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POC: Pete Sepulveda, Jr.

PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT AMENDMENT FOR VETERANS BRIDGE APPROVED

Cameron County Judge Carlos H. Cascos, CPA announced today that the United States Department of State has signed the amended Presidential Permit for the construction of the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates Expansion project.

“This approval allows us to move forward with obtaining all the necessary permits and requirements at the federal and state level to move towards construction, Cascos stated. We have been concurrently working on these permits and approvals with all the agencies of jurisdiction in anticipation of this approval.”

Cameron County has been coordinating this expansion project on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. The expansion project calls for a new twin span structure parallel to the existing bridge that will allow for the separation of commercial and regular vehicular traffic traveling into the United States. “This project is important to the ongoing facilitation of goods and services moving through our international ports of entry and onto US 77 or to the Port of Brownsville. It is also important for the flow of vehicles using this port of entry.” The Veteran’s bridge has been designated both a Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) for travelers and a Free and Secure Trade (FAST) port of entry for commercial traffic. Funding for the U.S. portion of the project is expected to come from the Federal Coordinated Border Infrastructure Improvement program.

Judge Cascos also announced that Deputy Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roberta Jacobson and Consul General Michael Barkin will be delivering a copy of the Amended Veteran’s Bridge second span permit to the Commissioner’s Court on Monday June 7, 2010, at 6 pm in the Commission courtroom.

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