

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 2280

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requiring the Texas Transportation Commission to
3 require each highway district of the state that includes an urban
4 area to establish a green ribbon master plan for the area.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Transportation Code,
7 is amended by adding Section 201.616 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 201.616. GREEN RIBBON MASTER PLANS. (a) In this
9 section, "green ribbon master plan" means a highway design and
10 construction plan of a district that is established by the district
11 in compliance with commission rule and includes emphasis on the
12 planting of vegetation, the use of public art, and a respect for
13 local neighborhoods in the design and construction of highways in
14 an urban area in the district.

15 (b) The commission by rule shall require each district in
16 this state that includes an urban area to establish a green ribbon
17 master plan for that urban area.

18 (c) For each contract for an urban highway transportation
19 project that is located in a nonattainment area or a
20 near-nonattainment area, the department shall allocate to the
21 district an amount equal to not less than one-half of one percent
22 and not more than one percent of the amount to be spent under the
23 contract for projects under the district's green ribbon master
24 plan. At least half of the allocation shall be used for the

1 planting of trees and other vegetation that help mitigate the
2 effects of air pollution.

3 (d) A transportation district may spend money allocated for
4 a project that is part of the district's green ribbon master plan
5 that is not used for the project on landscaping improvements along
6 another urban highway located in the same district.

7 (e) If two or more transportation districts share an
8 allocation for projects under a green ribbon master plan, the
9 districts shall divide the allocation according to the portion of
10 the amount under the contract that will be spent in each district.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.