



Laura Ryan  
Commissioner  
Texas Transportation Commission  
Texas Department of Transportation  
125 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78701

RE: North Houston Highway Improvement Project Final Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Commissioner Ryan,

I write to you on behalf of the Greater Houston Partnership and our nearly 1,000 member companies spanning the 12-county greater Houston region. At the Partnership, we work to make the Houston region one of the world's best places to live, work and build a business. In doing so, we work to ensure transportation infrastructure needs are addressed in a way that improves the development, growth, and overall quality of life of the region.

In July of 2019, I voiced my support for the North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP) to the Houston-Galveston Area Council Transportation Policy Council (TPC). I noted that our region has added over a million residents to our population just since 2010 and that infrastructure is key to continued growth and opportunity in Houston.

I write today to reiterate the Partnership's support for the NHHIP as a transformative project for the region that will alleviate congestion, enhance safety, expand transit opportunities, improve mobility, connectivity, air quality and logistical efficiencies, address flood mitigation and disaster evacuation needs, and attract economic development and quality of life improvement opportunities.

A project like the NHHIP comes along once in a generation and has the ability to reshape Houston's image, economy, culture, communities, and trajectory of growth for decades to come. Getting this right can only come through stakeholder collaboration, consensus building, and buy-in from community and regional leaders.

As such, the Partnership has been encouraged by the numerous public engagements conducted by TxDOT over the years to receive feedback, address affected community and stakeholder concerns, and work to find ways to incorporate improvements to the project's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

I understand that finalizing the FEIS and ROD are critical stages in the environmental clearance process that will allow for the project to move into a detailed design phase, where the project can be further refined to reflect additional community feedback and concerns. More specifically, I understand that after clearing this stage, TxDOT will be able to better address those concerns submitted by Mayor

Turner in May of 2020, which were developed through an advisory task force of community leaders and subject matter experts.

It is a sign of good faith to the region and community stakeholders that TxDOT, the City of Houston, Harris County, Harris County Flood Control District, the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County and the TPC are working to develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the NHHIP that will promote mutual cooperation in advancing the planning and implementation of the NHHIP, formalize a commitment to common system goals, and promote public engagement and participation in a transparent manner throughout the course of the project.

The Partnership supports the development of this MOU as a formalized commitment from regional leadership to continuously engage with affected communities and stakeholders and as a demonstration of the region's desire to advance and pursue full funding of this critical infrastructure project for the region.

The Partnership will continue to work with TxDOT, the other parties to the MOU, community groups and regional stakeholders in support of the NHHIP. The Partnership appreciates TxDOT's commitment to engage with business and community organizations such as ours and supports the continued advancement of this project that will improve the development, growth, and overall quality of life of the region.

Regards,



Bob Harvey  
President and CEO