



NEWS RELEASE

For media inquiries, contact: Nick Wolda
nwolda@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov

Township passes resolution opposing construction of toll roads without voter approval

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (April 27, 2018) – The Woodlands Township Board of Directors has passed a resolution in support of other elected officials in their efforts and likewise encourages Montgomery County and TxDOT to seek voter approval before constructing new toll roads.

Senator Brandon Creighton, Representative Mark Keough, Montgomery County Precinct 3 Commissioner James Noack and Montgomery County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jim Clark have approached Montgomery County and TxDOT to reconsider the construction of State Highway 249 within Montgomery County as a toll road and have provided compelling options for making it a free road.

“It is clear The Woodlands residents are fed up with being overtaxed simply to drive in our region,” said Township Chairman Gordy Bunch. “Two statewide propositions gave voter approval for TXDOT to build new roads without tolls. Shifting the burden to local residents in the form of another stealth tax is unacceptable. We join our elected officials who are working for our residents. The Township Board is speaking up for the 115,000 residents of our community who have overwhelmingly rejected new toll roads without voter approval.”

Chairman Bunch said Texas voters overwhelmingly approved two statewide propositions so that TXDOT would have the funding needed to improve mobility in the region without new toll roads.

“We cannot allow the state to hide from its duties and have Montgomery County build a road with a stealth tax that never goes away,” he said.

For more information about The Woodlands Township, please visit www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov or call 281-210-3800.

RESOLUTION NO. 003-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP IN SUPPORT OF TEXAS STATE SENATOR BRANDON CREIGHTON, TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARK KEOUGH, MONTGOMERY COUNTY PRECINCT 3 COMMISSIONER JAMES NOACK, MONTGOMERY COUNTY PRECINCT 4 COMMISSIONER JIM CLARK AND TO OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF TOLL ROADS WITHOUT PRIOR VOTER APPROVAL

WHEREAS, the strength of representational government is found in the voice of the people expressed through elections; and

WHEREAS, The Woodlands Township Board of Directors as elected representatives faithfully act to ensure The Woodlands Township operates in a transparent manner worthy of the trust of its residents; and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2014, 80% of Texas voters approved Proposition 1 authorizing a constitutional amendment for transportation funding. Under Proposition 1, a portion of existing oil and gas revenues normally directed to the Economic Stabilization Fund would be redirected to the State Highway Fund to meet transportation mobility needs. These transportation funds are designated for the construction, maintenance, rehabilitation and acquisition of right-of-way for public roads and may not be used for toll roads; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2015, 83% of Texas voters approved Proposition 7 authorizing a constitutional amendment for transportation funding. Proposition 7 dedicates a portion of sales and use taxes and a smaller portion of motor vehicle sales and rental taxes to construct, maintain or acquire right-of-way for public roads and may not be used for toll roads. Proposition 7 also permits those taxes to be used to repay the principal and interest of general obligation bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Texas have directed the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to not include toll roads in its Unified Transportation Plan thus indicating that the construction of new roads should be funded by existing taxes and fees and not by additional tolls placed on Texas drivers; and

WHEREAS, neither Montgomery County nor TxDOT has called for a voter referendum to demonstrate support for new toll roads; and

WHEREAS, The Woodlands residents are represented in the Texas Legislature by Senator Brandon Creighton and Representative Mark Keough, and a majority of The Woodlands residents are represented on the Montgomery County Commissioners Court by Precinct 3 Commissioner James Noack and Precinct 4 Commissioner Jim Clark; and

WHEREAS, Senator Creighton, Representative Keough, Commissioner Noack and Commissioner Clark have expressed opposition to the construction of new toll roads without prior voter approval; and

WHEREAS, Senator Creighton, Representative Keough and Commissioner Noack have further approached Montgomery County and TxDOT to reconsider the construction of State Highway 249 within Montgomery County as a toll road and have provided compelling options to TxDOT on how to construct the road in the near term as a free road,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP THAT:

The Woodlands Township Board of Directors supports Senator Brandon Creighton, Representative Mark Keough, Montgomery County Precinct 3 Commissioner James Noack and Montgomery County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jim Clark in their efforts and likewise encourages Montgomery County and TxDOT to seek voter approval before constructing new toll roads.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of April, 2018.



Gordy Bunch
Chairman, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Ann Snyder
Secretary, Board of Directors

Approved As To Form:



Roberta B. Cross
Township Attorney