



City of Plano
1520 K Avenue
Plano, TX 75074

P.O. Box 860358
Plano, TX 75086-0358
Tel: 972.941.7000
plano.gov

July 21, 2014

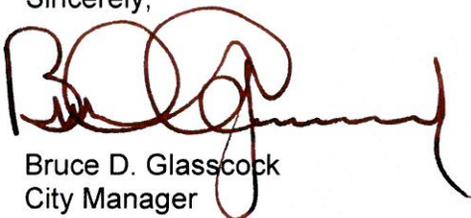
Judge Keith Self
Collin County Commissioners Court
Collin County Administration Building
2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192
McKinney, TX 75071

Re: US 75 Express/HOV Lanes North of IH-635

Dear Judge Self:

Thank you for your letter dated July 9, 2014 concerning the conversion of the US 75 Express/HOV Lanes from I-635 in Dallas to south of McDermott Road in Allen to managed toll lanes. Attached, please find a letter signed by Mayor LaRosiliere addressing the City's concerns about the proposed projects. We agree the TxDOT proposal needs more examination and full consideration of concerns before further action is taken. We look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,



Bruce D. Glasscock
City Manager

cc: Plano City Council
Frank T. Turner, Deputy City Manager
Jack Carr, Director of Engineering
Collin County Commissioners Court
The Honorable Jeff Leach
The Honorable Van Taylor
The Honorable Jodie Laubenberg
The Honorable Pat Fallon
The Honorable Ken Paxton



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July 3, 2014

Mr. Bill Hale, P.E.
District Engineer
Texas Department of Transportation
4777 E. Highway 80
Mesquite, TX 75150-6643

Re: US 75 Express Lanes North of IH-635

Dear Mr. Hale:

On June 23, the Plano City Council received a presentation regarding the US 75 Express Lane project. During the meeting the City Council entered into a dialogue with the TxDOT project team, during which the following issues were brought forward:

1. Currently, northbound and southbound motorists on US 75 can enter and exit the HOV lanes near Park Boulevard. The initial Express Lane plan moved the northbound exit to a location that would have provided access to Legacy Drive and did not include access for southbound traffic. As a result of a conversation with your team, the proposed access points for the Express Lane project will match the current locations. Plano requests confirmation that the current access locations will be included in the proposed Express Lane project.
2. In addition to the proposed access points, Plano would like to enhance the Express Lane system by including access points in the Richardson section. The additional access points would benefit both Richardson and Plano residents and businesses.
3. The pylon system used to separate the traffic lanes has been a longstanding safety, aesthetic and maintenance issue. We understand the right-of-way constraints and the intent of the pylon separation, but we believe the pylons contribute little to safety, are costly to maintain, and are an eyesore. Plano would like TxDOT to consider an alternate system, including reevaluation of simple striping, still in common use in other states.
4. We believe the design for transferring traffic between the LBJ TEXpress lanes and the US 75 Express/HOV lanes needs further review. Trucks are permitted on the LBJ lanes, but not on the US 75 lanes. We are not clear how trucks make the transition between the two routes.
5. Plano is uncertain that the proposed enforcement zone would be an effective or safe means to ensure toll collection. The reaction of motorists to enforcement vehicles in the zone will undoubtedly result in slower traffic and congestion. Returning stopped vehicles into the lane seems to present an unwarranted safety risk. We also believe the proposed "call in advance system" for free HOV use is unduly burdensome to the public. It also encourages motorists to use their cellphones while driving.

Phil Dyer
Mayor

Lissa Smith
Mayor Pro Tem

Ben Harris
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

Pat Miner
Place 1

André Davidson
Place 3

Jim Duggan
Place 5

Patrick Gallagher
Place 7

Lee Dunlap
Place 8

Bruce D. Glasscock
City Manager

July 3, 2014
Mr. Bill Hale, P.E.
Page Two

6. We understand that free HOV use for multi-occupant vehicles may be later changed to a discounted fee similar to the TExpress fare structure. We believe free HOV use by multi-occupant vehicles should be maintained.
7. Plano believes some portion of the revenue generated by the Express Lanes should be devoted to improved maintenance and visual appearance of the corridor (debris removal and sweeping, barrier painting, landscaping, etc.).

Plano recognizes the advantages of proposed US-75 Express/ HOV lanes. It will permit greater use of lane capacity and better coordination with the LBJ express lanes. We are generally supportive of the use of express and HOV lanes in the region. We do believe the current proposal for US 75 needs refinement and request your consideration of our suggestions. If you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact Jack Carr, Director of Engineering, at 972-941-7225 or jackc@plano.gov.

Sincerely,



Harry LaRosiliere
Mayor

cc: Plano City Council
Bruce D. Glasscock, City Manager
Frank T. Turner, Deputy City Manager
Jack Carr, Director of Engineering