

By: Coleman

H.C.R. No. 95

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Green Ribbon Project, pioneered in the Texas
2 Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Houston District, is a
3 public-private partnership to enhance the appearance of the
4 landscape along our public highways in urban areas by planting
5 trees, shrubs, and other vegetation native to Texas or adaptable to
6 its climate; by considering local historical, social, and
7 environmental characteristics; and by incorporating public art;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Rider 57, page VII-35, Chapter 1515, Acts of the
10 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001 (the General
11 Appropriations Act), states that it is the intent of the
12 legislature that TxDOT expand the Green Ribbon Project to other
13 areas of the state; and

14 WHEREAS, Rules later adopted by the Texas Transportation
15 Commission and published in the Texas Administrative Code apply the
16 project's principles statewide by requiring each of the 25
17 transportation districts to establish a Green Ribbon Master Plan
18 that includes each city with a population greater than 100,000 and
19 to consider that master plan when planning and designing all
20 transportation projects; and

21 WHEREAS, In the case of a contract for an urban highway
22 transportation project that is located in a nonattainment area or
23 near nonattainment areas--as it relates to air quality--Rider 57
24 requires TxDOT to allocate to the transportation district an amount

1 equal to not less than one-half of one percent and not more than one
2 percent of the amount to be spent under the contract for the
3 project, with at least half of the allocation to be used for the
4 planting of trees and other vegetation that help mitigate the
5 effects of air pollution; and

6 WHEREAS, A transportation district may spend funds allocated
7 for a Green Ribbon Project that are not used for the landscaping
8 improvements associated with a transportation project on
9 landscaping improvements along another urban highway located in the
10 same district; and

11 WHEREAS, Additionally, if two or more transportation
12 districts share an allocation, Rider 57 requires the districts to
13 divide the allocation according to the portion of the amount under
14 the contract that will be spent in each district; and

15 WHEREAS, The environmental and aesthetic treatment of the
16 landscape along our state's highways has a history that dates back
17 to the 1920s when trees and shrubs were routinely salvaged and
18 replanted during highway construction and when bluebonnets were
19 sown to both control soil erosion and add aesthetics as an element
20 in highway project planning; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
22 hereby direct the Texas Department of Transportation to expand the
23 Green Ribbon Project statewide, according to the requirements of
24 Rider 57 and department rules in the Texas Administrative Code, to
25 enhance the appearance of the landscape along our urban public
26 highways; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an

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1 official copy of this resolution to the executive director of the
2 Texas Department of Transportation.