



September 15, 2020

The Honorable Lina Hidalgo & Harris County Commissioners Court
1001 Preston, Ste. 911
Houston, Texas 77002

Re: 09.14.20 Harris County Commissioners Court Agenda Item 3. B.

Dear Judge Hidalgo and Commissioners Cagle, Ellis, Radack and Garcia:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on an agenda item up for consideration and discussion today during Harris County Commissioners Court.

The Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce (GTACC) provides resources and fosters relationships that empower businesses to prosper in Tomball and its surrounding communities, and the GTACC represents approximately 1,000 member businesses as well as thousands of Harris County residents.

While the GTACC's immediate focus has been assisting businesses that have been impacted by COVID and mandates put into place as a result, roadways have continued to be a major factor in how business is conducted and are vital to the economy rebounding from the current state of affairs.

Regarding mobility and transportation, our area is interlaced with many two-lane roads with open ditches that are proving to be unfit for our growing population. These are not only used by drivers, but increasingly by bicyclists and pedestrians. Projects are slated in design and in the works to improve these conditions for a safer and more prosperous community, making mobility funds more important than ever.

Funds obtained through tolls are being utilized to make these much-needed improvements. If the funds are not going to be made **only** for mobility projects, as was originally intended—and allowing other projects to be funded other than for mobility efforts, we must ask why are tolls still being assessed to drivers? A commitment was made to Harris County residents and the users of the toll roads for the sole purpose of road additions and improvements prior to their approval of the creation of the toll road authority. Proceeding with using the funds in any other manner is disloyal, not transparent, and not in line with what has been committed/promised to our citizens.

Please take the above into consideration as the decisions made now will have long lasting effects on not only us, but future generations of entrepreneurs that will look to Texas, and the Houston area, as a vital, business friendly place to live, work, worship and play.

Sincerely,



Bruce Hillegeist, President