

By: Wong

H.B. No. 2489

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation of green ribbon master plans for certain
3 districts of the Texas Department of Transportation.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Transportation Code,
6 is amended by adding Section 201.617 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 201.617. GREEN RIBBON MASTER PLAN. (a) In this
8 section:

9 (1) "Green ribbon master plan" means a highway design
10 and construction plan established by a department district that
11 includes emphasis on the planting of vegetation, the use of public
12 art, and a respect for local neighborhoods in the design and
13 construction of highways in an urban area in the district.

14 (2) "Nonattainment area" has the meaning assigned by
15 Section 548.001.

16 (b) The commission by rule shall require each department
17 district that includes an urban area to establish a green ribbon
18 master plan for the urban area.

19 (c) For each contract for an urban highway transportation
20 project that is located in a nonattainment area or a
21 near-nonattainment area, the department shall allocate to the
22 department district an amount equal to not less than one percent and
23 not more than 1.25 percent of the amount to be spent under the
24 contract for projects under the department district's green ribbon

1 master plan. At least half of the allocation shall be used for the
2 planting of trees and other vegetation to mitigate the effects of
3 air pollution.

4 (d) A department district may spend money allocated for
5 projects under the district's green ribbon master plan that is not
6 used for that purpose on landscaping improvements along other urban
7 highways located in the district.

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

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.