TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

NUECES County | **MINUTE ORDER** |

CORPUS CHRISTI District

Subchapter E, Chapter 223, Transportation Code prescribes the process by which the Texas Department of Transportation (department) may enter into a comprehensive development agreement (CDA) with a private entity that provides for the design, development, financing, construction, maintenance, repair, operation, extension, or expansion of an eligible project.

The US 181 Harbor Bridge in Nueces County is one of the oldest, demand-critical and mobility-constrained transportation corridors in the region. The proposed improvements will address structural deficiencies and navigational restrictions of the current bridge, and improve safety, connectivity, and level of service in the region.

Senate Bill 1730, 83rd Legislature, 2013, authorized the department to enter into a CDA for the US 181 Harbor Bridge Project in Nueces County between US 181 at Beach Avenue and I-37. The planned improvements will provide for the removal and replacement of the current bridge structure with a new divided six lane structure, including inside and outside shoulders; the re-routing of US 181 from I-37 to provide a new approach to the new bridge from the south; the reconstruction of the SH 286 and I-37 interchange to add direct connects to and from US 181 and I-37, and to and from I-37 and SH 286; the reconstruction of I-37 from Shoreline Boulevard to Nueces Bay Boulevard to accommodate the re-routing of US 181; and the reconstruction of US 181 north of the new bridge structure to Beach Avenue, including the reconstruction of the US 181 and Burleson Street grade separation.

The development and completion of the US 181 Harbor Bridge Project could be expedited through the use of a public-private partnership agreement, and the employment of innovative methods for the development of projects that are available with a public-private partnership agreement. Development of the US 181 Harbor Bridge Project is a crucial element of improving safety and connectivity throughout the Corpus Christi area.

Transportation Code, §223.203 prescribes requirements for a CDA procurement, and requires the department to publish a request for qualifications in the *Texas Register* that includes 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.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the department is authorized to publish in the *Texas Register* and on the department's website a request for qualifications to develop, design, construct, and potentially maintain all or any portion of the US 181 Harbor Bridge Project in Nueces County between US 181 at Beach Avenue and I-37.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Director, Strategic Projects Division

Recommended by:

Interim Executive Director

113853 FEB 27 14

Minute Number | Date Passed