

Dear Texas Legislature:

At the start of the 84th Legislative Session trade associations, chambers of commerce, local governments and business leaders came together to encourage you to pass legislation that would constitutionally dedicate revenue necessary to fund Texas highways and bridges. Backed by the strong support from 80% of Texans who overwhelmingly passed Proposition 1 in 2014, leadership made transportation funding a top priority for the session. Gov. Greg Abbott declared transportation funding an emergency item and called for an additional \$4 billion a year to build roads in Texas without increasing taxes, fees, tolls or debt. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Speaker Joe Straus have both talked about the importance of long term funding for transportation.

With nearly unanimous approval, both the House and Senate passed their respective versions of SJR 5, putting us one step closer to addressing Texas' transportation funding challenges. Unfortunately, with just over a week left in the 84th Legislative Session transportation funding remains an issue that has not been solved for Texans. We urge the Legislature to take that final step by coming to an agreement on SJR 5 and ensuring that Texas avoids a transportation-funding crisis.

Texas continues to lead the nation in creating jobs, but the state's economic prosperity will become threatened if we cannot efficiently move people and goods. Building and maintaining roads is a fundamental responsibility and a core function of government. Texans expect to have safe, reliable highways and the state needs predictable, long-term sources of revenue to accomplish this.

We must have a steady and predictable source of revenue to build new projects and repair our roads. The passage of SJR 5 provides Texans that steady and predictable source by constitutionally dedicating revenue to transportation. In anticipation of a long term funding source, the initial House and Senate budgets both included more than \$1 billion in general revenue for the Texas Department of Transportation. Passing long-term funding has become even more critical with the recent removal of that \$1 billion in general revenue from TxDOT's budget for the next biennium.

The Texas Legislature has an opportunity to address a top priority for the state by passing a significant transportation funding measure, putting the state in a strong position to continue the "Texas miracle" by making wise investments in job-creating infrastructure. Not acting will hurt Texas citizens, businesses and communities.

Again, on behalf of the following organizations, we strongly encourage you to pass SJR 5 and give voters the ability to approve constitutionally dedicated revenue necessary to fund Texas highways and bridges. Texans sent a message that they want more transportation funding and they expect the legislature to deliver on that responsibility.

Signed,

Texas Association of Business
Texas Association of Builders
Texas Association of Manufacturers
Texas Food and Fuel Association
Texas Association of REALTORS
Texas Retailers Association
Texas Oil & Gas Association
Texas Independent Producers & Royalty
Owners Association
Texas Trucking Association
Texas Travel Industry Association
Southwest Movers Association
AGC of Texas Highway, Heavy and
Utilities
American Council of Engineering
Companies of Texas
Texas Business Leadership Council
Texas Real Estate Councils of Texas
Texas Grain Sorghum Producers
Texas Association of Dairymen
Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Texas Municipal League
Transportation Advocates of Texas
Move Texas Forward
Texas Infrastructure Now
Texas Good Roads Association
Texas Transportation Alliance
Ports-to-Plains Alliance
Alliance for I-69 Texas
I-14/U.S. 190 Gulf Coast Strategic
Highway Coalition
Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition

Tarrant Regional Transportation
Coalition
San Antonio Mobility Coalition
Bay Area Houston Transportation
Partnership
Transportation Advocacy Group –
Houston
Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance
Austin Chamber of Commerce
Bay City Chamber of Commerce
Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce
Dallas Regional Chamber
Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
Frisco Chamber of Commerce
Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Greater Houston Partnership
Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of
Commerce
Greater New Braunfels Chamber of
Commerce
Longview Chamber of Commerce
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
McAllen Chamber of Commerce
North San Antonio Chamber
San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
San Antonio Hispanic Chamber
Houstonians for Responsible Growth
Real Estate Council of Austin
Houston Real Estate Council
Port of Beaumont
City of Corpus Christi
City of Nacogdoches
City of San Antonio