

By: Huffines

S.B. No. 1607

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to five-year signature transportation projects of the Texas Department of Transportation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 201.623 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.623. FIVE-YEAR SIGNATURE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.

(a) The department shall designate as a five-year signature transportation project:

(1) one transportation project that will be completed not later than August 31, 2020; and

(2) one transportation project that will:

(A) begin no earlier than the completion of the project designated under Subdivision (1); and

(B) be completed not later than the earlier of five years after the date the project began or August 31, 2025.

(b) A five-year signature transportation project designated under Subsection (a):

(1) must be given priority for department resources, including available funding and staff time, over other department projects;

(2) must use existing rights-of-way;

(3) may not contain any form of tolls or managed lanes;

(4) may not be financed through the issuance of debt;

1 and

2 (5) must directly impact not less than 20 percent of
3 department districts.

4 (c) The department shall work with the federal government to
5 obtain all necessary approvals or waivers of required approvals in
6 order to ensure that each five-year signature transportation
7 project is complete by the deadlines described by Subsection (a).

8 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.