

Suggested Name: Sam Rayburn Tollway

Compliant with Policy: Yes

Recommended By: N/A

Background / Significance: Texas legislator, U.S. Congressman and longtime Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from North Texas.

- First elected to the Texas Legislature in 1906, he served as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives from 1911-13. He was elected to Congress in 1912 and served until 1961. His tenure includes 16 years as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in three separate stints, the first stint starting in 1940. His service as Speaker was interrupted only during Republican majorities in the House, at which time he served as House Minority Leader (1947-49, 1953-55).
- He held the longest record of service in the House at the time of his death in 1961.
- He was a participant in the passage of most of the significant legislation of the first half of the twentieth century, including making sure that Texas received its fair share of any federal share for new federal projects, including the interstate highway system. Some of his accomplishments and some of the legislation he helped pass:
 - Emergency Railroad Transportation Act (1933)
 - Securities and Exchange Commission (1934)
 - Federal Communication Commission (1934)
 - Public Utilities Holding Company Act (1935)
 - Rural Electrification Act (1936)
 - During World War II, he helped ensure the legislative base and financial support for the war effort
 - Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 authorizing the Interstate Highway System
 - Rayburn also received credit for bringing electricity, farm-to-market roads and a reliable water supply to this region.
- Rayburn's personal integrity was legendary; he accepted no money or gifts from lobbyists.
- Well known for his non-partisanship, especially in areas of national defense and foreign policy.
- He served as a Congressman during eight separate presidential administrations.

Suggested Name: Sam Rayburn Tollway

Compliant with Policy: Yes

Recommended By: N/A

- Rayburn retained and exercised his independence throughout his career. His mastery of the political process made him a formidable congressional adversary. His fairness and candor within the process brought him respect from both sides of the aisle.
- His legislative record reveals a pattern of broad consistency and is not easily categorized.
- In 1962, a stretch of State Highway 121 from U.S. 75 into Fannin County was named for him. Collin and Denton counties have historical connections to Fannin County, which encompassed all of Denton and Collin counties in the 1800s

Drawbacks/Comments:

- A number of different facilities are already named after him including a reservoir, ISD and a congressional office building.
- Rayburn was a Democrat in what today is a largely Republican area. Although at the time he served, there were far fewer Republicans in this area.