

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, URGING THE 85TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IH-635 EAST FROM US-75 TO AND INCLUDING THE IH-30 INTERCHANGE; IMPLOING THE 85TH LEGISLATURE TO AUTHORIZE ALL NECESSARY MEANS TO EXPEDITE THAT PROJECT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the segment of IH-635 that passes through the city limits of Mesquite was built in the early 1970s and has remained in essentially the same configuration since then despite an exponential increase in the amount of traffic using that road; and

WHEREAS, both the main lanes of IH-635 and its interchange with IH-30 each handle approximately 200,000 vehicles per day with over 1,000 vehicles per hour traveling the interchange's single-lane ramps; and

WHEREAS, the IH-635 and IH-30 interchange is a critical link for commercial truck traffic traveling along the IH-30 NAFTA corridor; and

WHEREAS, through the considerable efforts of state and local leaders, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) officials and others over the years, the Western portion of IH-635 between IH-35 and US-75 and the Southeastern portion of IH-635 between IH-30 and US-80, have now been improved and updated to meet the needs of the area, to the benefit of the Dallas region and the people and businesses within it; and

WHEREAS, by equal measure and for the same reasons, the Eastern portion of IH-635 from US-75 to IH-30 needs to be improved in the same manner to increase the capacity of the road, to improve pavement conditions, to provide continuous frontage roads, and to provide a new interchange with IH-30; and

WHEREAS, improvements on adjacent portions of IH-635 East have attracted significant additional traffic volume, creating businesses-choking congestion that has the Dallas area ranked in studies as having the worst congestion in Texas and 16th in the world; and

WHEREAS, transportation mobility is critical to the retention and growth of the economic base of North Texas and to maintaining Texas' position as the growth engine of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the need for the reconstruction of IH-635 East including its interchange with IH-30 is now urgent and further delay will risk permanent damage to the region; and

WHEREAS, the TxDOT has prepared a design for the reconstruction of IH-635 East that is now 90 percent complete and will shortly be ready to be bid for construction; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that there may be insufficient Proposition 1 and Proposition 7 funds available to complete the IH-635 East reconstruction, or that the Texas Legislature may reduce the amount of funds available to be used for such projects, either of which could delay the project by several years and could delay the necessary reconstruction of the IH-635 to IH-30 interchange; and

WHEREAS, no scheme of prioritization of available or predicted funding for the North Texas Region, even if politically possible, would be sufficient to ensure the reconstruction of IH-635 East without significant delays; and

WHEREAS, other funding mechanisms for IH-635 East are available and may be viable and that do not shift additional burdens onto Mesquite taxpayers or otherwise impose undue costs on the City which could further delay the project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mesquite places such a priority on the need to improve IH-635 that it has thus far contributed \$9 million in scarce local funds to advance critical sections of the IH-635 corridor; and

WHEREAS, the people of Texas have, by their votes on road funding propositions, indicated their desire to fund and prioritize such essential transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, because the people have spoken, it is incumbent on the elected officials within this State to make projects like IH-635 East an immediate reality by approving all necessary funding and funding tools, by providing such other approvals as may be necessary, and by removing whatever roadblocks to funding may currently exist; and

WHEREAS, the citizens and local elected officials have overwhelmingly publicly stated their support for the project at the most recent public hearing held on January 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, has previously adopted a resolution supporting the reconstruction of IH-635 from US-75 to IH-30 in the 10-year Regional Unified Transportation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council urges the 85th Texas Legislature to take prompt action to allow for the immediate funding for the immediate reconstruction of IH-635 East from US-75 to IH-30 to include its interchange with IH-30 and that such action be completed during this current legislative session.

SECTION 2. That the City Council urges the 85th Texas Legislature to allow for the immediate funding of the IH-635 reconstruction by the most economically viable and expedient means, including the mechanisms of Proposition 1 funds, Proposition 7 funds, federal funding, other State funding or a Comprehensive Development Agreement for the entire length of the IH-635 East reconstruction from US-75 to IH-30, inclusive of the IH-30 interchange.

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall become effective immediately from and after its passage.


DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on the 20th day of March, 2017.

Stan Pickett
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Sonja Land
City Secretary



B. J. Smith
City Attorney