

May 29, 2014

Mr. Marco Frias  
Ministry of Communications and Transportation  
Mexico, D.F.  
Mexico

Via Electronic Mail: [mfrias@sct.gob.mx](mailto:mfrias@sct.gob.mx)

Dear Marco,

I wanted to thank you for taking the time to chat with Martha Rascon, Luis Ramirez and I during the recent Binational Bridges and Border Crossings meeting in Tijuana. As I mentioned, there has been tremendous progress on the inspection facilities at the Mariposa port of entry and we continue our work with the Arizona Department of Transportation to make improvements to the connector road between the port of entry and the federal highway system. As you know, we are expecting the full completion of the \$250 million project in August of this year.

But we remain seriously concerned over the related improvements to the commercial corridor on the Mexican side of Mariposa. On multiple occasions, in both previous binational meetings and site visits to Nogales, as well as our visits with you in Mexico City we have received assurances that the related improvements to the corridor were to be completed at the same time that the project on the US side was to be completed.

Among the anticipated improvements were:

- The repaving of the entire corridor with thicker pavement to enhance the durability of the road;
- Improve the security of the corridor, including the necessary fencing and patrolling;
- Deploy the necessary signage for lane designation well into Mexico to ease segregation and flow management;
- The construction of the pedestrian pickup and drop off facilities with the related access to the border;
- The construction of an additional lane from the border 2 kilometers into Mexico; and
- The construction of a new Aduanas inspection facility some 4 kilometers south of the border in order to better serve the industrial parks in Nogales, Sonora.

While we have seen some initial movement of construction signage, barriers and cones, little seems to be actually being done. Given the anticipated completion of the US side of the port of entry by August, it is of great urgency that the improvements start with due haste to ensure

that we are not simply moving the bottleneck from one point to another, thus really minimizing the potential gains of the investment being made on the US side.

We were greatly encouraged by your personal commitment that the Ministry of Communications and Transportation (SCT) would take on a more active oversight role for the improvements to the corridor and paraphrasing your statement, SCT would be monitoring the situation daily.

No doubt that this is a project of great interest to both nations as Nogales is one of the principle gateways for trade and tourism in North America. We greatly appreciate your personal interest and commitment on this project and look forward to our continued work with you and your team to ensure that these projects move forward accordingly.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to seek your assistance in helping to address the situation at the Querobabi military inspection station on Highway 15 just north of Hermosillo, Sonora. While we were apprised that some \$100 million pesos were to be invested by the Ministry of Defense of Mexico to improve this inspection point we continue to see lines of hundreds of trucks on a daily basis at this inspection point. Wait times in excess of 6 or 8 hours continue to be a regular occurrence. Highway 15 is not just a connector between Hermosillo and Nogales but is perhaps the principle west coast corridor for Central Mexico and all the Pacific coast states of Mexico with Western United States.

Again, I thank you for your personal commitment to advancing these issues of binational significance. Looking forward to our continued working relationship with you, I remain,

Respectfully,



Bruce Bracker  
Chairman

CC: Ana Luisa Fajer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
John Halikowski, Arizona Department of Transportation  
Margie Emmermann, Office of the Governor  
Ramon Riesgo, General Services Administration  
William Brooks, Customs and Border Protection