

RESOLUTION NO 24-062824

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF HIGHWAY 69 THROUGH TYLER COUNTY, TEXAS UTILIZING THE “TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ SUGGESTED ROUTE FOR THE WOODVILLE-COLMESNEIL RELIEF ROUTE” PROPOSAL FOR THE EXPANSION OF HIGHWAY 69 WHICH UTILIZES THE EXISTING RAILBED RIGHT-OF-WAY WITH MINOR DEVIATIONS CONSISTENT WITH THE TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUGGESTED ROUTE; WHICH LIMITS THE REQUIRED RIGHTOF WAY TO 240 FEET; AND REJECTS THE CURRENT PROPOSED ROUTES ISSUED BY TXDOT WHICH ARE NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF TYLER COUNTY AND ITS CITIZENS;

WHEREAS the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has proposed a relief route of U.S. Highway 69 through Tyler County from south of Warren to north of Colmesneil and currently identifies two proposed routes, Route A and Route D; and

WHEREAS the Commissioners Court of Tyler County has sought the opinions of their constituents, and the overwhelming response is that both proposed routes are unacceptable to the people of Tyler County as both proposed routes would be detrimental to the general welfare and prosperity of Tyler County and its citizens, and

WHEREAS Tyler County rejects either proposed TxDOT route as a viable option for Tyler County; and

WHEREAS proposed Routes A and D both fail to protect the economic and general welfare of the people of Tyler County; and

WHEREAS the proposed Routes A and D result in an unnecessary taking of private land, businesses, and homes from Tyler County Citizens; and

WHEREAS the State has already used taxpayer monies to purchase right-of-way along the old railbed and proposed Routes A and D fail to adequately use this existing railbed, said failure results in additional acreage and structures being seized from Tyler County Citizens; and

WHEREAS the State is proposing an unprecedented width of right-of-way acquisition when compared to similar projects and is inconsistent with current Highway 69 and current highways existing Southeast Texas area, which is beyond the necessary scope of TxDOT’s stated goals; and

WHEREAS neither proposed route considers the economic devastation that will occur to Tyler County and the Businesses along current Highway 69, and how their downturn will reduce the sales and ad valorem taxes in Tyler County, which in turn affects funding for essential functions and groups such as law enforcement, health care, government administration, school districts, etc.; and

WHEREAS Tyler County and the Commissioners Court have been steadfast in the aim of determining an acceptable route that will promote the safe movement of people and goods through Tyler County and that will serve to protect the economic and personal well-being of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, because of Routes A and D’s failures to protect the welfare of Tyler County and its Citizens, the Commissioners Court has developed and has accepted a “Tyler County Commissioners Suggested Route for the Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route” which has identified the route it firmly believes supports the best interest of the County and its citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS’ COURT FOR TYLER COUNTY that

SECTION 1: Tyler County rejects TxDOT’s current proposed Route A and Route D, and

SECTION 2: Tyler County supports a route that follows and uses the entirety of the State’s existing right-of-way along the old railbed, which limits the required taking of property from its citizens and bests supports the local economy,

SECTION 3: TxDOT should limit the right-of-way required to 240 feet, which is consistent or more than similar highway rights-of-way in the area and still meets the needs of the relief route.

SECTION 4: The Tyler County Commissioners Suggested Route for the Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route attached hereto is hereby adopted as the official recommendation for the Highway 69 Relief Route through Tyler County.

DULY PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT ON THE 28TH DAY OF JUNE, 2024.

Milton Powers, County Judge

Joe Blacksher, Commissioner Pct. #1

Doug Hughes, Commissioner Pct. #2

Mike Marshall, Commissioner Pct. #3

Buck Hudson, Commissioner Pct. #4

ATTEST: County Clerk, Donece Gregory