

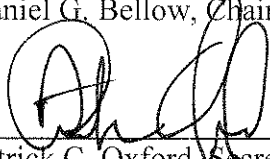
Resolution of the Board of Directors in Support of the Advanced Funding Agreement between Harris County and TxDOT to Proceed with the Development, Design, Construction and Operation of Segment E and a Portion of Segment D of the Grand Parkway.

The Greater Houston Partnership's Board of Directors supports the Advance Funding Agreement between the county and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to proceed with the development, design, construction and operation of Segment E and a portion of Segment D of the Grand Parkway.

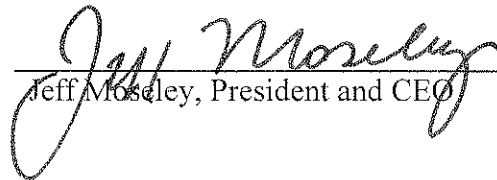
The Partnership has established a record of supporting local control, or primacy, of roadway projects. Through advancement of this funding agreement with TxDOT, Harris County will be exercising conditional local primacy to develop this project.



Daniel G. Bellow, Chairman



Patrick C. Oxford, Secretary



Jeff Moseley, President and CEO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 4, 2009

TO: Greater Houston Partnership Board of Directors

FROM: James Dannenbaum
Chair, Transportation Infrastructure Policy Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: **Resolution of the Board of Directors in Support of the Advanced Funding Agreement between Harris County and TxDOT to Proceed with the Development, Design, Construction and Operation of Segment E and a Portion of Segment D of the Grand Parkway.**

RECOMMENDATION

The Greater Houston Partnership's Board of Directors supports the Advance Funding Agreement between the county and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to proceed with the development, design, construction and operation of Segment E and a portion of Segment D of the Grand Parkway.

The Partnership has established a record of supporting local control, or primacy, of roadway projects. Through advancement of this funding agreement with TxDOT, Harris County will be exercising conditional local primacy to develop this project.

BACKGROUND

State Highway 99 (SH 99, the Grand Parkway) is a proposed 180+ mile circumferential scenic highway traversing seven counties and encircling the Greater Houston region. The project has been shown on governmental planning documents since the early 1960's.

Currently, the 19.5- mile Segment D, from US 59 near Sugar Land to IH 10 near Katy, has been constructed and serving as a toll free road open to the traveling public since August 31, 1994.

Additional Phase I of Segment I-2, from IH 10 (E) to FM 1405, is a 8.8 mile section of the highway that was opened to traffic on March 25, 2008. Phase 2 of Segment I-2 (FM 1405 to SH 146) is currently under design. Other segments are in various stages of project development.

Segment E is a proposed 15.2-mile, four-lane, controlled access toll road with intermittent frontage roads from IH10 (W) to US 290 (Northwest Freeway) through Harris County.

Board of Directors
Support of Increasing Motor Vehicle Registration Fees

For Segment E, the alternative alignments were developed within the project area to fulfill the purpose and need of the project, to minimize potential environmental impacts, and to respond to public/landowner and resource agency comments.

Segment D stretches 19.5 miles from US 59 (S) to IH 10 (W). This segment has been completed and has been open to the public since August 31, 1994. Mainlane overpasses from Westpark Tollroad south to US 59 will be constructed as toll facilities when travel demand warrants.

Segment D received environmental clearance on September 17, 2008 for the EA re-evaluations addressing tolling.

The Advance Funding Agreement between TxDOT and Harris County provides for the County to advance fund certain costs and proceed with the development, design, construction and operation of Segment E and a portion of Segment D of the Grand Parkway, all within Harris County. In so doing, the County is exercising conditional local primacy to develop the project.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total projected cost of Segment E and the connectors to Segment D is estimated between \$400,000,000 and \$500,000,000. On February 24, 2009, the Commissioners Court of Harris County approved the advance of funding to commence work on these segments.

Segment E of the Grand Parkway will provide a key north/south connector on the rapidly growing west side of Houston.

RESOURCES REQUIRED

This recommendation can be implemented with available Greater Houston Partnership staff and within the current operating budget.