

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION COMMITTING \$56.5M FOR CONSTRUCTION OF
IH-610S/SH 35 DIRECT CONNECTORS**

Background

The Texas Department of Transportation Houston District (TXDOT) has submitted a 2018 Call-for-Projects application to construct two (2) direct connectors at the proposed SH 35 freeway (Spur 5) and I-610 (South Loop). TXDOT has requested \$56.5M for this work. This request would be combined with three funding sources to complete mainlane construction of the SH 35 freeway from Spur 5 to Bellfort Avenue. (See the attached project information sheet).

TXDOT has separately secured \$140M in Texas Transportation Discretionary (Clear Lanes) funds for construction of the SH 35 freeway main lanes from Spur 5 to Bellfort Avenue. TxDOT has also submitted a federal INFRA (Infrastructure for Rebuilding America) grant application to fund two (2) additional direct connectors and fill the funding gap for the complete construction of the SH 35 main lanes. The project letting is anticipated in FY 2025.

Current Situation

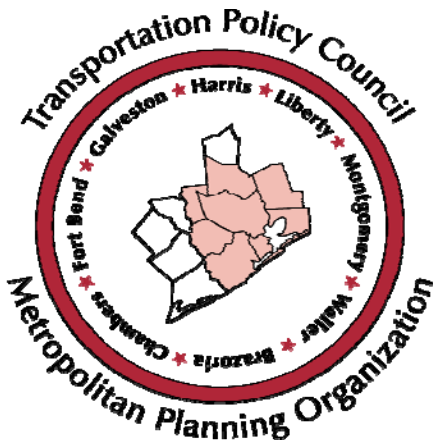
The total project value would be \$387M. As a highly leveraged investment, Staff recommends use of Category-2 Mobility funds that are available, but uncommitted for the two direct connectors. This action would not reduce the funding available for the Call for Projects.

The Technical Advisory Committee has reviewed this item and provided the following comments:

- Conduct additional public involvement and discussions with Super Neighborhoods and other stakeholders;
- Review recommendations for a rail grade separation at Long Road/Wayside contained in the Texas Rail Plan and identify potential conflicts, if any, with the SH 35 freeway design; and
- Conduct additional collaboration with METRO concerning future transit use of this corridor.

Action Requested

Request approval of Resolution No. 2019-07 committing \$56.5 million in Category 2 Mobility funds for the SH 35 freeway direct connectors.



Resolution

NO. 2019-07

AUTHORIZING A \$56.5 M FUNDING COMMITMENT TO THE SH 35 AT IH 610 SOUTH DIRECT CONNECTORS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the SH 35 Freeway from Houston to Alvin, Texas has been planned since the 1970s and was in the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Right-of-Way was acquired; and

WHEREAS, the SH 35 Freeway was removed from the Regional Transportation Plan in 2007 due to fiscal constraint; and

WHEREAS, the overall SH 35 Freeway would relieve congestion along parallel corridors such as IH 45 and SH 288; and

WHEREAS, TXDOT has proposed funding for an initial segment of the SH 35 Freeway which would provide connectivity from Houston CBD to Hobby Airport and connect to the proposed improvements with the North Houston Highway Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, the SH 35 Freeway new location main lanes from IH 45 to south of IH 610 were recently selected for \$140M of Texas Clear Lanes funding; and

WHEREAS, TXDOT has submitted an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant application which would provide \$141M in additional funding for construction of the SH 35 Freeway main lanes and two of four direct connectors with IH-610; and

WHEREAS, TXDOT has requested \$56.5M in the 2018 Call-for-Projects to complete the remaining two direct connectors; and

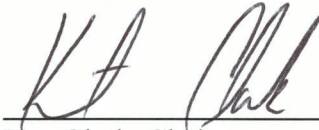
WHEREAS, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, which as the Metropolitan Planning Organization has available Metropolitan and Urban Corridor Projects (Category 2) funding; and

WHEREAS, funding of this project will not lessen available funding that will be awarded in the 2018 Call-for-Projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC) FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA THAT \$56.5M OF CATEGORY 2 FUNDING WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE SH 35 FREEWAY AT IH 610 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of February 2019, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Policy Council.

APPROVED:



Ken Clark, Chairman
Transportation Policy Council

ATTEST:



Hon. Tom Reid, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

SH 35 at I-610 Connectors – INFRA Funding Request

Background:

- The SH 35 project has been planned since the 1970's with only a short segment near University of Houston constructed in the late 1990s from I-45 to OST.
- Majority of the ROW has already been acquired to south of I-610.
- SH 35 new location main lane project from I-45 to south of I-610 was recently selected for Texas Clear Lanes funding (\$140 M) but there remains a \$38 Million construction funding gap.
- Overall SH 35 project would relieve congestion along parallel corridors I-45 and SH 288 (Top 100 Rankings 8, 11, 30, 41, and 65)
- The SH 35 project would provide connectivity from the Houston CBD to Hobby Airport and connect to proposed improvements with the North Houston Highway Improvement Project.
- The I-610 interchange and associated connectors are currently unfunded.

SH 35 at I-610 Project:

- TxDOT is currently developing the four (4) priority direct connectors at the interchange (Two Lane Connectors):
 - SH 35 Southbound to I-610 Eastbound
 - SH 35 Southbound to I-610 Westbound
 - I-610 Eastbound to SH 35 Northbound
 - I-610 Westbound to SH 35 Northbound
- TxDOT Houston District has submitted two (2) direct connectors for funding through the MPO.
- TxDOT Houston District has submitted an INFRA Grant application to fund the remaining two (2) direct connectors at the interchange and fill the funding gap for the complete construction of the SH 35 main lanes.

Current Status:

- Environmental studies: On-going
- Public Hearing anticipated: Summer 2019
- Anticipated Env. Clear.: Winter 2019
- Final Design: On-going

Overall SH 35 Project Funding Breakdown:

	Const. Cost	Total Proj. Cost
SH 35 Main Lanes	\$178.0 M	\$204.0 M
SH 35 at I-610 Interchange	\$160.0 M	\$183.0 M
Total	\$338.0 M	\$387.0 M
Texas Clear Lanes Funds Approved in 2019 UTP	\$140.0 M	
Potential MPO Funding of 2 DCs at Interchange	\$56.5 M	
Potential Total Funding Gap - INFRA Request	\$141.5 M	

