



October 24, 2014

Ms. Ursula Parks, Director  
Legislative Budget Board  
P.O. Box 12666  
Austin, Texas 78711

Ms. Kate McGrath, Director  
Governor's Office of Budget, Planning and Policy  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Ms. Parks and Ms. McGrath:

In accordance with Rider 18 – Additional Funds of the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) bill pattern (General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session); we request authorization to access \$402 million in additional funding (State Highway Fund – 0006) for FY 2015 with one-half of the funding going to address critical safety projects across the state and the other one-half going towards projects to address roadways impacted by the energy sector. This request is concurrent with the Texas Transportation Commission and TxDOT's decision to formally terminate the department's high-end unpaved road conversion policy.

The safety of the traveling public is among TxDOT's highest priorities. The critical safety projects will be selected by utilizing the safety improvement index developed by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. All of the selected projects will be awarded using the traditional bidding process and none will be combined into a design-build contract. This additional funding, in conjunction with the formal termination of our high-end unpaved road conversion policy, will reaffirm the department's commitment to maintaining a first-class transportation system.

The method of finance for this additional appropriation is comprised of \$267 million in Vehicle Registration Fees deposited to the State Highway Fund (0006) over the amount forecast by the Comptroller for the FY 2012 – 2013 biennium and \$135 million that resulted from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) method of finance swap directed by HB 1025 (83rd Legislature, Regular Session) that provided DPS General Revenue (0001) funding for previously appropriated State Highway Fund.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact James Bass, Chief Financial Officer, at (512) 305-9507.

Sincerely,

LtGen J.F. Weber, USMC (Ret)  
Executive Director