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Citing the continued contributions to the strength of the state's economy by Texas ports, the Texas Transportation approved \$20 million in funding for road improvements at Texas ports. These program funds will directly benefit road improvements at the Port of Palacios.

Nine port projects were selected to use just over \$10 million in the state funds combined with \$5 million from local and other funding sources. The remaining \$10 million in state funds will be considered by the Commission at a future meeting for improvements at the Port of Houston.

The Port's construction project is projected to cost around \$1.75 million and includes raising and widening a portion of State Highway 35 (Main Street) between the Port Commercial Center and the harbor. The existing double box culvert bridge prohibits heavy, wide loads, is prone to flooding and has been a limiting factor in the development of the Commercial Center. "Working with the TxDOT's Maritime Division on this particular funding opportunity has been a win-win for Texas ports", said Port Director Debbie Morris, "and we are proud of the momentum that has been established by approval the Unified Transportation Program and the funding from Rider 48 of the General Appropriations Bill of the 84th Legislative session." "These projects address those links between the ports and our highways", noted Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick. Information on the specific projects can be found in the Unified Transportation Program document at www.txdot.gov.