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Office of Field Operations  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20229

January ??, 2026

Mr. Casperson:

I am attaching the City of Laredo's Proposal to Amend the Application for the Small-Scale Donation Acceptance Program (DAP) Project for the Laredo World Trade Bridge dated February 5, 2025, and received by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on February 18, 2025. The City of Laredo received notification on March 26, 2025, that CBP had tentatively selected the City's Application to partner under DAP. Upon notification, the City immediately contacted the DAP Program Manager, Maria Diaz, who set up monthly meetings for the DAP Project.

This DAP Project is a critical component of the Laredo World Trade Bridge Expansion Project. It is needed to connect the new northbound bridge span with the pre-processing area of the federal Port of Entry. As the World Trade Bridge is America's Number 1 commercial port, it is vitally important for this project to move forward without delay.

The City is submitting this amendment proposal because the Bridge Expansion Project and the Special Systems portion of the DAP Project are in different stages of design development and have different timelines for delivery.

- The Bridge Expansion Project has been under development since 2022, and the City will be submitting the Final Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in February 2026. It is anticipated that TxDOT and the Federal Highway Administration will approve the project for letting in August 2026.
- The DAP Project began in April 2025, and the City immediately started incorporating CBP's requirements into the Bridge Expansion Project. However, in August 2025, CBP notified the City that it was investigating moving the location of the Multi-Energy Portal (MEP) Early Read Equipment and the DAP design was put on hold, while the Bridge Expansion Project proceeded. In October 2025, when the DAP Project was at the 30% PS&E stage, CBP announced that it had approved a new location for the Early Read Equipment, which are considered Special Systems.

The decision to relocate the Early Read Equipment has had a profound impact on the both the Bridge Expansion and DAP Projects. The City and CBP are now facing a decision point. Fortunately, the relocation of the Early Read Equipment facilitates the DAP Project being divided into two separate construction contracts. The City's Team has determined that dividing the DAP Project would be a much more efficient approach. This will allow for the main portion of the Bridge Expansion Contract (including DAP Phase 1) to proceed and include the DAP elements outside of the temporary security

perimeter without a delay in the construction timetable. Meanwhile the Special Systems part of the DAP Project (Phase 1A) can be developed and approved for work inside the temporary security perimeter of the POE. Once the design of Phase 1A is finalized and approved by CBP, is anticipated that a CBP **approved** contractor will install the equipment within the temporary security perimeter of the POE.

To keep the Expansion Project moving as efficiently as possible, the City requests that CBP approve this amendment to the DAP Project and work with the City and its Team on how to proceed with two construction projects under a single Donation Acceptance Agreement (DAA). If you have any questions, please contact either Elsa Hinojosa, Bridge Director, or Sid Mielke, Senior Project Manager.

Sincerely,

Joseph Neeb  
City Manager  
City of Laredo

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