

RESOLUTION 2026-R-130

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, SUPPORTING THE FUTURE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY FORMULA PROGRAM. THE FUTURE PROGRAM WILL ESTABLISH A PREDICTABLE AND STABLE LEVEL OF FEDERAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF CONGESTIONALLY AUTHORIZED FUTURE INTERSTATES AND WILL ADDRESS THE NEED TO FOCUS FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ON PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE NATIONAL BENEFIT AND WILL PROVIDE NEEDED INVESTMENT IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM TO KEEP PACE WITH GROWING POPULATION AND EFFICIENT FREIGHT MOVEMENT DEMANDS. THERE IS NO FINANCIAL IMPACT AT THIS TIME.

WHEREAS, the American economy must have the world's pre-eminent surface transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the Future Interstate Highway Formula Funding Program will establish a predictable and stable level of federal funding to support development of congressionally authorized Future Interstates and will address the need to focus federal transportation funding on projects that provide national benefit; and

WHEREAS, the Formula Funding Program will provide needed investment in the next generation of the Interstate Highway System to keep pace with growing population and efficient freight movement demands; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Interstate Highway System is to provide a safe, efficient, and high-capacity roadway network for the movement of people and goods; and

WHEREAS, highways meeting interstate standards substantially enhance safety for the traveling public while also addressing emergency evacuation needs; 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; 5) Emergency Evacuation; and 6) Transportation Modernization; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no dedicated federal funding to plan and construct Future Interstate Highways; and

WHEREAS, international trade has grown from \$39 billion in 1956 to \$5.8 trillion in 2023, an increase of 14,700 percent in 67 years, an average annual growth of 219.4 percent; and

WHEREAS, entry into NAFTA (1994) and now USMCA (2020) strengthened trade with Mexico and Canada and as a result land ports of entry became critical -- especially for energy, agriculture, and auto parts trade across North American corridors; and

WHEREAS, initially trade across the United States moved primarily east-west and the original Interstate Highway System was built to serve the east-west movement; and

WHEREAS, today the United States, Canada, and Mexico are each other's largest trade partners for oil, energy, automobiles, electronics, and agricultural goods—and it is common for materials to be procured from one country, produced into goods in a second, and then marketed and sold in a third; and

WHEREAS, the nation's shift from manufacturing-based economy to services and technology; a significant rise in consumer spending, e-commerce, and just-in-time logistics. This growth in freight further highlights that highways are critical for supply chains.

WHEREAS, despite the authorization of a 40,000-mile Interstate Highway System by Congress in 1944 and the initial designation of 37,700 miles in 1947, the total constructed mileage has significantly fallen short of long-term national mobility demands; and

WHEREAS, by 1960, over 10,000 miles were completed, followed by rapid expansion to 20,000 miles by the mid-1960s, 30,000 miles by 1970, and 40,000 miles by 1980, with 92% of the system completed by 1986; and

WHEREAS, incremental additions brought the system to approximately 42,700 miles in the 1990s, 46,747 miles by the early 2000s, and over 48,000 miles in the 2020s; and

WHEREAS, the modest mileage growth of interstate highways over the past four decades reflects the need for renewed federal commitment to expanding and modernizing the Interstate System to meet 21st-century transportation, economic, and security challenges.

WHEREAS, the *City Council of the City of Laredo*, supports Future Interstate Highways 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 I. That the *City Council of the City of Laredo* supports the proposal to include a Future Interstate Highway Formula Program in the next federal surface transportation authorization bill whereby federal taxpayers' funds are used for the national interest, ensuring a strong Federal role in surface transportation. Interstate Highways were developed as a national interest and Future Interstate Highways should be the same.

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