

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: National Economic Council

Series/Staff Member: Dorothy Robyn

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 17407

FolderID:

Folder Title:

[National Economic Crossroads Transportation Efficiency Act]: Representative Hinojosa

Stack:

S

Row:

15

Section:

5

Shelf:

6

Position:

3

- I think we understand the importance of this project to your district.
- Because of our policy of discouraging earmarked projects, we cannot publicly support this project in the ISTEA bill.
- But if, for some reason, your project does not make it into the final bill that goes into law, we will fund it -- at the \$8-10 million level -- out of DOT's discretionary grants program for border infrastructure/trade corridor.
- Naturally, it would have to meet environmental clearances and any agreements the states work out on the location of the trade corridor.

Mary Ann Hollis 226-8013
Rita

Our real concern is

- Border infrastructure

- Congestion on roads

- ↑ in commercial traffic as a result of NAFTA
 - safety

- No interstate ~~road~~ south of San Antonio

I-69 then

alt. ~~18~~ Route

~~77.2~~ 77.2

Comm. rpt.

South TX -

• $281.92 \div \text{lane h/day}$

\$8-10M total

- 2 routes = 18 / 20

- \$1.57

-

~~Rita~~ ~~Har~~ Jaramillo

225-2531

Hadamero

- size

- timing

- how ~~fast~~ quickly

-

6 yr. total, 18%

What are you interested in as a commitment.

I-69: \$7.3B

Laredo

MC

- concerns w/ amt. of spending

- Conversation of Janet & Gene: our proj. is

• we don't have a specific project in

• when does construction start

• gateway

• infrastructure

- roads there are not great anyway

• ~~Agony~~

Naturally have to meet with clearances
the agreements & w. states involved in the
location of the project relating to
Ark & TX.

~~Heater~~
House is principal people

location of the Lake Charles

DRAFT

October 10, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR GENE SPERLING

FROM: Dorothy Robyn

SUBJ: Rep. Hinojosa

Rep. Hinojosa's I-69 project is part of a planned "NAFTA corridor" that would run from Brownsville, TX to Indianapolis. Although DOT and OMB don't know how much money Rep. Shuster has promised Hinojosa, DOT's Acting Assistant Secretary for Budget, Jack Basso, believes the project entails *planning* as opposed to actual construction.

NEXTEA proposed \$45 million/year for a Trade Corridor & Border Gateway Pilot Program, and the House and Senate bills both authorize a similar program and fund it at higher levels: The Senate bill authorizes about \$129 million/year for a Trade and Border Crossing Program. The House bill provides \$208 million/year for a Trade Corridor Program. (The House provides an additional \$95 million/year for a separate, border crossing program.)

If Hinojosa wants our support for a project Shuster has already promised him, he may be concerned either that the project will not make it into the final bill or that it will be line-item vetoed. (The former is unlikely. Although Shuster solicited project proposals reportedly worth more than \$100 billion, he only made commitments to \$4-5 billion worth of projects.) We do not want to promise him that we will explicitly support his project in ISTEA, because we need to be able to continue to say, as we have said all along, that earmarked projects are anathema. Similarly, we do not want to commit that his project would be safe from the President's veto pen, because that would set a dangerous precedent.

However, there is a commitment you can make to Rep. Hinojosa that DOT and OMB are both comfortable with: If his project does not survive -- either because Congress omits it or the President vetoes it -- we will work with him to fund some or all of it out of the trade corridor program that both House and Senate bills authorize. (If we can determine that it's not a large project -- and planning projects generally are not large -- we can commit to fund all of it over a period of time.)

Talking Points

- We understand the value of this project.
- Because of our broad policy of discouraging earmarked projects, we cannot explicitly say we support this project as part of ISTEA.

- I think we understand the importance of this project to your district.
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- Naturally, it would have to meet environmental clearances and any agreements the states work out on the location of the trade corridor.

Mary Ann

226-8016

1-800-

759-8888

1974274

gen. / border
Trade / border
129 M - folk

House: Border Trade Corridor
208 M

~ 95 M - border

208 - Trade Corridor

We haven't

will be run as disc. grand prog.



Dorothy Robyn
10/10/97 12:07:07 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Gene B. Sperling/OPD/EOP
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
Subject: Revised Hinojosa draft

Deich sent earlier draft to Jack and Frank for their approval, and we're waiting on that. DOT has signed off.

This draft includes revised budget numbers for House and Senate trade corridor program; both House and Senate plussed up our request considerably, which is good for Hinojosa.



hinojosa.

Message Copied To:

Jonathan Orszag/OPD/EOP
Jonathan A. Kaplan/OPD/EOP
Russell W. Horwitz/OPD/EOP
Michael Deich/OMB/EOP
David E. Tornquist/OMB/EOP

October 9, 1997

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR GENE SPERLING

FROM: Dorothy Robyn

SUBJ: Rep. Hinojosa

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However, because NEXTEA proposed \$45 million/year for a Trade Corridor and Border Gateway Pilot Program, and both House and Senate bills have incorporated it at the full amount, we can make the following commitment: If his project does not survive -- either because Congress omits it or the President vetoes it -- we will work with him to fund some or all of it out of DOT's Trade Corridor program. (If we can determine that it's not a large project -- and planning projects generally are not large -- we can commit to fund all of it over a period of time.)

