

# *Resolution in opposition to Texas House Bill 1683*

*Whereas* on December 20, 2024, House Bill 1683 was filed with the Texas Legislature; and

*Whereas* the bill, as written, amends Texas Transportation Code 252.301(a) and mandates Counties with a population of 870,000 or more and located on an international border to adopt a centralized County Road System; and

*Whereas* Hidalgo County has historically and by statute maintained county-owned roads and bridges through the authority of individual Commissioners answerable to the constituents in their respective precincts; and

*Whereas* in 2024, Hidalgo County spent more than \$31 million maintaining in excess of 2,046 miles of roads with Precinct 1 maintaining 879 miles; Precinct 2 maintaining 110 miles; Precinct 3 maintaining 525 miles; and Precinct 4 maintaining 532 miles – much of this benefitting smaller communities; and

*Whereas* other Texas counties may benefit from consolidating the road and bridge functions into a single decision making unit, Hidalgo County is unique among other large counties in that there are 22 separate municipalities with the four largest being of roughly equal size so that no centralized population center exists among the municipalities; and

*Whereas* the historic and statutory precedent of having County Commissioners oversee county road and bridge functions in Hidalgo County benefits the County by allowing the elected officials to be responsive to and in close contact with the transportation needs of the constituents in their respective precincts, and has particularly benefitted smaller municipalities within the county jurisdiction; and

*Whereas* Texas Transportation Code 252.301, as currently written, permits the adoption of a County Road System; and

*Whereas* House Bill 1683 would restrict Texas counties and have the State mandate how these counties will maintain their roads and bridges, to the detriment of smaller communities.

*Now, therefore, be it resolved* that Hidalgo County Commissioners Court strongly opposes House Bill 1683 in its current form, because it removes any discretion that may be exercised by the duly elected Commissioners Court and mandates a course of action that disregards the unique balance of population centers that are encompassed in the 22 municipalities of Hidalgo County, to the detriment of many communities, and to a possible disastrous effect to the smaller communities who have benefitted from the existing oversight and funding formulas employed by the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court.

**Approved this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.**

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**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
County Judge

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**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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**EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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**EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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**ELLIE TORRES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
**ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**  
County Clerk