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## **News Release - 1991-10-23**

E. De la Garza

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# news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

23 October 1991

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(WASHINGTON, DC) - South Texas Congressman Kika de la Garza (D-TX-15) tonight announced that by a vote of 343 to 83, the House passed the Surface Transportation Act. During consideration of the legislation, the representative engaged with Public Works Committee Chairman Robert Roe in a colloquy specifically discussing the need to designate US Highway 281 between San Antonio and Brownsville as a high priority corridor. Chairman Roe agreed with de la Garza by saying, "the gentlemen is correct. The US 281 corridor project meets many of the requirements used to identify high priority corridors. Therefore, I believe that the State of Texas should consider the US 281 corridor project for priority consideration for funding improvements along this highway."

The US 281 corridor provision is included in Section 157, Innovative Projects, of the highway bill. This section authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to improve, upgrade, and widen Highway 281 through Live Oak, Jim Wells, and Brooks Counties to the Mexican border. It authorizes \$32,600,000 in funding.

Already considered a high priority project corridor in the legislation, is US Route 59 which cuts through Duval, Live Oak, Bee, and Goliad Counties. Also included in the package in Section 149, Rural and Urban Access Projects, is the Brownsville Railroad Relocation Project. This is funded at \$7.92 million.

"The passage of this 6-year reauthorization package is indeed good news for our area, our state, and the nation," de la Garza said. "It is action which reaffirms our commitment to investing in our nation's infrastructure. What we will see as a result of the passage of this bill is improved efficiency and safety of commerce and travel as well as increased economic development," he said.

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