

RESOLUTION NO. 25-97

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, SUPPORTING PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE STREAMLINED TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY PROGRAM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY AND THE TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION (97-01)

WHEREAS, the Intermodal Surface Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) expires on September 30, 1997, and

WHEREAS, the Nation's transportation infrastructure plays an integral part in Mesquite's economy, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation has reported that the nation's transportation network is in dire need of a substantial increase in the level of financial investment to bring the system up to standard and to meet expanding transportation demands, and

WHEREAS, Mesquite expends considerable City funds on accidents and incidents that occur on substandard Federal-aid freeways within the City limits, and

WHEREAS, our Nation needs a simpler, more responsive federal surface transportation program if we are to respond effectively to the transportation challenges and opportunities we confront as we enter the 21st Century, and

WHEREAS, a more flexible federal surface transportation program will better enable the State of Texas working together with the City of Mesquite to develop locally crafted solutions to meet locally identified transportation needs, and

WHEREAS, the General Accounting Office has determined that current ISTEA funding formulas are not needs-based and use outdated factors for distributing funds among the States, and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas annually receives 25 percent less federal gasoline tax revenue from the federal government that it collects from gasoline sold in Texas costing our state approximately \$200,000,000.00 per year in lost revenue, and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation projects that only 33 percent of the transportation needs in Texas can be met over the next 10 years, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments projects that only 30 percent of North Central Texas needs can be met over the next 24 years, and

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WHEREAS, the formulas used in the STEP 21 proposal (Streamlined Transportation Efficiency Program for the 21st Century), embodied in the "ISTEA Integrity Restoration Act" filed by Congressman Tom DeLay (R-Texas) and Senator John Warner (R-Virginia), are based on modern factors associated with the use of the transportation systems, and

WHEREAS, the upcoming reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs represents a critical opportunity to ensure that the future methods of allocating federal transportation funds among the States are equitable and fair and take into consideration the true modern needs of the system, and

WHEREAS, the STEP 21 proposal will provide a multi-year authorization for a simplified, consolidated, and adequately funded federal surface transportation program, providing Texas increased flexibility to meet unique needs, and

WHEREAS, the Step 21 proposal will respond to the key federal surface transportation responsibility by supporting a consolidated, adequately funded, and more flexible National Highway System, and

WHEREAS, the STEP 21 proposal will streamline the Surface Transportation Program to provide Texas and the City of Mesquite with greater flexibility to address local transportation needs including compliance with Clean Air Act mandates in nonattainment areas, and

WHEREAS, the STEP 21 proposal will provide a much fairer balance between each state's highway tax contributions to the Highway Account of the federal Highway Trust Fund and funds that states receive from that fund, while continuing to assist all states in providing road systems urgently needed for national and regional mobility, economic connectivity, international competitiveness, and national defense, and

WHEREAS, the STEP 21 proposal will preserve ISTEA partnerships with local governments, and

WHEREAS, the STEP 21 proposal will include local governments and metropolitan planning organizations in the decision making process for transportation planning and project selection, and retain the ISTEA suballocation of federal funds to transportation management areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the City of Mesquite supports the Streamlined Transportation Efficiency Program for the 21st Century embodied in H.R. 674 and S 335.

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SECTION 2. That the City of Mesquite encourages the Texas Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and other members of the Texas transportation community to support and work toward the successful adoption of the principles included in the STEP 21 proposal.

SECTION 3. That the City of Mesquite applauds the leadership of the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) in developing national legislation aimed at highlighting the significant inequity to Texas and other states of antiquated funding formulas.

SECTION 4. That the City Manager is authorized to take those steps reasonable and necessary to comply with the intent of this resolution.

SECTION 5. That the resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and approval.

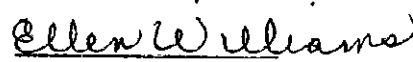
DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on this the 21st day of July, 1997



Mike Anderson
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



Ellen Williams
City Secretary



B.J. Smith
City Attorney