



Texas Department of Transportation[®]

DEWITT C. GREER STATE HIGHWAY BLDG. • 125 E. 11TH STREET • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 • (512) 463-8585

December 16, 2013

The Honorable Carlos Uresti
Texas State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Senator Uresti:

Thank you for your letter of December 11, 2013 to the commissioners of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) regarding the grant program established by Senate Bill 1747 for the repair and maintenance of county roads. Because TxDOT is tasked with administering the program, I especially appreciate your leadership and ongoing engagement with the issue.

Like you, TxDOT wants this grant-making process to be as accessible and expeditious as possible for eligible counties. Therefore, we will recommend postponement of the application period until March 7 to March 14, which should allow counties any extra time they need to prepare their applications. This change will require a vote of the Texas Transportation Commission. Unfortunately, we are not able to address this issue at the December meeting since the agenda for that meeting has already been filed with the Secretary of State. However, we will place this item on the agenda for January's meeting.

In the interest of delivering the maximum value of this program to those Texas counties affected by energy sector activities, we are working to distribute these funds as quickly as possible. While we are working to get the money distributed with one application process, should there still be money that has not been allocated, we will administer another round of the application process. This approach will require as few costs as possible, in time and money, for those counties applying for funds. We also aim to distribute grant awards as quickly as possible so that affected counties may initiate road repair projects sooner rather than later. TxDOT is certain that this streamlined, predictable approach is the least burdensome and most equitable process by which counties might secure these funds. If you would like the opportunity to further develop this dialogue, we are happy to place a discussion item on the January Commission agenda and invite counties and interested parties to participate.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at (512) 305-9501. If your staff needs assistance, they should contact Trent Thomas, State Legislative Affairs Office, at (512) 463-6397 or via e-mail at Trent.Thomas@txdot.gov.

Sincerely,

Phil Wilson
Executive Director

OUR GOALS

MAINTAIN A SAFE SYSTEM • ADDRESS CONGESTION • CONNECT TEXAS COMMUNITIES • BEST IN CLASS STATE AGENCY

An Equal Opportunity Employer

cc: Honorable Donna Campbell, Texas State Senate
Honorable Wendy Davis, Texas State Senate
Honorable Myra Crownover, Texas House of Representatives
Honorable Ryan Guillen, Texas House of Representatives
Honorable Glenn Hegar, Texas State Senate
Honorable Jim Keffer, Texas House of Representatives
Honorable Poncho Nevárez, Texas House of Representatives
Honorable Kel Seliger, Texas State Senate
Honorable Judith Zaffirini, Texas State Senate
Honorable Leticia Van de Putte, Texas State Senate
Honorable Robert Duncan, Texas State Senate
Texas Transportation Commission
Mark Marek, Design Division, TxDOT
Trent Thomas, State Legislative Affairs, TxDOT