



June 13, 2018

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78770

Dear Governor Abbott:

On behalf of the largest chambers of commerce in Texas, we urge you to continue prioritizing the advancement of transportation infrastructure by allowing regions and communities to implement delivery strategies that work best for their residents and local economies.

Texas is a great place to do business. Thanks in large part to your leadership, we attract new companies, relocations, and expansions to each of our regions. However, we are in danger of falling behind if our transportation infrastructure does not keep pace with our growth. The congestion on our roads and highways grows each day and Texas' population is estimated to double by 2050, most of which will be in urban areas. If we are no longer able to begin construction on projects that have local support and progressed through the approval process at the TxDOT district offices, we are at risk of companies seeing Texas as a less viable destination.

In the interim, we ask that you allow the utilization of currently available mechanisms to advance transportation projects across the state. Tools such as managed lanes that collect user fees relieve congestion, fund maintenance and operations, and lessen the burden on our state government. We look forward to working with you and our legislators during the 86th Texas Legislative Session to support new project delivery tools to allow for innovative infrastructure financing that would not further obligate state funds.

We appreciate the recent increases of dedicated funding to the State Highway Fund and the principled guidance of the Unified Transportation Program. We also recognize that managed lanes and tolls are a vitally important tool to leverage infrastructure funding and meet the growing demand for efficient travel. These tools are available now and will advance projects that have been in the pipeline for years.

Texas has been the most successful economic engine in the country, in part, by applying innovative tools to push public dollars further. We are constantly seeking solutions to the greatest challenges facing our state, and we look forward to working with you to find additional policies that benefit all Texans.

We thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our request.

With deep respect,

Dale Petroskey, President and CEO, Dallas Regional Chamber, 2018 Metro 8 Chair
Mike Rollins, President and CEO, Austin Chamber of Commerce
Michael Jacobson, President and CEO, Arlington Chamber of Commerce
Cleo Rodriguez Jr., President and CEO, United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce
David Michael Jerome, President and CEO, El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Bill Thornton, President and CEO, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
Bob Harvey, President and CEO, Greater Houston Partnership
Richard Perez, President and CEO, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce