

By: Carona

S.R. No. 2

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Efforts by the Texas Transportation Commission to
2 influence the United States Congress and other states for changes
3 in federal law relating to the statewide transportation enhancement
4 program imply that the Texas Department of Transportation opposes
5 this popular program it has administered for 15 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Texans have embraced the program, which Congress
7 established in 1991 to enhance the driving experience, as a way to
8 improve the aesthetics of local roadways, affect the quality of the
9 environment in every region, and contribute to the livelihoods of
10 countless Texas communities; and

11 WHEREAS, As the agency charged with administering the program
12 in Texas, the Texas Department of Transportation has a
13 responsibility to ensure that money appropriated by Congress for
14 scenic beautification, pedestrian and bicycle trails, and historic
15 preservation is delivered to Texas cities and counties that depend
16 on it; and

17 WHEREAS, Rather than trim funding in all program categories,
18 the Texas Transportation Commission has chosen to suspend the
19 statewide transportation enhancement program and the evaluation of
20 the 332 applications submitted for program funding in response to a
21 reduction in federal transportation funds allocated to Texas; and

22 WHEREAS, Though the move disregards the intent behind federal
23 transportation funding, the commission has gone further to advocate
24 for the removal of the provision in federal law that requires a

1 portion of federal transportation funds allocated to each state to
2 be available only for transportation enhancement activities; and

3 WHEREAS, Texas is known for its beauty and history, and
4 Texans have traditionally prioritized the creation of scenic roads
5 and trails and the preservation of the history of our great state to
6 enhance the quality of life and strengthen the Texas economy; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 80th Texas Legislature
9 hereby request the Texas Transportation Commission to cease efforts
10 to influence Congress and other states for changes in federal law
11 relating to the statewide transportation enhancement program; and,
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the secretary of the senate forward an
14 official copy of this resolution to the Texas Office of
15 State-Federal Relations and to the chairman of the Texas
16 Transportation Commission.