

By: Stucky

H.C.R. No. 65

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 trail network, which may  
4 be used for bicycling and walking; and

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

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

23           WHEREAS, The study recommends the development of pilot  
24 projects to test large-scale implementation of trail networks; it

1 suggests prioritizing network segments using such characteristics  
2 as accessibility to potential users and other transportation modes,  
3 including airports and motor vehicle parking, and also by  
4 considering proximity to existing multi-use pathways, established  
5 events, and such features as natural scenery, historic sites, and  
6 state and national parks; and

7 WHEREAS, The Bicycle Tourism Trails Study presents a  
8 compelling case for investing in a statewide network of multi-use  
9 pathways in order to recognize significant economic and social  
10 benefits; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas  
12 hereby encourage the Texas Department of Transportation to develop  
13 and support multi-use pathway network projects; and, be it further

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

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

24 RESOLVED, That the projects prioritize the safety of all road  
25 users and be suitable for users who are between the ages of 8 and 80;  
26 and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official

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1 copies of this resolution to the chair of the Texas Transportation  
2 Commission and to the executive director of the Texas Department of  
3 Transportation as an expression of the sentiment by the Texas  
4 Legislature.