

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Any effort to improve the economic situation in the
2 State of Texas is of utmost importance at the present time, and the
3 tourist industry is a growth industry in which Texas has a natural
4 competitive advantage over other regions; and

5 WHEREAS, The TravelTex programs for economic development
6 through tourism have had a high degree of success in job creation
7 and socioeconomic improvement in the state; and

8 WHEREAS, The current system of Texas Travel Trails does not
9 address the needs of the area in what is now Texas House of
10 Representatives District 80; and

11 WHEREAS, A study and application for a "Conquistador Travel
12 Trail" in what is now the Middle Rio Grande Development Council
13 (MRGDC) Region 24 was submitted by the City of Eagle Pass in 1972
14 but was never formally approved; and

15 WHEREAS, The needs identified by and various recommendations
16 included in a South Research Associates study, which was funded by
17 Model Cities and the United States Economic Development Agency,
18 were addressed and implemented; among these was the creation of the
19 Room Occupancy Tax entity, which has been collecting taxes since
20 then and is still a viable and well-funded agency; and

21 WHEREAS, Information in the Texas Historical Commission's
22 Texas Heritage Trails program indicates that House District 80 and
23 counties in the MRGDC area have been assigned to existing Texas
24 Travel Trails regions, and the commission is not accepting

1 applications for new Texas Travel Trails designations; and

2 WHEREAS, This hampers economic development in the area and
3 fails to recognize its historical significance; numerous
4 historical documents establish that the "El Camino Real Travel
5 Trail," which extends from the Rio Grande crossings at Paso de
6 Francia and Pacuache in Maverick County to the Missions Trail in
7 Bexar County and continues to the segment now known as the
8 Independence Trail and Louisiana, had the most influential impact
9 on the exploration, development, and settlement of the south
10 central and southeastern United States; and

11 WHEREAS, House of Representatives District 80 and the
12 counties encompassed by the Middle Rio Grande Development Council
13 can benefit greatly from the highly successful TravelTex programs
14 and the marketing tools and resources available under the
15 sponsorship of the Texas Department of Transportation and the
16 Governor's Office, Economic Development and Tourism; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
19 Legislature, 4th Called Session, designate the route delineated in
20 the attached map as "El Camino Real Travel Trail" for House District
21 80 and the counties of the Middle Rio Grande Development Council.

Garza

H.R. No. 206

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 206 was adopted by the House on May 17, 2004, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House