

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

VARIOUS Counties

MINUTE ORDER

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ATLANTA and TYLER Districts

Pursuant to Chapter 370 of the Transportation Code, and Texas Administrative Code (TAC), 43 TAC Chapter 26 (RMA rules), Gregg and Smith counties (counties) petitioned the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) for authorization to form a regional mobility authority (RMA). The petition was filed on June 23, 2004.

By Minute Order 109829 dated October 28, 2004, the commission authorized the creation of the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NETRMA). The minute order authorized that the initial board of directors be composed of seven members, with six members appointed by the Gregg and Smith counties commissioners courts, and the presiding officer appointed by the governor.

43 TAC §26.21 provides that one or more counties may request commission approval to become part of an existing RMA.

By Minute Order 110569 dated June 29, 2006, the commission authorized the addition of four counties to the NETRMA. The minute order authorized the expansion of the NETRMA by the addition of Cherokee, Harrison, Rusk and Upshur counties, and ordered that the board of directors be composed of the original seven members, with each added county appointing one additional board member.

The NETRMA has now received resolutions from the Bowie, Cass, Panola, Titus, Van Zandt and Wood county commissioners courts indicating support for the request to join the NETRMA, and the NETRMA has agreed in writing to the six county additions to the RMA.

The commissioners courts of Gregg and Smith Counties, the original petitioning counties, as well as the commissioners courts of Cherokee, Harrison, Rusk and Upshur counties have all submitted adopted resolutions indicating support for the request.

The resolutions propose that the board of directors shall now be composed of 17 members, the original seven members, and one board member each from Cherokee, Harrison, Rusk and Upshur counties, with each added county appointing one additional board member.

The commission finds that expansion of the NRTRMA will result in direct benefits to the state, local governments, and the traveling public, and will improve the efficiency of the state's transportation systems. Expansion of the RMA will benefit the state by constructing needed roadway projects, such as the network identified in the original RMA petition. The expanded RMA will benefit local governments by increasing local control over transportation planning and through additional transportation projects that may be funded through the RMA. The traveling public will also benefit through improved mobility and traffic safety throughout the region encompassed by the expanded RMA.

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The commission also finds that the affected political subdivisions in the added counties will be adequately represented on the board.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the commission authorizes the expansion of the NETRMA by the addition of Bowie, Cass, Panola, Titus, Van Zandt and Wood counties.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the board of directors shall be composed of 17 members, with six members appointed by the Gregg and Smith counties commissioners courts, and the presiding officer appointed by the Governor and one board member each from Cherokee, Harrison, Rusk and Upshur counties, with each added county appointing one additional board member.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Recommended by:

Director, Texas Turnpike Authority Division

Executive Director

Minute Number Date Passed