



**David Dewhurst**  
Lieutenant Governor of Texas  
President of the Senate

The Capitol  
Austin, Texas 78711-2068  
512-463-0001

1-800-441-0373  
Fax: 512-936-6700  
Dial 711 for Relay Calls

June 26, 2007

Mr. Ric Williamson  
Chair, Texas Transportation Commission  
Dewitt C. Greer State Highway Building  
125 East 11th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chairman Williamson:

I appreciate the Texas Transportation Commission's willingness to give the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) the opportunity to bid on the SH 121 project along with Cintra. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) staff has assisted the North Texas Regional Transportation Council (RTC) in the analysis of the two proposals and assessing the strengths of each bidder. As you know, the RTC overwhelmingly voted 27-10 to award the project to NTTA, but ultimately the decision rests with the Commission.

Through the work of the Commission, the State of Texas has seen that competition can work for public road projects. I have been contacted by many local officials in North Texas who feel strongly that the NTTA bid puts the region in a substantially better position to finance future projects. They believe the NTTA bid shows the public sector's commitment to solving traffic problems, and not honoring the RTC's decision would be inconsistent with the opinions of North Texas' elected officials and the wishes of many of their constituents.

On numerous occasions during the 80th Legislative Session, Commission members publicly stated they will look to local officials for guidance on transportation projects. I am hopeful this will be the case for the SH 121 project. Local control was the legislative directive embedded in SB 792, and I feel this is the proper way to proceed with current and future transportation projects.

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I think the Legislature and TxDOT can work together to solve the state's transportation problems, but local control must be at the heart of these important decisions. I support the RTC's vote to award the SH 121 project to NTTA and hope the Commission will honor the region's decision.

Sincerely,



David Dewhurst  
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Mrs. Hope Andrade, Commissioner  
Mr. Ted Houghton, Commissioner  
Mr. Ned Holmes, Commissioner  
Mr. Fred Underwood, Commissioner