

July 4, 2014

Texas Department of Transportation  
Attn: Lt. Gen. Joe Weber, Executive Director  
125 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Lt. Gen Weber,

As advocates for our respective constituencies in North Texas, we are writing this joint letter to express our strong opposition to the Texas Department of Transportation's ("TXDOT") current plans to convert the US75 Express/HOV Lanes from I-635 in Dallas to South of McDermott Road in Allen to managed toll lanes.

While we appreciate TXDOT's efforts to reduce and relieve congestion on this busy stretch of highway, we do not believe that the current plan put forward by TXDOT is good for the taxpayers whom we represent nor good for the region as a whole. Each of us has heard directly from many of our constituents who strongly oppose any new tolls in an area that is over-tolled as it is. Furthermore, our constituents have expressed their concern and frustration that the current plan proposed by TXDOT, while supported by the Regional Transportation Council and the North Central Texas Council of Governments, has not been vetted nor been approved by the majority of residents, business owners and commuters who frequently use this stretch of highway.

The first opportunity given to our constituents to express their respective positions on this proposal was at the Public Meeting, hosted by TXDOT, held on Tuesday July 1, 2014 at the Grand Hall of the Richardson Civic Center. While we are disappointed that this meeting did not afford the individuals in attendance a specific opportunity to publicly comment on the proposal on the record, those of us in attendance feel strongly that the strong opposition of Collin County residents and commuters was clear.

(Judge Self recommended changes): The current HOV lane, built with clean air funds, is a constant irritant that causes frustration for many drivers who use US75. While we cannot correct the past, we can immediately add almost twenty percent capacity to our most important commuter highway very inexpensively by using the funds currently budgeted to construct the enforcement zone and toll gantries to instead reimburse the federal highway fund and open the existing lane as a free lane. These may be the most inexpensive lane miles available to us to actually add capacity to US75.

In that regard, as the duly elected State Legislators and County Commissioners, we respectfully request that the above referenced plan be placed on permanent hold and that TXDOT and regional transportation authorities, in conjunction with our offices, continue to investigate and

evaluate other strategies to relieve and reduce congestion on US75. In doing so, we are confident that a plan can be developed that will adequately and effectively address our current congestion problems without adding undue additional burden to the citizens, business owners and commuters of Collin County.

Sincerely,