

## RESOLUTION NO. 11-84

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT LEGISLATION PROVIDING AN INCREASE OF ONE BILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR IN FUNDING FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION; ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR FOR THE CITY STREET IMPROVEMENT FUND (THE "POTHOLE BILL") PROPOSED, BUT NOT APPROVED, DURING THE 1983 LEGISLATIVE SESSION; DOUBLING THE RATE OF THE STATE MOTOR FUEL TAX TO TEN CENTS A GALLON AND INCREASING MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE FEES AS NECESSARY TO GENERATE ADEQUATE FUNDING.

WHEREAS, authoritative surveys reveal that:

Texas leads the nation in the number of deficient bridges (172,000) and deteriorated state roadways (7,740 miles).

The State's five cents per-gallon motor fuel tax is the lowest in the nation, and has not been increased in 27 years. Moreover, in 1965, 27% of the state budget went for transportation, while in 1982 only about 10% of the state budget was spent for transportation-related purposes.

Each Texas motorist pays a "bad roads" tax averaging two hundred ninety one (\$291.00) dollars per year for wasted gasoline, tire wear, car repairs, insurance and medical bills.

Additional transportation spending of fifty one billion dollars will be needed over the next 20 years to overcome the current backlog of needs--including \$6.2 million for road and bridge rehabilitation, \$30.3 billion for reconstruction, \$6.7 billion for new roads and \$7.7 billion for maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the state's transportation funding problems are reflected at the local level, as follows:

The current backlog of city street repair needs exceeds one billion dollars. Texas cities are spending an estimated \$193 million per year on street repairs--more than ever before. But they are still falling further behind each year, because the street repair backlog is growing at rates that exceed local spending increases. The cities must have state financial assistance in order to bring their streets and bridges up to standard.