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Testimony of the Honorable Louie Gohmert, before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

May 1st, 2019 at 10 AM

Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, and Members of the Committee:

There are two projects vital to east Texas located near the city of Nacogdoches. The first of these projects is the reconstruction of the US-59/US-259 interchange north of Nacogdoches. This interchange is already extremely busy, and it will only increase in importance as US-59 continues to be converted into Interstate 69.

Aside from the need to improve the US-59/US-259 interchange in anticipation of Interstate 69 construction, changes to the interchange must be made to address safety concerns. Specifically, the interchange's cloverleaf design has led to routine truck overturns as loads shift when trucks take the interchange. This history of overturns has led to extreme risk of casualties and truly must be mitigated as US-59 becomes part of the national Interstate system as Interstate 69.

The second project that needs your attention concerns additional problems that have arisen during construction of Interstate 69 on the Nacogdoches "west loop." This section of Interstate 69 passes along nearly the entire length of the city but lacks a designation and establishment of definitive right-of-ways, creating considerable confusion and problems due to federal indecision. Definitive steps must be taken to specifically designate the Interstate 69 route as soon as possible.

Along with this testimony, a map is included that illustrates the importance of these projects and the substantial impact they will have on the city and the region. If you require any additional information on these extremely important projects, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely

Louie Gohmert

U.S. Congressman

