

Resolution of Collin County Commissioners Court

WHEREAS, Collin County developed an updated Mobility Plan in 2014 that projected that future traffic in Collin County will exceed the capacity of the transportation system proposed in the Mobility Plan, especially in the US 380 corridor; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2016, the Collin County Commissioners Court concluded a transportation strategic planning session by adopting a Court Order that identified the need to develop a freeway in the US 380 corridor, from Denton County to Hunt County, in order to significantly relieve the current and projected future congestion in the US 380 corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court requested that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) assist Collin County in developing a freeway in the US 380 corridor; and

WHEREAS, TxDOT agreed to conduct a feasibility study to determine if a freeway is warranted and, if so, to determine an alignment that could be supported by the local governments; and

WHEREAS, TxDOT has performed the feasibility study in an excellent manner; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a freeway is, in fact, needed in order to relieve current and prevent future traffic congestion that would critically stifle the mobility of residents and businesses in Collin County and, therefore, the healthy economy of the area; and

WHEREAS, numerous routes were identified as possible alignments for a freeway, but the number of optional routes has been reduced to two alignments between Coit Road and FM 1827; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study has projected the capacity of the options studied to relieve the future congestion in the US 380 corridor; and

WHEREAS, TxDOT has identified a large number of types of impacts of a freeway to the environment, especially on the residential neighborhoods and business areas;

WHEREAS, TxDOT went to extraordinary efforts to communicate information to the public and to facilitate input from the public to TxDOT so as to be able to understand the perceived impacts of a freeway on residences and businesses; and

WHEREAS, TxDOT made adjustments to various parts of the optional alignments in order to remove objectionable features identified by the public; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court has determined that the "red" alignment will have an extremely detrimental impact on many homes along that alignment, causing losses in monetary value and losses of the atmosphere for which the residents purchased homes in those locations; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court has concluded that building a freeway on the “red” alignment between Coit Road and FM 1827 will not attract enough traffic away from the US 380 thoroughfare to prevent it from being so congested that gridlock occurs daily and, therefore WILL NOT ADEQUATELY ACCOMPLISH THE BASIC OBJECTIVE OF RELIEVING CONGESTION AND PROVIDING A HEALTHY LEVEL OF MOBILITY IN THE US 380 CORRIDOR;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Collin County Commissioners Court

1. Strongly urges TxDOT to consider in its evaluation of limited access roadway options that the basic objective of relieving congestion and satisfying traffic demand in the US 380 corridor must be met in order for an alignment option to be considered viable; and
2. Requests that TxDOT consider that the impacts from the “red” alignment are more detrimental to the community at large and are more difficult from which to recover than those along the “green” alignment; and
3. Requests that TxDOT consider that even though the “Green” alignment impacts a large number of businesses and residences between Coit Road and FM 1827, and is predicted to cost more than the “Red” Options, the “Green” alignment from Coit Road to FM 1827 is the preferred alignment because it accomplishes the basic, vital, and primary objective of satisfying traffic demand in the US 380 corridor and the “Red” alignment does not adequately accomplish that objective to the extent desired; and
4. Requests that TxDOT consider the over 200 additional acres of environmental impact difference from the “Red” Routes to the “Green Routes” in terms of area affected; and
5. Requests that TxDOT place initial focus on a Spur 399 extension RoW acquisition and freeway construction as a priority project to begin relieving traffic congestion along the US 380 corridor as soon as an Environmental Impact Study is concluded; and
6. Acknowledges that severe disruption to the community by acquiring properties along the “green” alignment and pledges to assist the City of McKinney and TxDOT to develop a plan for the systematic acquisition of the properties in such a way that minimizes the disruption to the citizens, businesses, the tax revenue and the overall economy of the community to the greatest extent possible; and
7. Strongly urges TxDOT to designate the “Green” alignment between Coit Road and FM 1827 the preferred alignment for a limited access roadway in the US 380 corridor.