

Project Name: I-27 Interstate Feasibility and Gap Analysis Study

Recipient: Ports-to-Plains Alliance

Address: PO Box 16226, Lubbock, TX 79490

Amount Requested: \$2,000,000

Project Explanation:

This project will fund an Interstate Feasibility and Gap Analysis for the U.S. 87 Big Spring Reliever Route in Big Spring, located in Howard County. The study will evaluate the improvements necessary to upgrade the existing four-lane divided facility to full Interstate standards as part of Future Interstate 27. Constructed in phases and completed in 2020 by the Texas Department of Transportation, the reliever route successfully diverts heavy Permian Basin freight traffic from downtown Big Spring and provides improved connectivity to Interstate 20. However, the facility does not yet meet all Interstate design requirements, including full access control and other geometric standards. The proposed study will assess roadway design elements, interchange spacing, access management, safety needs, environmental considerations, and cost estimates to establish a phased and fiscally responsible pathway toward Interstate conversion. Completion of this study will position the corridor for future environmental clearance, engineering, and construction funding, ensuring that prior public investment in the reliever route can be leveraged to support long-term freight mobility, safety, and economic growth in West Texas.

The U.S. 87 Truck Reliever Route around Big Spring was constructed in multiple phases by the Texas Department of Transportation, with initial southern segments built in the mid-2010s and the final phase completed in July 2020. The project established a continuous four-lane divided rural expressway east of the city, providing improved connectivity to Interstate 20 and diverting heavy Permian Basin freight traffic away from downtown. The original alignment through the

city was redesignated as Business U.S. 87. While the reliever route significantly improved safety and mobility by separating long-haul truck traffic from local traffic, the facility does not yet meet full Interstate design standards required for Future Interstate 27. The corridor lacks complete access control and other Interstate-compliant design elements. Without further study and upgrades, this critical north–south freight corridor cannot be fully integrated into the Interstate Highway System, limiting long-term mobility, safety enhancements, and economic potential in one of the nation’s most energy-productive regions.

JODEY C. ARRINGTON
19TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$2,000,000 in funding for a community project funding request. The intended recipient is the Ports-to-Plains Alliance located in Lubbock, TX. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will fund an Interstate Feasibility and Gap Analysis for the U.S. 87 Big Spring Reliever Route in Big Spring, Howard County, to determine the upgrades needed to meet full Interstate standards as part of Future Interstate 27.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes is authorized by 23 USC 133.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Respectfully,



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress