Office of the Chancellor
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

October 16, 2018

Mr. Alan Clark

Director of Transportation Planning

Houston-Galveston Area Council

P.O. Box 22777

Houston, TX 77227-2777

Re: Support for Transportation Improvement Program Request by the City of Galveston

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am pleased to offer this letter supporting the City of Galveston in their pursuit of funding through the 2018 Houston-Galveston Area Council Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This Pelican Island bridge project support is with the clear understanding that the roadway connecting the bridge landing on Pelican Island to Seawolf Parkway circumvents the campus of Texas A&M University at Galveston. With the requested funding support, the city plans to complete the following project:

- Pelican Island Replacement on Seawolf Parkway from SH 275 (Harborside Drive) to GTI Blvd.

These improvements are the culmination of an ongoing preliminary engineering and environmental effort aimed at improving multimodal access on this critical transportation facility. The existing and proposed facility serves as the only ingress and egress for Pelican Island for everyday use and for any emergency services needed on the island.

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Pelican Island is home to Texas A&M University at Galveston campus, several off-shore and marine industry companies and the Seawolf Park recreational facility. The current average daily traffic on this bridge is 9,100 vehicles that are impacted by over 2,500 lift span bridge openings annually. The proposed facility will be a clear span bridge that will eliminate the need for the current 60+ year old drawbridge.

Texas A&M University at Galveston supports the city's pursuit of federal funding through the TIP program with the understanding as noted above that the roadway on Pelican Island will circumvent the campus. This is imperative for the safety of students, staff and faculty given the anticipated increase of industrial traffic. The improvements sought will improve the safety and mobility of users including private and commercial vehicles, transit, bicycles and pedestrians on the proposed facility.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at (979) 458-6041.

Sincerely,

John C. Otto

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Assistant Vice Chancellor & Director of

Local Government Relations

Texas A&M University System