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POC: Pete Sepulveda, Jr.

Cameron County, CCRMA, and Port of Brownsville Officials Host Transportation Chairman

Chairman Jim Oberstar of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, at the invitation of and accompanied by Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz, visited Cameron County on Sunday to discuss transportation and see firsthand the infrastructure needs of the county.

Chairman Oberstar had an opportunity to visit with County Judge Carlos H. Cascos, Chairman of the CCRMA David Allex, the Chairman of the Port of Brownsville Carlos Masso, TXDOT District Engineer Mario Jorge as well as other officials from these and other respective organizations.

Chairman Oberstar toured parts of the county on a windshield tour and then was escorted by Pete Sepulveda Jr., and Eduardo Campirano on an aerial flight of the entire Gulf Coast, the U.S.-Mexico border, the Port of Brownsville, county rail projects in Brownsville and Harlingen, the SH 550 project – a stimulus funded project, the future 2nd access to South Padre Island, and the most important project of all, the need for an interstate connection down to the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Judge Cascos emphasized to the Chairman, the need for an interstate and the need to bring more jobs and infrastructure to the area. “We have four modes of transportation in Cameron County – highway, rail, maritime and air – and we need to take advantage of that”, Cascos stated. David Allex of the CCRMA also pointed out the urgency to address the needs of the area 20 to 30 years from now. “In the year 2040 the population in our area will be in excess of seven to ten million. We need to start working to address mobility, congestion and economic development for the benefit of future generations today not tomorrow.”

This was Chairman Oberstar’s first visit to South Texas. As Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Mr. Oberstar is charged with developing public policy to invest in the nation’s infrastructure, relief congestion, ensure economic competitiveness, and improve the daily lives of our citizens. He is also charged with ensuring the safety and security of our nation’s transportation system and other critical infrastructure.

“He was very impressed with the county and with South Texas as a whole”, County Commissioner David A. Garza noted. Our hope is that he will remember South Texas and Cameron County as he works on transportation policy for the entire nation.”

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