

STATE HIGHWAY FUNDING SHORTFALL

WHEREAS, more than 78 percent of Texas roadways are in need of repair or modernization, and Texas leads the nation in incidence of substandard bridges; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation has reported that more than half of the approved, worthy, cost-effective and needed road and bridge projects will not be funded over the next three years; and

WHEREAS, this serious shortfall will cause many approved projects to be delayed or canceled, critically affecting the safety and mobility of Texas motorists and imperiling the state's economic growth and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Department has rightly placed its highest priority on maintaining and preserving our existing highway system, meaning that funds for added capacity will be in short supply unless the Legislature and other state leaders respond to this growing problem; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature should consider that over the past 10 years, some \$2.5 billion have been taken from the highway fund and spent on non-highway programs -- above and beyond the 25 percent of gas tax revenues dedicated to schools; and

WHEREAS, increased fuel efficiency has kept highway tax revenues flat even while additional cars have dramatically added to wear and tear on Texas roads and bridges; and

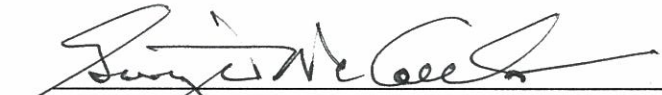
WHEREAS, the Chairman and members of the Texas Transportation Commission have detailed the need for additional funding and made it clear that the impact of the shortfall will be felt in all parts of Texas, urban and rural, and will adversely affect road congestion, pollution and public health, accident and death rates, repair costs, economic growth, and quality of life for all Texas; now

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Abilene City Council requests that the 75th Legislature address the problem of diminishing highway construction funds and take such action as necessary to assure that sufficient funds are available over the next decade to meet the mobility needs and protect the \$100 billion investment in Texas highways and bridges.


SIGNED this, the 10 day of October, 1996.

ATTEST:




MAYOR

APPROVED:


CITY ATTORNEY