

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

October 25, 2010

Mr. Victor Mendez  
Federal Highway Administrator  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Mendez:

Thank you for your assistance in opening the new Hoover Dam Bypass bridge between Nevada and Arizona. I have long supported this important bridge, though many residents of Boulder City have expressed concern about public safety. To that end, I am writing to share a resolution recently passed by the Boulder City Nevada Council and request your assistance with traffic in the corridor.

In the years before September 11, heavy truck traffic utilized US-93 which runs through the heart of downtown Boulder City. After the attacks, freight traffic was diverted from the Hoover Dam to an alternate route near Laughlin, Nevada. Now that the bridge is completed, many Boulder City residents believe that heavy truck traffic will put public safety at risk and increase congestion in the area.

I understand the concerns raised by Boulder City, and I have worked for years with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to expedite plans for a 17-mile bypass route. The proposed Boulder City Bypass would remove truck traffic from Boulder City and reduce traffic congestion near the Hoover Dam. I am pleased that NDOT will begin construction of Phase I of the Bypass this year, but Boulder City officials are looking for a workable solution that its protects residents.

Earlier this fall, the Boulder City Council passed Resolution 5626 to urge that NDOT take steps to divert this truck traffic until the completion of the Boulder City Bypass. In the attached letter, NDOT has informed Boulder City that it is unable to take steps to restrict truck traffic on the bridge because US-93 is a federal route. Given the Federal Highway Administration's jurisdiction over this route, I am hopeful that you will be able to find a solution to accommodate the needs of the Boulder City community as well as the freight industry.

I appreciate your commitment to public safety on the highways in Nevada and our nation and I look forward to working with you on this important issue in Southern Nevada. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Bob Herbert in my office at (202) 228-4578.

Sincerely,



HARRY REID  
United States Senate  
Nevada

Enclosures: Boulder City Resolution  
NDOT Letter

**RESOLUTION NO. 5626**

**RESOLUTION NO. 5626, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BOULDER CITY IN SUPPORT OF REMOVING THE PORTION OF U.S. 93 WITHIN THE BOULDER CITY LIMITS FROM THE CANAMEX CORRIDOR DESIGNATION UNTIL THE BOULDER CITY BYPASS IS COMPLETED**

- WHEREAS, a Federal mandate requires a CANAMEX (NAFTA) western corridor and U.S. 93 has been designated as the CANAMEX Corridor; and**
- WHEREAS, U.S. 93 bisects residential and commercial areas of Boulder City for approximately six miles; and**
- WHEREAS, the volume of traffic traveling on U.S. 93 over Hoover Dam and through Boulder City has steadily increased over the years and is anticipated to reach 21,000 vehicles per day after the Hoover Dam Bridge Bypass is completed and open to truck traffic; and**
- WHEREAS, the Hoover Dam Bridge Bypass Project is nearing completion and is scheduled to be open on November 1, 2010, and the number of vehicles traveling through Boulder City is anticipated to increase by at least 2,000 trucks per day; and**
- WHEREAS, the State of Arizona has made significant improvements to its transportation system in anticipation of this Hoover Dam Bridge Bypass Project; however, no significant improvements have been made along U.S. 93 through Boulder City; and**
- WHEREAS, these increases in the volume of traffic will increase noise, pollution, congestion and traffic-related accidents in Boulder City and ultimately impact the quality of life enjoyed by Boulder City residents; and**
- WHEREAS, the Boulder City Bypass Project (attached Exhibit A) is the "missing link" between the Hoover Dam Bridge Bypass and the Las Vegas Valley and it remains unfunded and is needed to connect the Hoover Dam Bypass Project to U.S. 95, so a more efficient and safer route can be provided from the Dam to Las Vegas; and**
- WHEREAS, Boulder City desires to have a greater emphasis and priority placed upon construction of the Boulder City Bypass.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that City Council supports removing the portion of U.S. 93 within the boundaries of Boulder City from the CANAMEX Corridor until such time the Boulder City Bypass is constructed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Boulder City supports a ban of truck traffic from the Hoover Dam Bridge crossing until such time the Boulder City Bypass is completed and requests the Nevada Department of Transportation take the necessary steps in furtherance thereof.

**DATED and APPROVED** this 24th day of August, 2010.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Tobler, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lorene Krumm, City Clerk



Sig File



JIM GIBBONS  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
1263 S. Stewart Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89712

October 4, 2010

SUSAN MARTINOVICH, P.E., *Director*

In Reply Refer to:

Mayor Roger Tobler  
City of Boulder City  
P.O. Box 61350  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1350

Re: Canamex Corridor

Dear Mayor Tobler:

The Nevada Department of Transportation appreciates the concerns and changes Boulder City will experience with the nearing completion of the O'Callahan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge that will lift the truck traffic restrictions through the Hoover Dam corridor.

We are in receipt of your letter and Resolution No. 5626 passed by the Boulder City Council that supports removing the portion of US 93 within the Boulder City limits from the Canamex Corridor until the Boulder City Bypass is constructed.

The Canamex corridor was established as a "High Priority Corridor" in the passage of the federal transportation authorization ISTEA in 1991. It was further designated or restated in the following Acts:

The NHS Designation Act of 1995  
TEA-21 of 1998  
Transportation Appropriations Bill of 2001  
SAFETEA-LU of 2005

Additionally, this route is part of the National Highway System (NHS), Department of Defense Route (STRAHNET), and the National Truck Network (NN).

The Nevada Department of Transportation does not have the authority to remove the Canamex designation from US 93 or to ban truck traffic from a route designated as an NHS route. These actions would require an act of Congress.



I have forwarded your request to Nevada's Federal Division Office. They have advised that a formal request from Boulder City be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration headquarters.

This can be sent to:

Mr. Victor Mendez, Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Sincerely,  


Susan Martinovich, P.E.  
Director

Copy to with copy of Resolution:

Sue Klekar, Nevada Federal Highway Division Administrator  
Senator and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid  
Congresswoman Shelley Berkley  
Congresswoman Dina Titus  
Jacob Snow, Executive Director Southern Nevada RTC