

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

VARIOUS Counties

MINUTE ORDER

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VARIOUS Districts

Transportation infrastructure in Texas is a key factor in the state's economic vitality, quality of life and natural environment. Planning, funding, constructing, operating and maintaining an efficient and effective transportation system has become more challenging as population and trade increase throughout the state.

On January 28, 2002, Governor Perry unveiled the Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC), a proposed 4,000-mile, multi-use transportation system to move people and goods across the state, and directed the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) to develop an implementation plan.

On June 27, 2002, in Minute Order 108927, the commission accepted "Crossroads of the Americas: Trans-Texas Corridor Plan," which identifies action items, public involvement opportunities, environmental protection strategies and financing options to develop the TTC. I-69/Trans-Texas Corridor (I-69/TTC) was identified in the plan as one of four priority segments and is essentially the joining of I-69 (a nationally designated interstate highway corridor) and the TTC, a high-capacity, high-speed multimodal transportation system in Texas. I-69/TTC is a planned multimodal transportation facility extending from Northeast Texas to the border with Mexico at Laredo and/or the Rio Grande Valley with a possible connection to the Texas Gulf Coast.

Chapter 227, Transportation Code, authorizes the commission and the Texas Department of Transportation (department) to establish, designate, construct, and operate a system of multimodal facilities to be designated as the TTC.

Section 227.023(c), Transportation Code provides that to the extent and in the manner in which the department may enter into comprehensive development agreements under Chapter 223, Transportation Code, the department may enter into comprehensive development agreements with regard to facilities on the Trans-Texas Corridor.

Section 223.203, Transportation Code, and 43 TAC §§27.1-27.5 prescribe the process by which the department may enter into a comprehensive development agreement with a private entity that provides for the development, design, construction, financing, maintenance, or operation of an eligible project, and require the department, should a decision be made to solicit proposals for an eligible project, to publish a request for qualifications in the *Texas Register* that includes the criteria that will be used to evaluate any qualification submittals, the relative weight given to the criteria, and a deadline by which qualification submittals must be received.

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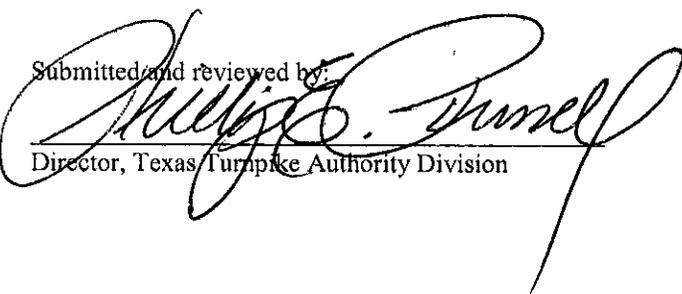
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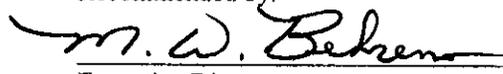
Development of this priority segment is a crucial element in the successful development of the TTC. There exists the potential for expediting the completion of this corridor through the development of a partnership of federal, state, and local governments, businesses, and citizens, and the employment of innovative methods.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the department is authorized and directed to publish in the *Texas Register* and in one or more newspapers of general circulation a request for qualifications for the development of the I-69/TTC from Northeast Texas to Mexico and other facilities to the extent necessary for connectivity, mobility, safety, and financing.

Submitted and reviewed by:


Director, Texas Turnpike Authority Division

Recommended by:


Executive Director

110436 FEB 23 06

Minute
Number

Date
Passed