



## CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

JULIÁN CASTRO

MAYOR

January 3, 2014

Mr. Ted Houghton, Chair  
Texas Transportation Commission  
125 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78701

### **RE: Letter of Intent, Regional Transportation Infrastructure and TxDOT Turnback Proposal**

Dear Chairman Houghton,

Thank you for your statewide leadership regarding transportation and for your interest and focus on the San Antonio region. The San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization estimates that this region will grow by over one million people in the next 25 years. Given the growing concerns for congestion, we look forward to working closely with the Transportation Commission and TxDOT to aggressively and creatively manage the growing congestion. We also want to thank you for organizing the Ninth Annual Texas Transportation Forum to be held at the Grand Hyatt here in San Antonio on January 6-8, 2014.

As part of the \$825M Strategic Mobility Plan for the region, the City of San Antonio has been asked by TxDOT to submit a proposal to assume jurisdiction over some arterial streets that are currently owned by the State of Texas. Although this would be a financial burden to the City, we recognize the significant transportation efficiency and safety benefits of the \$825M investment. Reducing congestion on the freeway system translates into enhanced safety and efficiency on the City's street network. Due to these benefits, we are willing to take responsibility for a portion of the State roadways under certain conditions. While the City has not taken formal action on this subject, our intent is to take this proposal to City Council for action this month.

The City proposes to take back nine (9) State roadways totaling 21.8 centerline miles under the following conditions. Along with the city, these conditions benefit the state and region. Under this proposal, TxDOT is to provide the following at no cost to the City:

- 4,500 square feet of additional office space at TransGuide
- Property needed for the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center expansion
- \$250,000 towards the Lackland AFB SW Military Corridor Enhancement Project
- \$150,000 towards the Wurzbach Parkway traffic study
- Complete street reconstruction for the Broadway corridor
- Necessary one-time maintenance of state roadways to be turned back

Having both TxDOT and the City at TransGuide has improved infrastructure and traffic coordination, as well as emergency response during inclement weather. However, to optimize functionality we need additional space. The expansion of the Henry B, Gonzalez Convention Center will result in a state-of-the art facility built to meet the needs of a variety of clients making it a unique and inviting destination for organizations across the country. Lackland AFB is the Air Force's key location for US Air Force Basic Military Training and draws many visitors from across the nation to San Antonio and the region. A military theme project along SW Military is in the schematic design stage. Wurzbach Parkway is an east/west regional arterial and the impact on traffic upon completion of the Wurzbach Parkway expansion is not known at this time. A traffic study is needed to identify future conditions and mitigation options to be addressed on a regional level. In addition, the VIA Streetcar Project is slated to improve Broadway, but only along the footprint required for rail and station infrastructure.

We need TxDOT to cover the cost to reconstruct and improve the rest of the Broadway corridor width including pavement, curbs, sidewalks, and landscaping as needed. Lastly, the City embraces TxDOT's commitment to ensure State roadways are in good condition upon turn back to the City. Pavement work is expected of TxDOT prior to the turn back. Staff will coordinate with Mario Jorge, TxDOT District Engineer, on these requirements.

With the above conditions, the City intends to take back the following streets with centerline miles (CLM) shown:

State Roadway*		Turnback Year	Limits	CLM
SL0368	Broadway	2014	IH35 to Alamo Heights	2.0
FM471	Culebra	2014	Leon Valley to Loop 1604	5.0
FM3487	Culebra	2014	Loop 410 to FM 0471	3.3
FM1517	Eckert	2014	Huebner to Bandera	1.9
SL0345	Fredericksburg Rd	2014	IH10 to Balcones Heights	3.5
SS0066	Lone Star Pass	2014	Hwy 16 to Toyota	1.4
SS0537	San Pedro	2014	Loop 410 to US 281	1.5
SS0053	UTSA	2016	IH10 to UTSA	1.6
FM1560	Hausman	2017	Loop 1604 to Helotes	1.6
<b>Total</b>				<b>21.8</b>

\*City will specify maintenance requirements of TxDOT separate from this letter

In addition to this proposal, the City needs TxDOT to be an active player and potential future funding partner in an effort to reduce congestion and improve safety throughout the city, including the following locations:

- Zarzamora Road at the Union Pacific Railroad crossing just south of Hwy 90
- Bandera Road from Loop 410 and Loop 1604
- Culebra Road at the Loop 1604 interchange

The City of San Antonio and TxDOT have enjoyed a productive working relationship built on open communication and focused coordination to ensure projects are complete and initiatives

accomplished. We are grateful for your statewide leadership and look forward to teaming with you to accomplish local and regional transportation improvements.

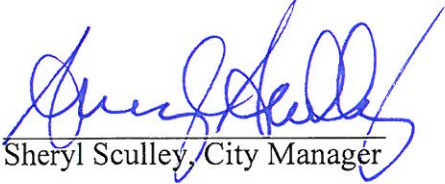
Sincerely,



Julian Castro, Mayor



Ray Lopez, Councilman, District 6  
Chair, San Antonio-Bexar County MPO



Sheryl Sculley, City Manager

cc: Mario Jorge, P.E., TxDOT District Engineer  
Mike Frisbie, P.E., City Engineer, Dir. of Transportation and Capital Improvements