

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Transportation
For HB 78

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 1:30 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: March 22, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Lindsey Adams
City of El Paso
El Paso, TX

Dear Chairman Canales, Vice Chairman Raney and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit information from the City of El Paso on House Bill 78 related to an increase in an optional county fee on vehicle registration in certain counties. The City of El Paso is in strong support of H.B. 78. The current law allows counties to seek voter approval to impose up to an additional \$10 optional vehicle registration fee, bringing the total potential optional vehicle registration fee to \$20. This fee is then allocated to the regional mobility authority of that county and used to fund long-term transportation projects in the county.

El Paso County would benefit greatly from the ability to impose an additional \$10 optional vehicle registration fee to assist in the funding of large priority transportation projects in our region. It is important to note that this amount must be approved by voters, and other counties in Texas are seeking a similar fee proposal this session. This makes it even more critical for El Paso to have the option to impose this fee in order to ensure we have and are able to utilize local financing tools to complete much needed and necessary transportation projects. With this, the equitable distribution of the funding received through the vehicle registration fee will be imperative to ensure that transportation projects are approved by the MPO; therefore ensuring the funds collected from this fee are equitably distributed throughout the county.

If additional information is needed related to our support of H.B.78, please do not hesitate to contact me – I'm happy to share details as needed. Thank you for your leadership and efforts in advocating for the transportation needs of Texans.

Sincerely,

Oscar Leeser
Mayor, El Paso, Texas

Bernice Messina-Gates
self, retired
Fate, TX

I oppose HB78 because Governor Abbott campaigned on fixing our roads WITHOUT raising taxes, FEES, more debt or tolls. This violates Abbott's promise and the GOP core value opposed to raising taxes, especially when we're enjoying record surpluses. I ask that the committee all vote against HB78. Thank you.

Sylvia Coulson
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I strongly oppose this bill.

Terry Putnam
self/retired
Georgetown, TX

I oppose this bill.

WILMA PUTNAM
American Citizen
Georgetown, TX

I oppose this bill.

Angela Smith
Fredericksburg Tea Party, Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I am AGAINST this bill.

Michael Burdick, Pastor
self
Fredericksburg, TX

I oppose this bill to raise vehicle registration fees.

Sally Fiveash
Self
Carrollton, TX

I oppose this, as it just seems like one more way to increase charges imposed on the Texas citizens without calling it a "tax".
With all of the surplus of money and the influx of people, how can an increase in a county fee be needed?