

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ADVANCEMENT OF THE GRAND PARKWAY (SH 99) SEGMENT B IN GALVESTON AND BRAZORIA COUNTIES

Summary

Galveston and Brazoria Counties regard the safety, security, and quality of life as the highest priorities. These counties require additional emergency evacuation routes during natural disasters. Improved mobility is a critical need in these counties to account for population growth and to accommodate the citizens' work, school, and daily travel requirements. The Grand Parkway (SH 99) was first identified as a long-range, priority transportation investment in 1961 and specifically identified in Houston-Galveston area's first Regional Transportation Plan in 1989 and in all subsequent long-range plans. State Highway 99 was identified as a tolled facility in the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan approved in June 2005. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, and Montgomery entered into a Market Valuation Waiver Agreement in 2009 that defined the scope of the Grand Parkway (SH99), which was approved in 2008.

Current Situation

Initial phases of construction on State Highway 99 have been completed from IH 69 South in Fort Bend County to IH 69 North in Montgomery County and from IH 10 East in Chambers County to SH 146 in Harris County and now serve hundreds of thousands of commuters and commercial trucks daily. The initial phases of SH 99 from IH 69 North in Montgomery County through Liberty and Chambers Counties is under construction. The construction of the next segment of SH 99 (Grand Parkway's Segment B) from I-45 South to SH 288 is essential as an evacuation route, a critical corridor for citizens' daily use, an essential means to reduce traffic congestion and support on-going economic development in Galveston and Brazoria Counties. TxDOT completed its environmental determination for Segment B, as noted at <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/houston/sh99-grand-parkway/overview/segment-b.html>. Continued progress on the development and implementation of Segment B of the Grand Parkway was stalled at the state level.

At its February meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of the attached Resolution supporting the advancement of Segment B of the Grand Parkway (SH99) in Galveston and Brazoria Counties. The Resolution includes:

- TxDOT take any and all actions to complete its traffic revenue study and make this information available to Galveston and Brazoria Counties as quickly as possible, and
- Should Galveston or Brazoria County choose to relinquish primacy for the construction, operation and finance of their respective portion of State Highway 99 Segment B, proceed as expeditiously as possible to proceed with final design, right of way acquisition, and construction of the State Highway 99 – Segment B in accordance with state law and accepted practice.

Action Requested

Request TPC approval of Resolution No. 2019-06.



Resolution

No. 2019-06

SUPPORTING STATE HIGHWAY 99 (GRAND PARKWAY) – SEGMENT B

WHEREAS, Galveston County and Brazoria County regard the safety, security, and quality of life as the highest priorities for the region's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the region's citizens require additional emergency evacuation routes during natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the region's cities and citizens have prioritized improved mobility in order to account for population growth and to accommodate the citizens' work, school, and daily travel requirements; and

WHEREAS, State Highway 99 (The Grand Parkway) was first identified as a long-range, priority transportation investment in 1961 and specifically identified in Houston-Galveston area's first Regional Transportation Plan in 1989 and in all subsequent long-range plans; and

WHEREAS, State Highway 99 was identified as a tolled facility in the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan approved in June 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, and Montgomery entered into a Market Valuation Waiver Agreement in 2009 that defined the scope of the Grand Parkway (SH99), which was approved in 2008; and

WHEREAS, initial phases of construction on State Highway 99 have been completed from IH 69 South in Fort Bend County to IH 69 North in Montgomery County and from IH 10 East in Chambers County to SH 146 in Harris County and now serve hundreds of thousands of commuters and commercial trucks daily; and

WHEREAS, the initial phases of SH 99 from IH 69 North in Montgomery County through Liberty and Chambers Counties is under construction; and

WHEREAS, construction of the next segment of SH 99 (Grand Parkway's Segment B) from I-45 South to SH 288 is essential as an evacuation route, a critical corridor for citizens' daily use, an essential means to reduce traffic congestion and support on-going economic development in Galveston and Brazoria Counties; and

WHEREAS, TxDOT completed its environmental determination for Segment B, as noted at <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/houston/sh99-grand-parkway/overview/segment-b.html>; and

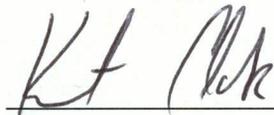
WHEREAS, continued progress on the development and implementation of Segment B of the Grand Parkway has stalled at the state level.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Transportation Policy Council for the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area that:

- TxDOT take any and all actions to complete its traffic revenue study and make this information available to Galveston and Brazoria Counties as quickly as possible, and
- Should Galveston or Brazoria Counties choose to relinquish primacy for the construction, operation and finance of their respective portion of State Highway 99 Segment B, proceed as expeditiously as possible to proceed with final design, right of way acquisition, and construction of the State Highway 99 – Segment B in accordance with state law and accepted practice.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of February 2019, by the Transportation Policy Council.

Approved:



Ken Clark, Chairman
Transportation Policy Council

Attest:



Hon Tom Reid, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council