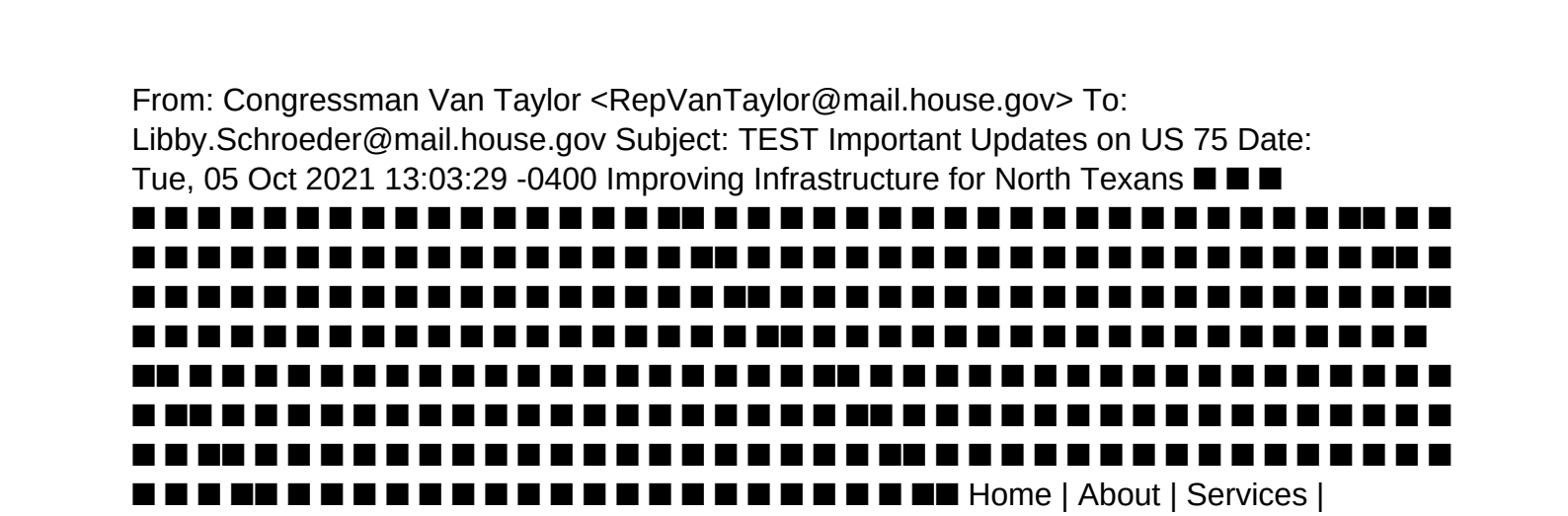
From: Congressman Van Taylor <RepVanTaylor@mail.house.gov> To: Libby.Schroeder@mail.house.gov Subject: TEST Important Updates on US 75 Date: Tue, 05 Oct 2021 13:03:29 -0400 Improving Infrastructure for North Texans ■ ■ ■



Home | About | Services | Issues | Newsroom | Contact October 5, 2021 Important Updates on US 75 Improving Infrastructure for North Texans Dear Neighbors, Every North Texan who regularly drives down US 75 can attest to the dangerousness of the highway, due in large part to the pylon lined high-occupancy vehicle, or HOV lanes. While the HOV lanes on US 75 were originally constructed to alleviate congestion, they no longer operate as intended, posing a real safety risk to drivers as well as our public safety officers tasked with responding to emergencies. Collin County originally utilized Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program funds to construct these HOV lanes in 2007. These are federal Department of Transportation funds designated for projects that relieve traffic and improve air quality, commonly located near cities with air quality challenges. While constructed with good intentions of combatting congestion north of Dallas, the US 75 HOV lanes do not work today as envisioned fourteen years ago. Instead, they create confusion on the highway, are not utilized as intended, are dangerous and expensive to maintain, and pose burdensome challenges for law enforcement to manage. However, despite these many safety and enforcement concerns, as a result of overbearing federal red tape and minimal flexibility with CMAQ funds, Texas is currently unable to convert these lanes back to general purpose lanes. I am continuing to actively work in Congress to solve this issue. Alongside my fellow North Texas Representatives Michael Burgess (TX-26), Colin Allred (TX-32), and Beth Van Duyne (TX-24), I am pushing for language which would allow states and localities to do what is best to manage roads in their communities. Specifically, these amendments focus on giving states more flexibility over outdated projects that utilized past CMAQ funding, including the ability to remove the HOV lanes on US 75 in Collin and Dallas Counties. Each amendment passed the House on a bipartisan basis, and I will continue pushing for these changes until they are signed by President Biden. As your Representative in Congress, I look forward to continuing to work to cut through bureaucratic red tape and improve our infrastructure for North Texans. Semper Fi, Van Taylor Member of Congress WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE 1404 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-4201 COLLIN COUNTY OFFICE 5600 Tennyson Pkwy, #275 Plano, TX 75024 Phone: (972) 202-4150 NOTE: Please DO NOT respond to this email as this inbox is unattended. To contact my office please click here. Unsubscribe | View Online