

RESOLUTION NO. 67-2006

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, ENDORSING THE *JOINT RECOMMENDATION FOR REGIONAL RAIL IN NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS* AS APPROVED BY THE BOARDS OF DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT (“DART”), DENTON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (“DCTA”) AND THE FORT WORTH TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (“THE T”) THAT SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT OF LOCAL OPTION FUNDING OF PUBLIC TRANSIT IN THE REGION BY EXEMPTING AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE LOCALLY AUTHORIZED TRANSIT SALES TAX FROM THE TWO PERCENT LOCAL SALES TAX CAP.

WHEREAS, the City of Mesquite (“Mesquite”) is firmly committed to supporting regional efforts toward addressing the mobility and air quality needs of its citizens and for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Mesquite believes that the best approach to achieving the goal of providing additional funding capacity to expand public transit in the region is by exempting an amount equal to the locally authorized metropolitan transit sales tax from the two percent sales tax cap in cities like Mesquite that do not currently have room under the local sales tax cap because of 4A/4B obligations; and

WHEREAS, among the existing transit authorities in the region - Dallas Area Rapid Transit (“DART”), the Denton County Transportation Authority (“DCTA”) and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (“The T”) – there exists expertise and evidence of cooperation in current and future rail projects that demonstrate their ability to successfully expand rail transit in the regions; and

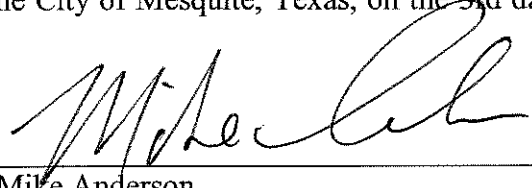
WHEREAS, exempting the transit sales tax will also allow current transit member cities to have capacity available for 4A/4B or other purposes such as crime control districts; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Mesquite want to ensure that the quality of life remains high in the region and our economy strong and competitive, and public transit has an important role in achieving this goal as the population continues to grow toward eight million in the very near future.

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

SECTION 1. That on October 3, 2006, the City of Mesquite hereby agrees and supports the *Joint Recommendation for Regional Rail in North Central Texas* as put forth by DART, DCTA and The T on the regional transit issue in the attached Exhibit “A” and strongly urges the 80th Texas Legislature to pass legislation exempting an amount equal to the locally authorized transit sales tax from the two percent local sales tax cap in the nine counties of north Texas that are designated by the Environment Protection Agency as “non-attainment” counties for federal air quality standards.

DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on the 3rd day of October, 2006.



Mike Anderson
Mayor

ATTEST:



Judy Womack
City Secretary

APPROVED:



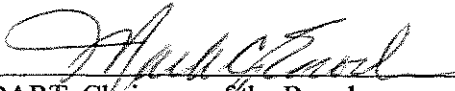
B. J. Smith
City Attorney



JOINT RECOMMENDATION FOR REGIONAL RAIL IN NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

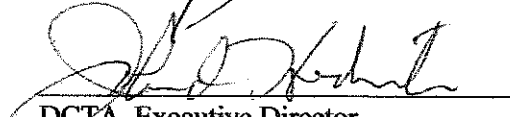
The three existing transit authorities support expanding meaningful public transit in North Texas through our existing organizations. Such transit authorities support the Statement of Principles for the Implementation of a Regional Rail System in North Central Texas agreed to in August 2004 by regional leadership under the following conditions:

- New regional rail projects will require new sources of funding. The State authorized Sales and Use Tax has been the primary means of funding public transit service within the region, and the magnitude of the required funding will most likely dictate that sales tax should be the source of funds for new regional rail projects. However, most cities in the region do not have the ability to fund public transit services because sales and use tax capacity has been committed to other uses.
- The three existing transit authorities support local option funding of public transit in the region by exempting an amount equal to the locally authorized transit sales tax from the 2% cap in the following counties:
 - Tarrant
 - Parker
 - Johnson
 - Denton
 - Wise
 - Dallas
 - Collin
 - Rockwall
 - Ellis
- This action would provide an equitable means of allowing "non-transit" jurisdictions to determine as a local option whether or not they would choose to fund public transit, while allowing jurisdictions that currently support public transit to determine whether they would choose to allocate sales tax capacity for non-transit uses (up to the existing cap).
- We support a determination of citizens' support of a regional rail system outside the existing transit authorities' territory or service area, and inside The T's service area.
- Formation of a 4th transit entity is not recommended.


 DART, Chairman of the Board


 DART, President/Executive Director


 DCTA, Chairman of the Board


 DCTA, Executive Director


 The T, Chair of the Board


 The T, President/Executive Director