

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HIDALGO

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ON THE 9TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2016, THE HIDALGO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT CONVENED IN REGULAR SESSION, AND UPON THE REQUEST OF THE HIDALGO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE SAID COURT FOR SUCH MEETING, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.041 ET. SEQ., VERNON'S TEXAS CIVIL STATUTES (THE TEXAS OPEN MEETING ACT) TO BE CONSIDERED

“CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE RECENT ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORTS BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO NO LONGER APPLY THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COUNTY PROGRAM TO OFF-SYSTEM (NON-TXDOT ROADWAYS) TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND MORE SPECIFICALLY HIDALGO COUNTY.”

WHEREAS, IN 1997, THE 75TH LEGISLATURE PASSED SENATE BILL 370, BETTER KNOWN AS THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SUNSET BILL; AND

WHEREAS, SECTION 1.18 OF SENATE BILL 370 GAVE THE TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION THE ABILITY TO ADJUST THE MINIMUM LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR COUNTIES WITH BELOW AVERAGE PROPERTY VALUES, PER CAPITA INCOME AND ABOVE AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT; AND

WHEREAS, THIS PROGRAM CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COUNTIES (EDC) PROGRAM PROVIDING AN INCENTIVE AND A TOOL TO ASSIST COUNTIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN LEVERAGING THE NECESSARY DOLLARS TO BUILD ROADS; AND

WHEREAS, RECENTLY THE HIDALGO COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION WAS ADVISED BY TXDOT PHARR DISTRICT STAFF THAT TXDOT EDC FUNDS WOULD NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE TO OFF-SYSTEM PROJECTS (NON-TXDOT ROADWAYS); AND

WHEREAS, ALL OFF-SYSTEM LOCAL PROJECTS WITH ADVANCED FUNDING AGREEMENTS FOR NEW AND FUTURE PROJECTS WOULD NO LONGER BE ABLE TO ACCESS THESE MONIES; AND

WHEREAS, OVER TIME THIS PROGRAM HAS HELPED THE COUNTY PROVIDE MILLIONS IN LOCAL MATCHING DOLLARS TO MANY PROJECTS DELIVERING QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENTS, ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH TO THE REGION; AND

WHEREAS, THE RECENTLY REVISED INTERPRETATION OF THE TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WILL GREATLY HINDER THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE USING FEDERAL FUNDS; AND

WHEREAS, TXDOT, BECAUSE OF THE PASSAGE OF PROPOSITION 1 AND PROPOSITION 7 WHICH HAD STRONG SUPPORT FROM THIS COURT AND MANY CITIZENS IN THIS COUNTY AS APPROVED BY THE VOTERS, WILL HAVE NEW DOLLARS TO ADDRESS THEIR ROADWAYS LEAVING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TASKED TO DEVELOP PLANS TO ADDRESS DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THEIR LOCAL ROADWAY SYSTEM; AND

WHEREAS, THE COST TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT VERSUS THE BENEFIT TO THE CITIZENS OF HIDALGO COUNTY AND THE STATE OF TEXAS IS HIGHLY DISPROPORTIONATE AND WE BELIEVE THIS CHANGE IN TXDOT POLICY WILL UNFAIRLY IMPACT OUR AREAS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE HIDALGO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT UNANIMOUSLY EXPRESSES ITS OPPOSITION TO THIS POLICY AND URGES THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONTINUE THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COUNTY PROGRAM FOR ALL PREVIOUSLY APPLICABLE COSTS SUCH AS CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION FOR OFF-SYSTEM ROADWAY PROJECTS.

APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2016.

COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

RAMON GARCIA
COUNTY JUDGE

A.C. CUELLAR, JR.
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1

JOE M. FLORES
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

JOSEPH PALACIOS
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4

ATTEST:

ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
HIDALGO COUNTY CLERK