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- But if, for some reason, the project does not survive into the final bill that the President signs and that goes into law, we would agree to fund (some or all of) it out of our Trade Corridor program.

Jay Dickey | Cross Miss. & in No.

Over Ark. | Crosses " at Pine Bluff

Really don't think we have
a problem!

Need to see what
we're talking about

Small program

Shuster's

Dot **believes** it's real

Hatch went

Leahy didn't

October 10, 1997

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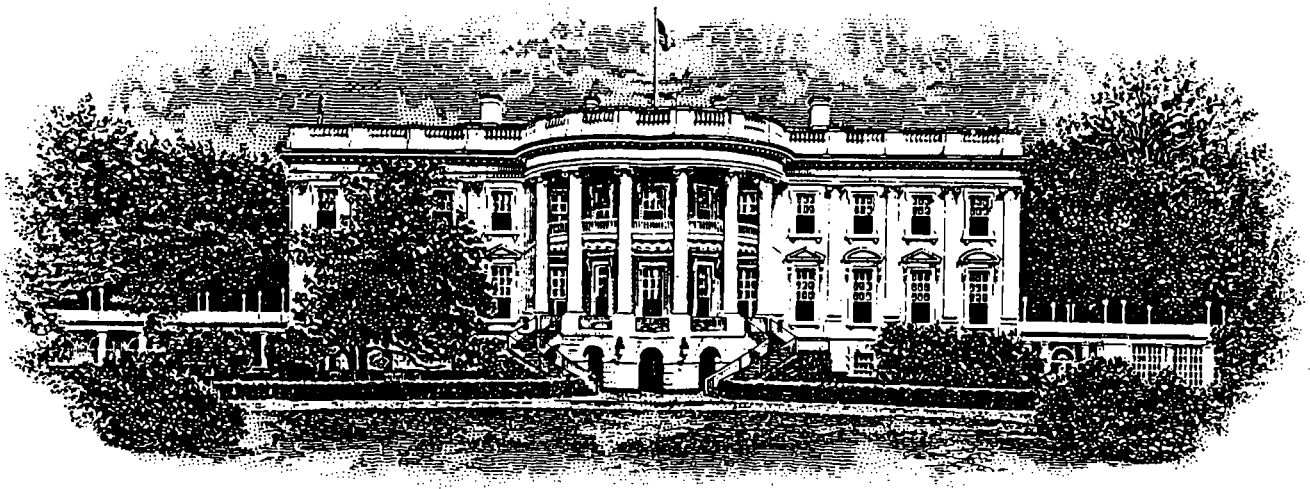
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FAX Transmission

**National Economic Council
The White House**

To: Jack Basso

Phone: _____ **Fax:** 366-6031

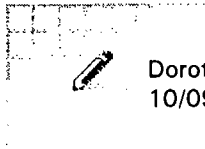
From: Dorothy Robyn

Phone: 202-456-2801 Fax: 202-456-2223

Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Pages to follow: 1

Comments: Are you OK with this? Please make any changes you think are necessary.



Dorothy Robyn
10/09/97 08:32:28 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Gene B. Sperling/OPD/EOP

cc: Jonathan A. Kaplan/OPD/EOP, Jonathan Orszag/OPD/EOP, Russell W. Horwitz/OPD/EOP

Subject: Hinojosa

Attached is a draft memo and talking points. I spoke with Jack Basso, DOT's acting asst. secy. for budget, after you and I talked, and he is comfortable with this approach and language. Until we know how big the project is (he thinks it's modest), he wants a caveat that will allow us to fund it less than fully. Deich and his staff are okay with the general approach, although we talked about it only in terms of line item veto. I need to clear this version with them, and Michael needs to talk to Frank and Jack.

October 9, 1997

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Rangel

- jobs set aside for EC-ET residents / welfare recipients

It's a "major concern" in our EAP.

We did make that happen.

2 competing places for

labor
conductor } opposition

Substantially more Ark
vs. not more Ark.

Brownsville - Indianapolis

* We will design this as a NAFTA corridor

w/ 2 competing alignments
we

We don't want to support
an alignment that goes
exclusively
North TX

NAFTA
corridor
project

We want to be able to continue to say

We understand the value of this project

Don't have criteria yet for the item itself
Criteria will have to do w/ value of proj. & natl.

We think this
w

If we do it b/c it falls in some class of projects where
we will give you wild commitment to doing this as a NAFTA corridor / funding

Dr. Rosa Kingjosa

On the delegation - wants to make

- provide from Foster of \$ for

I-69 project in ISTEA

- We'll support funding