the potential funding opportunities and timeframes for moving to construction on both projects. I want to be certain that we are tapping all funding sources, including Regional Roll Revenue (RTR) funds. I am a strong advocate for North Texas on transportation issues, and I want to work with the RTC to ensure that these two projects move forward.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

cc: Mike Eastland, Executive Director, North Central Texas Council of Governments  
Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, North Central Texas Council of  
Governments