



April 3, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania, Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County (the Port Authority) I write to express our strong support for consideration you are giving to the nomination of Victor Mendez to be the next Administrator of the Federal Highways Administration.

We have had the pleasure of working with Victor on a variety of issues and we have found him to be not just the very definition of a professional but one of the most knowledgeable on transportation solutions. Note that we stress his knowledge of "solutions" because on many issues, including many complex binational transportation issues that impact our border community, Victor was always guiding the discussion towards solutions and not just focusing on the problem. Victor's approach and as Director of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), resulted in one of the most modern transportation systems available for Arizona.

Among the many examples of Victor's many successes, allow me to highlight two of them. Arizona, in a partnership with the State of Nevada, is about to complete a new bypass, in fact a very large and impressive bridge, at the Hoover Dam. Victor was able to get both states to commit hundreds of millions of dollars and get two departments of transportation to work each on one half of the bypass. Another example is the construction of the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) lanes that were built at the Nogales West (Mariposa) border station in 2005. This low-cost-high-return project required finding a governmental entity willing to accept the responsibilities associated with the awarding of the Presidential Permit for the expansion of the primary cargo lanes. This project required a coordinated effort with various local, state, federal and binational organizations. Victor was the one that help lead that project.

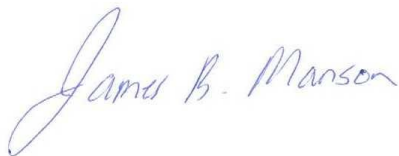
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The Port Authority is a non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life of the residents of the Nogales-Santa Cruz County region. Our Board of Directors is comprised of the principal stakeholders in our community, including:

- The City of Nogales
- Santa Cruz County
- The Nogales Customs Brokers Association
- The Maquila Association of Sonora
- The Nogales Alliance: Port of the Future
- The Nogales Community Development Corporation
- The Nogales Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce
- The Santa Cruz Tourism Council and
- The Fresh Produce Association of the Americas

Mr. President, we whole heartedly agree with the consideration of Victor as the Administrator of FHWA. We look forward to supporting his nomination and, at the appropriate time, are prepared to support his confirmation before the US Senate.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James B. Manson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James B. Manson
Chairman

cc: Board of Directors