

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFERSON County

MINUTE ORDER

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BEAUMONT District

This minute order considers a donation from Eastland Ventures, LLC, for the design and construction of a crossover, an acceleration merge lane, and a deceleration turn lane centered at the access point of the donor's facility between the ROW of State Highway 124 (SH 124) and State Highway 73 (SH 73), in Jefferson County. The proposed access driveway will be located on the highway right of way abutting highway SH 73 approximately 500 yards east of the intersection on SH 124 with SH 73. All design and construction work will be provided by the donor, its consultant or contractor, and will conform to the Texas Department of Transportation's (department) design standards. In addition, the donor will pay the department's direct and indirect costs associated with the review and oversight of this work. The estimated value of the donation is \$250,000.

Transportation Code, §201.206, authorizes the department to accept a donation in any form, including realty, personalty, money, materials, and services, for the purpose of carrying out its functions and duties. Government Code, Chapter 575, requires the governing board of a state agency to acknowledge the acceptance of a donation valued at \$500 or more by majority vote at an open meeting, not later than the 60th day after the date the donation is accepted. It also prohibits a state agency from accepting a donation from a person who is a party to a contested case before the agency until the 30th day after the date the decision in the case becomes final.


Transportation Code, §223.049 authorizes the department to contract with an owner of land adjacent to a highway that is part of the state highway system to construct an improvement on the highway right of way that is directly related to improving access to or from the owner's land.

The Texas Transportation Commission (commission) has adopted 43 TAC §§1.500-1.506, which relate to the department's acceptance of donations. Section 1.503 prohibits acceptance of a gift or donation when the donor is subject to department regulation or oversight or when the donor is interested in or likely to become interested in any contract, purchase, payment, or claim with or against the department, except as provided by that section. It also provides that the commission may approve the acceptance of a donation, notwithstanding the foregoing proscriptions in the rules, if it determines that acceptance would provide a significant public benefit and would not influence or reasonably appear to influence the department in the performance of its duties.

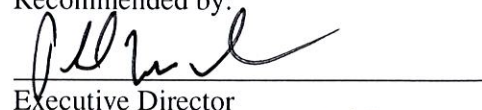
The commission finds that the donation furthers the department's responsibilities and that the donor is not a party to a contested case before the department and has not been a party to a contested case before the department during the last 30 days.

The commission finds that acceptance of the donation would provide a significant public benefit and would not influence or reasonably appear to influence the department in the performance of its duties. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the donation by Eastland Ventures, LLC, estimated at \$250,000 is approved for acceptance. The executive director or the executive director's designee is authorized to execute all necessary documents under 43 TAC §1.504 to effect the acknowledgement of the donation.

Submitted and reviewed by:

  
Director, Contract Services Office

Recommended by:

  
Executive Director

**113452 JAN 31 13**

Minute Number      Date Passed