

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 1199

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Department of Transportation is
2 celebrating its 100th anniversary on April 4, 2017, and this
3 significant milestone provides a welcome opportunity to recognize
4 the agency's many contributions to the Lone Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, Originally known as the Texas Highway Department,
6 this essential organization was established in 1917 by the 35th
7 Texas Legislature; with a staff of just 10 employees, the
8 department carried out one of its earliest construction projects in
9 1918, which involved building a 20-mile road between Falfurrias and
10 Encino; moreover, in its first nine months, the department
11 registered nearly 200,000 automobiles and created the first
12 official highway map, showing the routes of more than 8,800 miles of
13 improved roadways that would tie the state together; and

14 WHEREAS, During World War II, highway construction was
15 limited to those routes essential to national defense, but after
16 the war ended, the Texas Highway Department began an aggressive
17 rebuilding and expansion effort; in 1945, the agency began to build
18 expressways in major Texas cities, and in 1949, it created a program
19 to develop a secondary system of rural, farm-to-market highways;
20 meanwhile, between 1945 and 1950, vehicle registrations jumped from
21 1.7 million to 3.1 million; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1975, the organization was renamed the State
23 Department of Highways and Public Transportation, and its
24 responsibilities were broadened to include local and regional

1 public transit systems; during the 1990s and 2000s, the agency
2 adopted its current name and further expanded its scope to
3 encompass aviation, railroads, ports, and waterways; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, TxDOT employs some 11,000 men and women who
5 work every day to help 27 million motorists travel safely and
6 efficiently over more than 80,000 miles of roadway, and the skill
7 and dedication of the department's staff play a vital role in the
8 continued prosperity of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
10 Legislature hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of the
11 founding of the Texas Department of Transportation and extend to
12 all those associated with the agency sincere best wishes for
13 continued success in their important work; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for TxDOT as an expression of high regard by the Texas
16 House of Representatives.