

**Sylvia R. Garcia**

**T&I Member Day statement**

I proudly rise today as the representative for the 29<sup>th</sup> district of Texas. Too often, my home district, which is nearly 80% Latino, has had to go without. My neighborhoods and communities have not had that same access to quality transportation and infrastructure, and I am here to advocate for change.

Equitable transit opportunities are vital as we move into the future. As an urban district, we need to continuously look to expand public transit options in new and creative ways. Many of my constituents rely on public transportation, and I want to ensure that they can get around the district and the entire region with ease, comfort, affordability and reliability.

And of course, my constituents deserve the same quality of roads, bridges, and highways as any other region. I encourage the committee to look for opportunities to fund projects that ensure equity and do not disproportionately harm communities of color, and that bring communities together rather than divide them with a highway.

We must also look for innovative new ways to build infrastructure that protects the Houston region from flooding. As we saw in Hurricane Harvey, Houston can be flooded to an extent no where else in the country has experienced. We need to expand our horizons and fund ideas that will protect our families, our homes, and our businesses and our environment. Bold new infrastructure projects can shape the future of our nation, and I look forward to that starting in the 29<sup>th</sup> district of Texas.