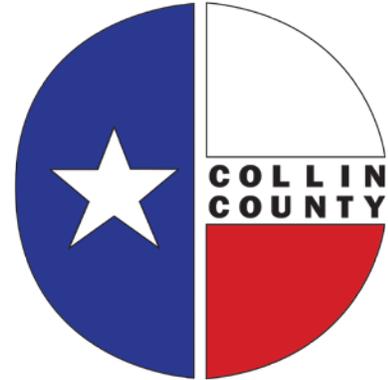




Senator Craig Estes  
Senator Ken Paxton  
Representative Jodie Laubenberg  
Representative Jeff Leach  
Representative Scott Sanford  
Representative Van Taylor  
Representative Scott Turner



County Judge Keith Self  
Commissioner Chris Hill  
Commissioner Mark Reid  
Commissioner Duncan Webb  
Commissioner Cheryl Williams

July 9, 2014

Texas Department of Transportation  
Attn: Lt. Gen. Joe Weber, Executive Director  
125 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Lt. Gen. Weber,

As advocates for our respective constituencies in North Texas, we are writing this joint letter to express our strong opposition to the Texas Department of Transportation's ("TxDOT") current plans to convert the US75 Express/HOV Lanes from I-635 in Dallas to South of McDermott Road in Allen to managed toll lanes.

While we appreciate TxDOT's and the Regional Transportation Council's efforts to reduce and relieve congestion on this busy stretch of highway, we do not believe that the current plan put forward by TxDOT is appropriate for the residents whom we represent nor does it provide the safety, access and relief our County and its residents expect and demand. Each of us has heard directly from many of our constituents who strongly oppose tolling the US75 Express/HOV lanes. There is a strong feeling in our communities that they are already paying too much for travel upon our roadways due to tolling of the three major highway corridors in Collin County. Furthermore, our constituents have expressed their concern and frustration that the current plan proposed has not had adequate public input from residents, business owners and commuters who frequently use this stretch of highway.

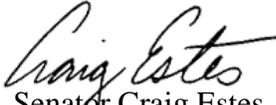
To our knowledge, the first opportunity given to our constituents to express their views on this proposal was at the Public Meeting, hosted by TxDOT, held on Tuesday July 1, 2014 at the

Grand Hall of the Richardson Civic Center. While we are disappointed that this meeting did not afford the individuals in attendance a specific opportunity to orally publicly comment on the proposal, those of us in attendance feel strongly that it is clear that there is strong opposition by residents and commuters in Collin County to this proposal.

The current HOV lane, built with clean air funds, is a constant irritant that causes frustration for many drivers who use US75. While we cannot correct the past, we can immediately add almost twenty percent capacity to our most important commuter highway by opening another general purpose lane on the existing HOV lane.

In that regard, as the duly elected State Legislators and members of Collin County's Commissioners Court, we respectfully request that the above referenced plan be placed on permanent hold and that TxDOT and regional transportation authority, in conjunction with our offices, continue to investigate and evaluate other strategies to relieve and reduce congestion on US75. In doing so, we are confident that a plan can be developed that will adequately and effectively address our current congestion problems without adding undue additional burden to the citizens, business owners and commuters of Collin County.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Craig Estes

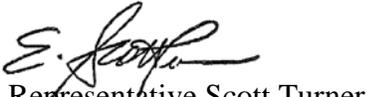
  
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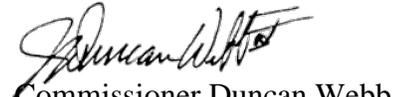
  
Representative Van Taylor

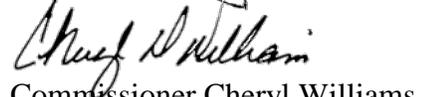
  
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County Judge Keith Self

  
Commissioner Chris Hill

  
Commissioner Mark Reid

  
Commissioner Duncan Webb

  
Commissioner Cheryl Williams

CC: Texas Transportation Commission  
Regional Transportation Council  
North Central Texas Council of Governments

Mr. Stephen Endres  
TxDOT Dallas District Office  
4777 East Highway 80  
Mesquite, TX 75150-6643