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# Press Release

## **Port of Brownsville Receives Funds to Enhance Marine Highway Operation**

**Brownsville, Texas, September 21, 2010:** The Port of Brownsville and Port Manatee, Florida have been awarded \$3.34 million for enhancements to their Marine Highway Operation by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

On August 11, 2010, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) informed the Port of Brownsville and Port Manatee that they had received the Marine Highway Designation, and that they would be eligible to compete for an initial \$7 million dollars. The Marine Highway Operation has gathered the support of Congressman Solomon Ortiz who believes the operation to be vital to the region. "I will continue to work with the Port of Brownsville and Port Manatee, Florida to see this waterway grow," said Ortiz. "I will remain in contact with the Department of Transportation as we look for new opportunities for the Port of Brownsville and its partners."

The designation is great for commerce, safety, and the environment. It will reduce the number of trucks on the already congested U.S. Highway system, therefore increasing safety, and also provides a benefit for the environment. Transportation by sea is cleaner in terms of green house gas emissions.

The funds will be utilized to make modifications to two barges and will also be used to purchase equipment for the container on barge operation to help improve efficiencies and reduce shipping costs. "We are very pleased with the announcement and believe these funds will enable us to continue to develop the container on barge operation and create jobs for the region," said Eduardo A. Campirano, Port Director and CEO.

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