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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Roadway Flood Warning System – TIGER 2017 Grant Application
Submitted by City of Houston, Texas

Dear Madam Secretary,

We write in strong support of the City of Houston's 2017 application for TIGER Grant funding for their proposed roadway flood warning system. As you may know, Hurricane Harvey, as well as the significant flood events our region experienced in 2015 and 2016 in the Tax Day and Memorial Day floods, has truly highlighted the need for an improved driver safety system for the Houston region. The City of Houston has put forth a collaborative proposal with county leaders and the State of Texas that would improve safety for drivers throughout the Houston region.

The City's proposal, in collaboration with the Houston District of the Texas Department of Transportation and Harris County, targets 40 sites in the region where high water on roadways poses a threat to drivers. The sites will be equipped with appropriate red light warnings to drivers with backup power generators and batteries. Guided wave sensors will monitor for high water. These sensors will also be connected to partner websites (Harris County Flood Control District's warning system and the Transtar Traffic Map) allowing high water warnings to automatically be added to traffic maps.

These three levels of government came together after Hurricane Harvey to create a proposal that, if implemented, will serve residents throughout the region by utilizing technology to improve safety. One of the most important goals of the TIGER program is partnership. The City's proposal, which includes both Harris County and the State of Texas, excels at this goal, along with the goals of improving safety and fostering innovation. We strongly encourage the Department of Transportation to select this grant proposal for funding.

Very respectfully,

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

John Culberson
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Ted Poe
Member of Congress