

By: VanDeaver

H.C.R. No. 64

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The 2018 Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails Study
2 published by the Texas Department of Transportation identifies
3 numerous potential benefits of a statewide bicycle tourism trail
4 network; and

5 WHEREAS, In the study, TxDOT uses the term "bicycle tourism"
6 to describe a range of activities, from long-distance touring and
7 bike-packing to local day rides, urban cycling, and events such as
8 races; and

9 WHEREAS, The report found that well-designed and
10 well-constructed bicycle trails have a significant positive impact
11 on local economies; the cyclists who use them spend money on a wide
12 variety of products and services, and in states with such trails,
13 daily expenditures by cyclists on longer trips average \$136 per
14 day; trails can serve as venues for bicycle events that draw
15 participants and their families from far and wide; moreover, many
16 studies conducted across the country have shown that bikeways are
17 prized amenities that raise nearby property values; and

18 WHEREAS, Bikeways were also found to promote the health and
19 well-being of users and the general public; these dedicated routes
20 not only create safe opportunities for exercise and stress
21 reduction, but also foster community interaction, mitigate urban
22 heat islands, and encourage preservation of natural habitats and
23 the environment; in addition, they raise national and international
24 awareness of the state's uniquely beautiful landscapes and of

1 neighboring historic and cultural sites; and

2 WHEREAS, The study recommends the development of pilot
3 projects to test large-scale implementation of bikeways; it
4 suggests prioritizing network segments using such characteristics
5 as accessibility to potential users and other transportation modes,
6 including airports and motor vehicle parking, and also by
7 considering proximity to existing bikeways, established bicycle
8 events, and such features as natural scenery, historic sites, and
9 state and national parks; and

10 WHEREAS, The Bicycle Tourism Trails Study presents a
11 compelling case for investing in a statewide network of bikeways in
12 order to recognize significant economic and social benefits; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby encourage the Texas Department of Transportation to develop
16 and support bikeway network projects; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the department leverage \$8 to \$80 million from
18 existing federal funds designated for non-motorized uses, such as
19 Transportation Alternative Program Funds, Transportation
20 Alternative Program Flex Funds, and successor programs, and
21 identify a state source for up to 20 percent of the total cost to
22 fund the projects; no more than 5 percent of the cost should be
23 obtained from local sources; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the department give priority to
25 network-focused projects that include multiple municipal or county
26 jurisdictions; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the projects prioritize the safety of all road

1 users and be suitable for users who are between the ages of 8 and 80;
2 and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be
4 forwarded to the chair of the Texas Transportation Commission and
5 to the executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation
6 as an expression of the sentiment of the members of the 86th Texas
7 Legislature.