



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

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SENATOR CÉSAR J. BLANCO ANNOUNCES ADOPTION OF THE BORDER TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

Austin, Texas - Yesterday, the Texas Transportation Commission approved the Border Transportation Master Plan (BTMP) developed by the Border Trade Advisory Committee (BTAC). The Texas-Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan (BTMP) is a comprehensive, multimodal, Texas-Mexico long-range plan. It identifies current and future transportation needs, challenges, and opportunities for moving people and goods across the Texas-Mexico border. The BTMP outlines policy, program, and project recommendations to address identified needs. It also provides a comprehensive action plan for implementing recommendations in the short, medium, and long term needs along the Texas-Mexico border. The adoption of the BTMP allows for additional federal and state funding for projects.

Texas-Mexico border is North America's busiest gateway for the movement of people and goods. In 2019, movements of people and goods through the Texas-Mexico border generated over 7M jobs and more than \$350B GDP in both countries. By 2050, the economic impact of cross-border trade will increase to over 20M jobs and nearly \$1.2 trillion in GDP.

In 2019, border delays resulted in \$68.3M in economic productivity losses, reducing GDP by \$2.3B in both countries. This represents a GDP loss of more than \$5,000 per minute of delay. If no improvements are made, border delays will result in an economic productivity loss of \$4.4B in 2050, reducing GDP by \$ 116B in both countries. This represents a GDP loss of more than \$293,000 every minute.

Senator Blanco issued the following statement:

"I applaud the Border Trade Advisory Committee and the Texas Department of Transportation for developing and adopting the Border Transportation Master Plan. As a member of the Texas Senate Committee on Transportation, I am committed to working on the plan's implementation.

"The Border Transportation Master Plan will serve as our blueprint for building the future of the border region. The BTMP is a game-changer for El Paso and the Big Bend Region.

"The BTMP will reduce delays at our ports of entry, expand rail cargo processing capabilities, improve border data collection, and expand regional connectivity around the Texas-Mexico border. These improvements will create extraordinary job and economic growth along the border and the State of Texas."