Greater Tomball Area

Chamber of Commerce

www.tomballchamber.org

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR INCREASED STATE FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS the 83rd Texas Legislature passed historic legislation proposing a constitutional amendment on the November 4, 2014 state ballot affecting the state's roads, highways, and bridges; and

WHEREAS this is "A constitutional amendment to provide for the transfer of certain general revenue to the economic stabilization fund and to the state highway fund and for the dedication of the revenue transferred to the state highway fund"; and

WHEREAS this proposal will allow revenue transferred to the state highway fund to be used only for developing public roadways, other than toll roads; and

WHEREAS this would require that any funds transferred to the state highway fund be allocated by the Texas Department of Transportation consistent with existing formulas to ensure the entire state benefits from this additional funding; and

WHEREAS the proposed amendment will aid in maintaining the current infrastructure and will ease congestion by funding new projects for added capacity without any new or increased taxes or fees; and

WHEREAS a strong transportation system is fundamental to Texas' quality of life and economic vitality, attracting new businesses and generating new jobs; and

WHEREAS state transportation funding over the past several years has been supplemented by bond programs and those bond programs are now exhausted and have resulted in a significant level of debt for Texas; and

WHEREAS the current state budget (FY14 and FY15) includes approximately $5 billion per year in construction funding. Available funds for construction funding will drop to $2.5 billion per year for the next biennium state budget (FY16 and FY17); and

WHEREAS according to the latest report of the 2030 Commission, approximately $6.1 billion per year in construction funding is needed to achieve "worst possible" conditions and $9.5 billion per year is needed to achieve "minimally competitive" conditions; and

WHEREAS the proposed amendment would result in an estimated $1.4 billion per year for the state highway fund; and

WHEREAS while the proposed amendment would not fully fund the state's overall transportation needs, it would be a key step toward securing critical funding for transportation projects in Texas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce supports the proposed amendment to address Texas' transportation infrastructure needs on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF APRIL 2014 BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE GREATER TOMBALL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Chris O'Rourke, Chairman
Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce

Bruce E. Hillegeist, President
Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 516 • Tomball, TX 77377-0516
281.351.7222 • fax: 281.351.7223 • admin@tomballchamber.org