



CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA  
COUNTY JUDGE

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**For Immediate Release**

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**COUNTY SECURES \$4 MILLION FROM FEDERAL RAIL ADMINISTRATION**

County Judge Carlos H. Cascos announced today an award of \$4 million from the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Program for the Cameron County West Rail Relocation project.

Last fall (2008), county officials traveled to Washington, D.C. to make a technical presentation to FRA officials prior to submitting an application for this program. After the visit, the county modified its request and subsequently submitted a detailed application for consideration for funding from the FRA.

The original grant program announced by FRA had an estimated \$20 million in competitive dollars and the agency received over 50 applications from entities nationwide. A local entity is eligible for a grant from FRA for any construction project that improves the route or structure of a rail line and 1) involves a lateral or vertical relocation of any portion of the rail line, or 2) is carried out for the purpose of mitigating the adverse effects of rail traffic on safety, motor vehicle traffic flow, community quality of life, or economic development.

Judge Cascos welcomed the news and stated, "this critical funding will help close the current funding gap on the estimated total amount for the construction of the new rail bridge." Through various funding sources at the federal, state, local and private levels, the county has been able to obtain \$30 million for the construction costs associated with this project. "This award of \$4 million will allow us to go to construction with the necessary funding in place," Cascos added.

The West Rail Relocation project will be the first international rail bridge project constructed along the U.S-Mexico border in over 105 years. It will primarily eliminate the existing rail line from the residential and downtown areas of Brownsville and Matamoros by improving traffic safety for all, reducing congestion and delays as well as improving mobility. The new rail bridge will also improve the ability for trains to cross at all hours eliminating the current three to six hour delays where trains are not allowed to cross during peak travel times in the morning and afternoon.

**For a copy of the press release issued by Federal Rail Administration please go to:  
<http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/press-releases/330>**