



April 20, 2020

Texas Transportation Commission
Attn: Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr.
125 East 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701
Via email: UTP-PublicComments@txdot.gov

RE: 2020 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) & \$7.5B I-35 Capital Express Funding Solution

Chairman Brugg and Honorable Members of the Texas Transportation Commission,

I am writing to you today to express the support of the Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE Texas Section) for the \$7.5 billion I-35 Capital Express funding solution. Nearly 1,500 of our members live and work in Austin, Texas.

As our region has grown over the past several decades, I-35 through Austin has become more and more congested and is a consistent source of frustration for all of us who use it to commute to work and travel throughout our region. Without your leadership and support, this highway segment will continue to be one of the most congested highway segments in our state and nation.

Infrastructure such as this is a critical issue impacting Texas' economy, society, security and future. In our [2017 Report Card for Texas' Infrastructure](#), ASCE Texas Section graded Texas roads and highways a "D" and noted "the annual cost of congestion in our four largest cities is over \$1,000 per commuter." We need your help to reduce these onerous costs for Austinites and Texans. Our key recommendations to raise the grade include increased funding to tackle the massive backlog of highway needs, reducing congestion through policies and technologies that maximize the capacity of the existing road network, and the prioritization of maintenance and the state of good repair to maximize the lifespan of roads.

The proposed I-35 Capital Express funding solution is a bold regional and statewide vision that is long overdue and would benefit all Texans. [ASCE Texas Section encourages you to vote in favor of funding this project at your April 30, 2020 Commission Meeting.](#)

Please contact me at 512-472-8905 or loleary@texasce.org if we can provide additional assistance or feedback.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. O'Leary". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lindsay A. O'Leary PE, CAE, LEED AP; Executive Director

Cc: Susan Roth PE, PMP; President
Tiffany Reed-Villarreal PE, ENV SP; Vice President for Professional Affairs
Augustine Verrengia PE; Government Affairs Committee Chairman