

**RESOLUTION ON THE TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION'S PROPOSED  
UPDATES TO THE 2020 UNIFIED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM  
(R20-02)**

**WHEREAS**, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area by the Governor of Texas in accordance with federal law; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), comprised primarily of local elected officials, is the regional transportation policy body associated with the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and has been and continues to be the regional forum for cooperative decisions on transportation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the RTC is responsible for the approval of transportation projects and policies in the region's long-range transportation plan (Mobility 2045) pursuant to its federal responsibilities under Title 23 of the United States Code; and,

**WHEREAS**, on February 27, 2020, the Texas Transportation Commission (Commission) was briefed on potential updates to the 2020 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) to address a \$4.34 billion funding gap for the IH 35 Capital Express Central Project which would add two non-tolled managed lanes and one frontage road lane in each direction from US 290E to US 290W/SH 171; and,

**WHEREAS**, to address the \$4.34 billion funding gap, the Commission proposes to allocate \$3.4 billion in Commission Strategic Priority and Texas Clear Lanes funds (Category 12), reprioritize \$600 million in existing Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) funds allocated to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization/Austin District; and include an additional \$300 million in Category 12 funds in the 2021 UTP; and,

**WHEREAS**, TxDOT will be holding a public meeting on the proposed changes to the 2020 UTP on March 12, 2020, at 4:00 pm at each TxDOT District office and via WebEx; and,

**WHEREAS**, TxDOT's public comment period for the proposed changes to the 2020 UTP will be open from March 13-April 13, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, TxDOT will be holding a public hearing on the proposed changes to the 2020 UTP on April 7, 2020, at 10:00 am at a location to be determined in Austin; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Commission is scheduled to take action on the proposed changes to the 2020 UTP at its regular meeting on April 30, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, the RTC has a long-standing partnership with the Commission and TxDOT on advancing major transportation projects and as such has an interest in providing feedback to the Commission on its proposed changes to the 2020 UTP.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:**

**Section 1.** The RTC supports the Texas Transportation Commission's efforts to advance needed major capital improvements to the IH 35 corridor in the central Austin area as a high-priority project for the State of Texas. The

RTC recommends the Commission consider alternate mechanisms to fund the IH 35 Capital Express Central Project that would permit additional high-priority statewide and regional projects to advance in parallel. The RTC supports an alternative plan. The RTC asks the Commission to consider the RTC's proposed alternative.

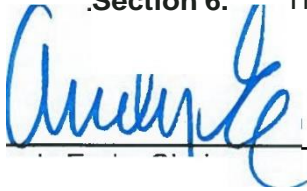
**Section 2.** The RTC requests the Commission review successful managed lanes projects (IH 635, North Tarrant Express) implemented by TxDOT in the Dallas-Fort Worth region as examples of projects that leveraged scarce public-sector funds to build major transportation projects creating reliable travel times and significant congestion relief.

**Section 3.\_.** The RTC directs staff to provide comments to the Commission during the open comment period, public meetings and public hearings on the proposed revisions to the 2020 UTP in the form of this resolution, the attached presentation (Attachment 1), and video presentation. The RTC's alternative plan is presented in this material.

**Section 4.** The Regional Transportation Council requests the Texas Transportation Commission to extend the deadline for public comments in order to be sensitive to schedule conflicts related to COVID-19.

**Section 5,** This resolution shall be transmitted to the members of the Texas Transportation Commission, the members of the North Texas legislative delegation, metropolitan planning organizations in the State of Texas, private-sector leadership groups, and other interested stakeholders.

**.Section 6.** This resolution shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.



Andy Eads, Chair  
Regional Transportation Council  
County Judge, Denton County

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council of the North Central Texas Council of Governments for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area on March 12, 2020.



Theresa Daniel, Ph.D., Secretary  
Regional Transportation Council