



Eddie Treviño, Jr.
County Judge

For Immediate Release

April 02, 2024

Contact: Eddie Treviño, Jr.

Cameron County Judge

**RIBBON CUTTING OF THE VETERANS INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE AT LOS TOMATES CBP
PRIMARY LANE EXPANSION PROJECT**

Cameron County is pleased to announce the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Ceremony of the Veterans International Bridge Primary Lane Expansion Project that will take place on April 3, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates. With the completion of the project, Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates will now increase the capacity for passenger vehicles entering the United States with the addition of four (4) new Customs & Border Protection (CBP) primary inspection lanes. A new Headhouse and enhanced security features will now allow CBP to operate the Port of Entry with more efficiency.

The increased capacity will benefit commercial traffic entering the U.S. from Mexico by reducing travel and wait times, improving air quality, and attracting more passenger vehicles to the bridge. This vital upgrade to the jointly operated port of entry will improve traffic flow for all passenger vehicles crossing between the City of Brownsville and City of Matamoros. These additional lanes have completed a gap that was included in the original General Services Administration (GSA) master plan for the Los Tomates Border Station at a total project cost of \$18 million. Funding for the project was made possible through the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Organization's (RGVMPO) allocation of Category 7 Federal Funds and local contribution.

For over 20 years, Cameron County has operated the Veterans International Bridge which connects I-69E to Mexico. This bridge, a critical port of entry for international trade, currently handles most of the commercial truck traffic entering the U.S. in Cameron County, including overweight shipments utilizing the corridor between the Veterans bridge and the Port of Brownsville.

The delivery of the Veterans International Bridge Primary Lane Expansion Project demonstrates the power of cross-agency partnerships between Cameron County, CBP, GSA, TxDOT and the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority in collaborating to complete a project with regional, national, and international benefits.

"Improving the mobility of people and goods is a priority for Cameron County, and the completion of this project will accomplish just that. This project will not only boost the region's economy but will also facilitate cross-border travel and increase security at our border. U.S. Senator John Cornyn and Congressman Vicente Gonzalez will be in attendance and take part in this momentous occasion," stated Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr.

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