



DRAFT

The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)

December 14, 2017

The Honorable Sam Johnson
United States House of Representatives
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Sessions
United States House of Representatives
2233 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson and Congressman Sessions:

On behalf of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), which serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area, I would like to thank you for your service in the US Congress. The RTC would like to inform you of some transportation changes that are developing in your district and seek your direction on needed legislation.

Currently, an early interim, temporary high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane exists on US Highway 75 in Dallas County and Collin County. This project was previously approved by the RTC in 1992 with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program funds and, due to constraints associated with CMAQ funding, legislation is now needed to advance and modernize the project. These modernization improvements, known as technology lanes, are modeled after similar improvements on SH 161 in Irving. The US 75 improvements will include the use of shoulder lanes in the peak period. In addition, shoulder lanes in the off-peak period are proposed to mitigate non-recurring, incident-related congestion. A graphic of technology lanes on SH 161 is included as Attachment 1 for your reference.

Legislation was previously approved for a project in the State of New Jersey and there is a need for similar legislation for the US 75 project to move forward. The enacted New Jersey legislation, along with the draft language needed to advance the HOV lane improvements on US 75, are provided as Attachments 2 and 3 for your review.

December 14, 2017

The RTC stands ready to work with members of the North Texas Congressional Delegation to advance this important project. If needed, feel free to contact Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation for NCTCOG at (817) 695-9241 or mmoris@nctcog.org.

Sincerely,

Rob Franke, P.E., Chair
Regional Transportation Council
Mayor, City of Cedar Hill

RH:ch
Attachments

cc: The Honorable Victor Vandergriff, Commissioner, Texas Transportation Commission
The Honorable Mike Cantrell, County Commissioner, Dallas County
The Honorable Theresa Daniel, County Commissioner, Dallas County
The Honorable Duncan Webb, County Commissioner, Collin County
The Honorable George Fuller, Mayor, City of McKinney
The Honorable Lee M. Kleinman, Councilmember, City of Dallas
The Honorable Harry LaRosiliere, Mayor, City of Plano
The Honorable Steve Mitchell, Councilmember, City of Richardson
The Honorable Stephen Terrell, Mayor, City of Allen
The Honorable Paul Voelker, Mayor, City of Richardson
Kelly Selman, P.E., District Engineer, TxDOT, Dallas District
Andrea Lofye, Director, Federal Affairs, TxDOT
Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation, NCTCOG



The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)

December 6, 2017

The Honorable J. Bruce Bugg, Jr.
Chairman
Texas Transportation Commission
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

The Honorable Laura Ryan
Member
Texas Transportation Commission
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

The Honorable Jeff Austin, III
Member
Texas Transportation Commission
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

The Honorable Victor Vandergriff
Member
Texas Transportation Commission
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

The Honorable Tryon Lewis
Member
Texas Transportation Commission
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chairman Bugg and Commissioners Austin, Lewis, Ryan and Vandergriff:

On behalf of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area, we urge the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) to expedite the Interstate Highway (IH) 635 Phase 3 procurement process. This project begins at US 75 and goes to and including the IH 30 interchange.

The IH 635 Phase 3 project is already included in our approved long-range transportation plan, has already received environmental clearance, meets air quality conformity and is ready to proceed. Sensitive negotiations that include the Skillman/Audelia Bridge within the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) proposed contract are at risk with the delay of the IH 635 mainlanes. The project has been planned for 20 years and is the top priority in the DFW area's eastern sub-region. Funding for a majority of the staged constructed project is currently in hand with multiple funding options available. Project costs are increasing at \$5 million per month.

It is crucial that TxDOT begins the procurement process as soon as possible to avoid additional cost increases. The RTC looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the TTC and TxDOT and stands ready to assist on the IH 635 Phase 3 project to improve mobility and air quality in the DFW area.

Again, the RTC is eager to get IH 635 Phase 3 to procurement and requests action. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed updates to the 2018 Unified Transportation Program. If needed, feel free to contact Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation for NCTCOG at (817) 695-9241 or mmorris@nctcog.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Franke". The signature is stylized and cursive.

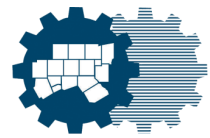
Rob Franke, P.E., Chair
Regional Transportation Council
Mayor, City of Cedar Hill

RH:ch

cc: James Bass, Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation
Kelly Selman, P.E., District Engineer, TxDOT - Dallas District
Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation, NCTCOG

WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US.

Regional Transportation Public Input Opportunity



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

Learn about transportation in the region and help set future priorities. The Regional Transportation Council and North Central Texas Council of Governments, together serving as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area since 1974, are seeking public input.

ONLINE REVIEW & COMMENT

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects

A comprehensive list of funded transportation projects through 2020 is maintained in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Projects with committed funds from federal, state and local sources are included in the TIP. To maintain an accurate project listing, this document is updated on a regular basis. To view the current set of project modifications, visit www.nctcog.org/trans/tip/.

Information will be posted online at www.nctcog.org/input for public review and comment Dec. 11, 2017 - Jan. 10, 2018. To request printed copies of the information, call 817-608-2365 or email cbaylor@nctcog.org.

Submit comments and questions to NCTCOG:

Email: transinfo@nctcog.org

Website: www.nctcog.org/input

Fax: 817-640-3028

Phone: 817-695-9240

Mail: P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, Texas 76005

www.nctcog.org/input