

By: Morales Shaw

H.B. No. 4515

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to design considerations of transportation projects by the
3 Texas Department of Transportation.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 201.615, Transportation Code, is amended
6 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to read as
7 follows:

8 (a) The department shall consider the following factors
9 when developing transportation projects that involve the
10 construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or resurfacing of a
11 highway, other than a maintenance resurfacing project:

12 (1) the extent to which the project promotes safety;

13 (2) the durability of the project;

14 (3) the economy of maintenance of the project;

15 (4) the impact of the project on:

16 (A) the natural and artificial environment;

17 (B) the scenic and aesthetic character of the
18 area in which the project is located;

19 (C) preservation efforts; and

20 (D) each affected local community and its
21 economy;

22 (5) the access for other modes of transportation,
23 including those that promote physically active communities; ~~and~~

24 (6) except as provided by Subsection (c), the

1 aesthetic character of the project, including input from each
2 affected local community;

3 (7) except as provided by Subsection (d), an
4 alternative design for the project that has been approved by a vote
5 of the governing body of a municipality that represents an affected
6 local community; and

7 (8) the negative impacts to an affected local
8 community from previous transportation projects.

9 (d) Subsection (a)(7) does not apply to a transportation
10 project if the department finds that an alternative design for a
11 transportation project approved by the governing body of a
12 municipality is frivolous, unreasonable, or intended to delay a
13 transportation project.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.