



A RESOLUTION REQUESTING TXDOT TO REDESIGN HIGHWAY 290 WEST WITH FULL CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FROM THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation (“TxDOT”) has proposed to expand U.S. Highway 290 West from Joe Tanner Lane to Scenic Brook Drive in Travis County, Texas, and;

WHEREAS, TxDOT’s plan will expand the existing four-lane highway to a controlled access six- to eight-lane elevated toll way with two and three grade-level frontage lanes in each direction, along with access ramps, and;

WHEREAS, this expansion will double the existing pavement width and increase the area of impervious cover by 135%, increasing run-off and pollution and further jeopardizing the water quality and aquatic life of Williamson Creek, and;

WHEREAS, this design includes a stacked flyover at the intersection of Highways 290 West and SH 71 with a minimum elevation of 50 feet, overwhelming the retail property at the heart of Oak Hill and creating access problems for shoppers, and;

WHEREAS, the elevated highway will create barriers, notably at Convict Hill, that will effectively sever the connections between neighborhoods north and south of the highway while failing to address neighborhood needs for pedestrian and bicycle crossings, and;

WHEREAS, the tolling of main lanes will divert through traffic onto local roads, increasing congestion on streets like Silvermine, Scenic Brook, Fletcher, Boling, and Haskel Drives, and;

WHEREAS, the construction of a project with so much elevation will necessarily generate dust, noise, pollution, and traffic delays, all at great cost to the environment and the local economy in addition to the direct cost of construction, and;

WHEREAS, the size of this project is dictated by a plan to generate revenue through tolls, therefore requiring both tolled and untolled lanes, and;

WHEREAS, to date, TxDOT has not given the community an opportunity for input into project planning, merely presenting the public with designs developed in the 1980s, and soliciting comment only on details that are inconsequential to the impact of the highway, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has designated the “Y” area of Oak Hill for a Transit Oriented Development to be realized in conjunction with expanded transportation services from Capital Metro, and;



WHEREAS, the community of Oak Hill is now engaged in a Neighborhood Planning Process under the City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department and that neighborhood desires for connectivity, local services, environmental preservation, and mass transit have emerged from this process as needs that must be considered by any highway transversing the area, and;

WHEREAS, the Fix290 Coalition, an alliance of neighborhood associations, nonprofit groups, businesses, and individuals in the Oak Hill area have been actively working to develop a viable alternative to the elevated toll road plan, and;

WHEREAS, an alternative proposed by the Fix290 Coalition maintains the road at grade level, eliminates the three-level flyover at the “Y”, reduces the overall project cost and time to build; enhances business access, reduces impervious cover, increases connectivity, enhances the landscape, and eliminates tolls while also reducing congestion, expands capacity, and maintains the flexibility to expand to meet future needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods urgently requests CAMPO to designate the Highway 290 West/ Highway 71 West improvements as a parkway, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods urgently requests CAMPO give serious consideration to the neighborhood proposals including the grade-level parkway, and addressing our goals of protecting the environment, promoting mass transit and the Oak Hill Transit Oriented Development, enhancing connectivity, maintaining business access, preserving the character of Oak Hill, and reducing both direct and indirect cost of the project.

Approved by majority vote May 10, 2006

Bruce Perrin
President