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AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

Hays County Commissioners Court

Tuesdays at 9:00 AM

Request forms are due in Microsoft Word Format via email by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

AGENDA ITEM

Discussion and possible action to nominate a representative for the I-35 Stakeholders Group.

ITEM TYPE

ACTION-MISCELLANEOUS

MEETING DATE

October 22, 2013

AMOUNT REQUIRED

LINE ITEM NUMBER

AUDITOR USE ONLY

AUDITOR COMMENTS:

PURCHASING GUIDELINES FOLLOWED: N/A

AUDITOR REVIEW: N/A

REQUESTED BY

SPONSOR

CO-SPONSOR

COBB

N/A

SUMMARY

See attached letter.

FILED: 10 22 13
HAYS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT
Resolution # 28932 VOL V PG 267



KIRK WATSON
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 14

COMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION
BUSINESS & COMMERCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HIGHER EDUCATION - VICE-CHAIR
NOMINATIONS

CAPITOL ADDRESS
P.O. Box 12068
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AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
512/463-0114
FAX 512/463-5949

October 8, 2013

The Honorable Judge Bert Cobb, M.D.
County Judge
Hays County
111 E. San Marcos Street, Suite 300
San Marcos, TX 78666

Dear Judge Cobb:

I-35 through the Austin/Central Texas area is the most congested stretch of highway in Texas. It's also the backbone of our economy, the front door to the region's central business district, and a road that many of our friends and neighbors have little choice but to take almost every day.

As such, I-35 is simply too important to ignore. I'm writing today to ask for your help as the region continues charting the future of this essential part of the region's transportation system and its daily life.

Recognizing the urgency of Texas' growing congestion problem along I-35 and other critical corridors, the 82nd Texas Legislature dedicated funding to "the most congested roadways segments in each of the four most congested regions of the state." In response, our region invested a substantial amount of its "Rider 42 funding" in the development of an Implementation Plan for I-35 improvements through Travis County. The Implementation Plan will serve as a roadmap, guiding future improvements within the I-35 corridor.

With the Implementation Plan in hand, it's time that we, as a community, take action to address the I-35 challenge – especially through downtown Austin, a bottleneck that affects all of us from San Marcos to Georgetown. So I'm extending this invitation to participate in the I-35 Stakeholders Group that's being launched to address these issues.

The group's goal is to raise our community's awareness of the needed I-35 improvements, as well as the options identified in the Implementation Plan. We'll also work to facilitate an on-going community outreach process, focusing on the unique challenges associated with implementing the identified improvements, especially those in downtown Austin.

October 8, 2013

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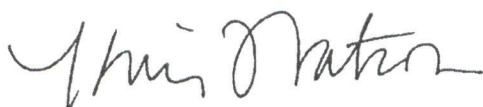
Our group will include representatives from neighborhood groups, business organizations, local governmental entities, I-35 users and other stakeholders with an interest in this roadway. It should meet about once a month over about the next year. We'll focus our work on the federally-mandated transportation development process; current conditions and challenges along and across I-35; and options, along with planned improvements, for the downtown area. Each meeting will be focused on a specific topic. Information discussed at these meetings will build on information presented at previous meetings, so regular attendance at meetings will be important to the group's ultimate success.

The kick-off meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6. Beyond that, the group will meet on the first Wednesday of the first full week of each month through at least October 2014. Each meeting will be from 4-7 PM at a central downtown location.

I'm asking that your organization select a representative to participate in this important working group. I also hope your organization's representative will commit to participating in at least 75 percent of the monthly meetings and not miss two or more consecutive meetings. Substitutions or alternative representatives will not be permitted. Please send the name and contact information for the person that will represent your group to Stacey Benningfield, I-35 Program Manager, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 15426, Austin, Texas 78761-5426 or (email) Stacey.Benningfield@txdot.gov.

Thank you in advance, very much, for participating in this stakeholders group. I look forward to seeing you or your representative on November 6. In the meantime, for more information about the I-35 Capital Area Improvement Program and the recently released *I-35 Travis County Implementation Plan*, please visit www.Mobility35.org.

Sincerely,



Kirk Watson
Honorary Chairperson
I-35 Stakeholders Group