From: Michael Reeves
To: Committee 2030;
Subject: Report Comments
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:36:23 PM

Dear 2030 Committee Members:

Thank you for your work with the 2030 Committee, and bringing attention to the great needs of Texas' transportation system. Transportation is the investment upon which all other investments are built, and your report shows the tremendous challenges we face in maintaining, and expanding our infrastructure if the Texas economy can grow and thrive in the future.

I am very pleased that the committee recognized the importance of connectivity and safety in rural Texas by recommending the completion of the Texas Trunk System to four-lane divided highways. This would essentially complete the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in Texas, and provide tremendous economic opportunity throughout rural Texas. The Ports-to-Plains Corridor Management Plan completed by the departments of transportation in Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma and New Mexico projected the completion of PTP would create more than 23,000 jobs in communities along the corridor by 2030. We would also cut traffic crashes almost in half. Those projections are based solely upon the completion of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor. The completion of the entire Texas Trunk System would have an even greater impact throughout the entire state.

It is also significant to note that this significant impact on rural Texas comes at a fraction of the cost that the 2030 Committee identified in other areas of the state. While we certainly appreciate the tremendous transportation needs of urban areas, we note that Texas can get a maximum return on its investment in rural parts of the state.

Thank you again for your work and service to Texas. The Ports-to-Plains Corridor Coalition supports your calls for increased investment in our transportation system.

Sincerely,
Michael Reeves
President

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