



July 18, 2011

The Honorable Deirdre Delisi
Chair
Texas Transportation Commission
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Mr. Amadeo Saenz
Executive Director
TxDOT
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Mr. John Barton
Assistant Executive Director
Engineering Operations
TxDOT
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chair Delisi and Mr.'s Saenz and Barton:

We would like to thank you for your efforts to advance Interstate Highway (IH) 35E, a critical transportation project in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. As you know, elected officials and business leaders from across the region worked closely with the North Texas Legislative Delegation to ensure that the IH 35E project was included in SB 1420 as a project with authority to proceed under a Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA). We heard time and again from legislators that this local support, which called for limiting the number of CDA projects and ensuring local control and legislative collaboration, was instrumental to getting these provisions included in the bill.

In parallel to the TxDOT Request for Information process, we would like to request the establishment of a process to ensure greater local oversight for the IH 35E project. Through this process, we wish to keep local stakeholders more involved, continue close collaboration with the local legislative delegation and pursue an expanded set of options to deliver the project. These options include looking for innovative ways to obtain revenue, looking at different delivery methods such as availability payments rather than just looking at a traditional CDA and exploring the use of financial backstops. Increased involvement from local partners will help expedite delivery of the project. In addition, due to the majority of funding that is expected to come from local sources, such as Denton County bond funds, the Regional Toll Revenue Initiative and future toll payers from the DFW region, it is extremely important to expand the traditional oversight role of local leaders.

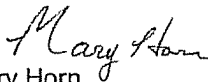
As you know, the IH 35E project is considered vital to improving the DFW region's transportation system. This is an important link between the rapidly-growing Denton County and the jobs center of Dallas; unfortunately it has become extremely congested. We have one chance to get the overall project right and expanded communication between all stakeholders and the public will be the key to success. We request that you agree to join us in a discussion over the next several weeks on how to establish a process to ensure local oversight for the development, delivery and financing of the IH 35E project. We believe this process needs to be in place before TxDOT moves past the Request for Information phase.

July 18, 2011

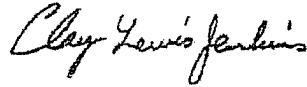
Page Two

Thank you for your leadership on transportation issues for the State of Texas and your continued willingness to partner with regional leaders to ensure Dallas-Fort Worth needs are met.

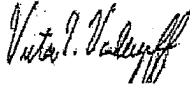
Sincerely,



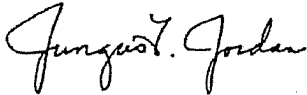
Mary Horn
County Judge, Denton County



Clay Jenkins
County Judge, Dallas County



Victor Vandergriff
Chairman, North Texas Tollway Authority



Jungus Jordan
Chair, Regional Transportation Council
Councilmember, City of Fort Worth



Pete Kamp
Vice Chair, Regional Transportation Council
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Denton

AW:hc

cc: Bill Hale, District Engineer, TxDOT-Dallas