

RESOLUTION 2026-R-132

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, SUPPORTING THE FUTURE INTERSTATE DESIGNATION FOR HEARTLAND EXPRESSWAY, THODORE ROOSEVELT EXPRESSWAY, AND A PORTION OF PORTS-TO-PLAINS HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDORS AND NUMBERING FUTURE INTERSTATE SEGMENTS. THE PURPOSE OF FUTURE INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS IS TO EXPAND AND ENHANCE THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK BY IDENTIFYING AND DEVELOPING KEY CORRIDORS THAT WILL EVENTUALLY MEET FULL INTERSTATE HIGHWAY STANDARDS. THERE IS NO FINANCIAL IMPACT AT THIS TIME.

WHEREAS, Congress has already designated the Heartland Expressway (14) in Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota; Ports-to-Plains Corridor (38) in Oklahoma and Colorado; and the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway (56) in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana as a High Priority Corridors on the National Highway System; and

WHEREAS, with Texas and New Mexico already designated as Future Interstate 27, this designation would move forward that effort to create a complete north-south corridor serving agriculture production, energy production, tourism, and international trade needs of not only the region, but also the nation; and

WHEREAS, High Priority Corridors on the National Highway System were established in 1991 under Section 1105 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and amended several times since including the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 which reaffirmed and refined the corridors, formally integrating them into the National Highway System and emphasized intermodal connections, national defense, and access to ports and border crossings; and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), 2021, which amended several High Priority Corridors, reaffirming their importance in multimodal freight and economic corridors and encouraged use of these corridors in the development of rural infrastructure, Resilience Improvement Plans, and INFRA and RAISE grant funding; and

WHEREAS, in FHWA Freight and NHS Policy Guidance cited in federal freight strategies for enhancing freight reliability, trade competitiveness, and infrastructure resilience; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Interstate Highway System, formally known as the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, is to provide a safe, efficient, and high-capacity roadway network for the movement of people and goods across the United States. It serves multiple national interests; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Future Interstate Highways is to expand and enhance the national transportation network by identifying and developing key corridors that will eventually meet full Interstate Highway standards, with the goal of supporting: 1) National Connectivity; 2) Freight and Economic Development; 3) Cross-Border Trade and International Commerce; 4) National Defense and Emergency Preparedness; and 5) Transportation Modernization; and

WHEREAS, Future Interstate Highways were created to extend the reach of the existing Interstate System to underserved regions, especially rural and economically isolated areas; create seamless links between major cities, ports, borders, and freight hubs; improve the movement of goods and services, particularly in corridors critical to agriculture, energy, and manufacturing; support economic growth by reducing travel time, transportation costs, and congestion; facilitate efficient trade between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada by connecting ports of entry with inland freight routes; and support the Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET), ensuring that military and emergency vehicles can travel efficiently across the country; and

WHEREAS, the current Interstate Highway System in the western United States only includes three Interstate Highways (I-29, I-15 and I-5) that extend from Canada to Mexico covering over 1,150 miles of international border; and

WHEREAS, the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in Texas and New Mexico are already designated as Future Interstate 27; and

WHEREAS, this designation and route numbering would meet the Federal requirement that Future Interstate which must to connect at an existing Interstate Highway. The Proposed Designation would connect to I-70 in Colorado; I-76 in Colorado; I-80 in Nebraska, I-25 in Wyoming, I-90 in South Dakota and I-94 in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, this designation would create a Future Interstate Highway across three High Priority Corridors on the NHS which would serve \$9.5 billion of Crop Production and \$24.8 billion of Livestock Production; and

WHEREAS, this designation would connect four of the top five oil producing states in the United States; an

WHEREAS, this designation would create a Future Interstate Highway across three High Priority Corridors on the NHS which would serve \$50.7 billion of exports to Canada and \$141.7 billion of exports to Mexico annually from the nine-state corridor; and

WHEREAS, this designation would create a Future Interstate Highway across three High Priority Corridors on the NHS which would serve \$191.3 billion of tourism impact annually across the nine-state corridor; and

WHEREAS, a future Interstate designation will be a significant new economic development tool for communities along the corridor. Site selectors for manufacturers, warehousing and distribution recommend sites along an interstate highway and travel services businesses such as hotels, truck stops, convenience stores and restaurants, which can have a dramatic impact on small communities will also expand. This will create much needed new jobs and expanded tax base across this North America Corridor; and

WHEREAS, while designation as a future interstate is the first step in a very long process before the completion of an interstate highway, that does not lessen the importance of the designation.

WHEREAS, the *City Council of the City of Laredo*, supports Future Interstate Highway designations to expand and enhance the national transportation network to provide a safe, efficient, and high-capacity roadway network for the movement of people and goods, while also addressing emergency evacuation needs to keep pace with growing population and efficient freight movement demands.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THAT:

Section 1. That the *City Council of the City of Laredo* supports the designation and route numbering of the Future Interstate by Congress and urges the Departments of Transportation to support such designation and numbering for Heartland Expressway, Theodore Roosevelt Expressway, and a portion of Ports-to-Plains High Priority Corridors.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effective immediately upon passage.

Section 3. If any portion or provision of this resolution shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such portion or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Resolution, the intention being that the same are severable.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS

_____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

DR. VICTOR D. TREVIÑO,
MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARIO I. MALDONADO JR.
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DOAHN "ZONE" T. NGUYEN
CITY ATTORNEY