

By: Parker

S.R. No. 144

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Multimodal transportation infrastructure is crucial
2 to the vitality of the Texas economy, facilitating the movement of
3 goods and people, and the Transportation Excellence for the 21st
4 Century organization, or TEX-21, is working with the Texas
5 Department of Transportation to address transportation issues
6 along the US 287 corridor; and

7 WHEREAS, The population of Texas has surpassed 30 million and
8 continues to grow rapidly, placing increasing stress on our aging
9 transportation systems; that pressure is especially evident in
10 regard to the 754-mile-long course of US 287 in Texas, which
11 includes 261 cities, 43 counties, 9 TxDOT districts, and 4 areas
12 overseen by metropolitan planning organizations; the corridor
13 serves approximately 36 percent of the state's population across a
14 vast area; beginning in the Beaumont-Port Arthur-Sabine Pass,
15 Jefferson County area, it passes near the Greater Houston area,
16 through rural East Texas and the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan
17 area, and continues along the Red River through Childress County
18 and rural North Texas, into Amarillo and the Panhandle; it extends
19 north through the central United States and the Rocky Mountains
20 into Canada; and

21 WHEREAS, US 287 is a vital transportation route that supports
22 economic development by connecting key regions of the state; it
23 facilitates the movement of goods and people from the vital
24 seaports of Jefferson County, including Beaumont, Port Arthur, and

1 Sabine Pass, to other parts of the state; unfortunately, much of the
2 US 287 infrastructure is outdated and inadequate, limiting economic
3 growth and compromising safety and efficiency along this major
4 freight and passenger corridor; and

5 WHEREAS, TEX-21 is a statewide coalition of cities, counties,
6 transit agencies, universities, and private businesses focused on
7 improving transportation; its members joined in forming the US 287
8 Corridor Coalition to advocate for significant and consistent
9 improvements, including the conversion of US 287 to interstate
10 highway standards and status; in response to TEX-21's advocacy, the
11 transportation planning and programming division of TxDOT is
12 conducting the US 287 Corridor Interstate Feasibility Study; and

13 WHEREAS, All those associated with this valuable initiative
14 are demonstrating a laudable commitment to advancing the safety,
15 mobility, connectivity, and resilience of the state's
16 transportation system, and their dedicated work is indeed deserving
17 of recognition; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature
19 hereby commend the Transportation Excellence for the 21st Century
20 organization, its US 287 Corridor Coalition, and the Texas
21 Department of Transportation for their efforts to improve
22 transportation infrastructure in the Lone Star State; and, be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for TEX-21 and TxDOT as an expression of high regard by the
26 Texas Senate.