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May 1, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for a feasibility analysis for a proposed interchange project on I-75 and Everglades Boulevard in fiscal year 2025.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Collier County, located at 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112. The funding would be used for a feasibility analysis to open the existing Everglades Boulevard interchange located on portion of I-75.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as eastern Collier County residents are lacking a southern interchange providing direct access to interstate and therefore are required to traverse multiple local roadways to gain access. Opening the existing interchange can significantly improve southern ingress and egress to the eastern lands and thereby alleviate the severe traffic congestion. The Everglades Boulevard interchange on I-75 would provide a much-needed evacuation route in an area that has experienced large wildfires in the past 5-7 years. The project will provide access which will improve the response time for emergency and law enforcement vehicles along the 21 mile stretch of I-75.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 23 USC 133(b).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress