

REPRESENTATIVE

GARY ELKINS



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEES

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, VICE-CHAIR

CALENDARS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WAYS AND MEANS

Dear H-GAC Members:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my opposition to the TxDOT Proposed Overpass Project at SH 6N and FM 529 on behalf of the constituents in District 135. My numerous meetings with Copperfield area residents have demonstrated the legitimacy of their concerns about this Overpass Project. Their concerns should be seriously considered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

TxDOT has told the Copperfield community that the only answer to the SH 6N and FM 529 intersection traffic issues has to be an Overpass Project, based on the criteria established by the Texas Transportation Institute in conjunction with the Texas Transportation Commission. This policy is nothing less than a "take it or leave it" proposition that closes the door on more sensible and economic alternatives, and which ignores the traffic issues and transportation challenges of concern to the area.

The H-GAC completed SH 6 Mobility Studies for SH 6S up to I-10 in 2008. It is important to note that an Overpass Project was not part of the Mobility Studies' recommendations. I urge the H-GAC to find the necessary funding to study the entire SH 6N corridor from I-10 to 249.

A large amount of taxpayer dollars would be devoted to building this Overpass Project ... an amount expected to exceed \$30 million. Furthermore, due to the negative impact on the area's businesses, there will be a loss to the State's property, sales and franchise tax base. These disadvantages more than outweigh any potential advantages of this Overpass Project.

I remind the H-GAC that when the other two Overpass Projects proposed for SH 6S at Westheimer and SH 6S at Bellaire were placed on the H-GAC TPC's Agenda on November 16, 2007 as Amendments for a vote, the H-GAC TPC soundly defeated these Overpass Projects. As a result, they were immediately removed from the 2008-2011 TIP. Therefore, I ask the H-GAC TPC to do the same thing for the Copperfield area by adding an Amendment for an immediate vote to remove the Copperfield Overpass Project from the 2008-2011 TIP.

I appreciate your consideration given to the Copperfield area constituents, community leaders, and business owners who will be directly affected by this Overpass Project.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gary Elkins in black ink.
Gary Elkins
House of Representatives, District 135

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