



19200 Cobb Ave | PO Box 170 | Tornillo, TX 79853 | P: (915) 765-3000 | F: (915) 765-3099



RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED BORDER HIGHWAY EAST EXTENSION OF STATE LOOP 375 IN ITS CURRENTLY CONTEMPLATED FORM AND ALIGNMENT

WHEREAS, the Tornillo Independent School District (“Tornillo ISD” or the “District”) is committed to protecting the safety, educational opportunities, transportation needs, and long-term interests of its students, families, employees, and the communities served by the District; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation (“TxDOT”) is conducting the Border Highway East Corridor Study, which contemplates an approximately 20-mile extension of the César Chávez Border Highway (State Loop 375) from the Americas Avenue area southeast toward the Lower Valley, including areas in the vicinity of Fabens and Tornillo; and

WHEREAS, TxDOT has identified regional transportation, freight mobility, congestion reduction, and improved connectivity as purposes of the proposed Border Highway East Corridor, including improving transportation connections and the movement of commercial freight associated with international trade; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes that major transportation infrastructure projects may have long-term effects on students, families, schools, school transportation operations, agricultural operations, private property, businesses, emergency response, pedestrian safety, community connectivity, and the quality of life of communities served by Tornillo ISD; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Border Highway East Corridor has the potential to affect Tornillo ISD students, employees, school bus routes, transportation operations, school facilities, access to schools, emergency access, pedestrian movement, traffic patterns, and the District’s ability to safely and efficiently provide educational services to its students; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Valley has a rich agricultural and cultural history extending more than 400 years, and Tornillo ISD recognizes the importance of preserving and sharing that history and culture with its students as an important component of the community and educational experience; and

WHEREAS, the Board is concerned that construction of the proposed Border Highway East Corridor could substantially alter the agricultural landscape, historic character, established communities, and cultural features of the Lower Valley that have shaped the region and the communities served by Tornillo ISD; and

WHEREAS, Tornillo ISD and the communities it serves have experienced significant challenges associated with water scarcity over the past several decades, and the District recognizes the importance of regional water infrastructure and conservation efforts to the continued sustainability of the Lower Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Board is concerned that the proposed Border Highway East Corridor could adversely affect existing and planned water infrastructure, conservation efforts, water resources, or other



infrastructure necessary to support the region's long-term water needs, and believes that such potential impacts should be thoroughly evaluated before the project proceeds; and

WHEREAS, the Board is concerned that significant public expenditures associated with the proposed Border Highway East Corridor could affect the availability or prioritization of transportation funding for other transportation, roadway, safety, and infrastructure needs within the Lower Valley, particularly at a time when governmental entities and communities are experiencing increasing budgetary pressures; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that transportation investments affecting the Lower Valley should be evaluated based upon their demonstrated regional benefits, costs, impacts, and available alternatives, and that limited public resources should be responsibly considered in relation to existing roadway, safety, infrastructure, and community needs; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Valley and El Paso County contain important natural habitats and areas of biodiversity, including the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park and other wetlands and natural areas that provide opportunities for environmental education, recreation, wildlife habitat, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, many Tornillo ISD students and families utilize natural areas, including the Rio Bosque Wetlands, as places of learning, exploration, environmental awareness, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Board is concerned that the proposed Border Highway East Corridor could adversely affect wetlands, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and other natural resources in the Lower Valley, and believes that such potential impacts should be thoroughly evaluated and minimized to the greatest extent practicable; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that the Lower Valley includes established agricultural and residential communities, private property, local businesses, natural resources, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and other resources that may be affected by the proposed corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes concerns expressed by residents, agricultural producers, property owners, businesses, community organizations, and other stakeholders regarding potential impacts associated with the proposed corridor, including impacts to agricultural operations, private property, businesses, water infrastructure, natural resources, biodiversity, community connectivity, and established communities; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the potential impacts of the proposed Border Highway East Corridor on students, schools, school transportation, families, educational resources, and the communities served by Tornillo ISD warrant careful consideration before any final decision regarding the alignment, design, or implementation of the proposed corridor is made; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that legitimate regional transportation and freight-mobility needs should be considered together with the safety, educational, environmental, agricultural, economic, cultural, water-resource, and community interests that may be affected by the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that TxDOT possesses the statutory authority and responsibility for planning, developing, and maintaining the state transportation system and does not seek through this resolution to exercise, restrict, or interfere with TxDOT's legal authority; and



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WHEREAS, the Board's purpose in adopting this resolution is to formally communicate the District's institutional position concerning a proposed transportation project that may materially affect the safety, transportation operations, educational services, students, families, facilities, educational resources, and communities served by Tornillo ISD; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that reasonable alternative alignments, transportation solutions, design modifications, and mitigation measures should be fully evaluated before proceeding with the proposed Border Highway East Corridor in its currently contemplated form and alignment; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that affected school districts and communities should have meaningful, timely, transparent, and accessible opportunities to participate in applicable planning and environmental review processes associated with the proposed project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tornillo Independent School District Board of Trustees hereby opposes the proposed Border Highway East extension of State Loop 375 in its currently contemplated form and alignment because of the potential adverse impacts of the proposed corridor on Tornillo ISD students, families, employees, school transportation operations, school facilities, agricultural communities, private property, businesses, water infrastructure, natural resources, wetlands, wildlife, biodiversity, community connectivity, the historic and cultural character of the Lower Valley, and the overall quality of life of the communities served by the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board respectfully urges TxDOT and other responsible governmental entities not to proceed with the proposed Border Highway East Corridor in its currently contemplated form and alignment without fully evaluating reasonable alternatives and the potential impacts of the proposed corridor on students, schools, school bus routes, student transportation, pedestrian safety, emergency response, agricultural operations, private property, businesses, water infrastructure, environmental resources, wetlands, wildlife, biodiversity, historic and cultural resources, and community connectivity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board requests that TxDOT fully evaluate and publicly communicate, consistent with applicable law and applicable planning and environmental review requirements, the potential impacts of each proposed corridor alternative on Tornillo ISD students, school facilities, school transportation routes, student safety, pedestrian access, traffic patterns, emergency response, water infrastructure, educational resources, and other District operations, as well as impacts on affected communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board respectfully requests that TxDOT evaluate the potential effects of the proposed corridor on regional water infrastructure, water conservation efforts, wetlands, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, agricultural lands, historic and cultural resources, and educational and recreational resources used by students and families, and identify reasonable measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate such impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board respectfully requests that TxDOT give serious consideration to reasonable alternative alignments, transportation solutions, design modifications, and mitigation measures that could address legitimate regional transportation and freight-mobility needs while avoiding or substantially minimizing adverse impacts on students, schools, agricultural lands, private



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property, businesses, water infrastructure, natural habitats, wetlands, wildlife, biodiversity, historic and cultural resources, community connectivity, and established communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board believes that public transportation funding should be evaluated carefully in light of the Lower Valley's existing roadway, transportation, safety, infrastructure, and community needs, and respectfully requests that the costs and demonstrated regional benefits of the proposed Border Highway East Corridor be transparently evaluated in comparison with other transportation investments and reasonable alternatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board requests continued, meaningful, transparent, and accessible public engagement throughout the corridor study and applicable planning, environmental review, design, and subsequent phases of the project, including appropriate opportunities for affected school districts and other stakeholders to receive information and provide substantive input; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board requests that Tornillo ISD be recognized and included as an appropriate stakeholder in discussions concerning any proposed corridor alignment, design, construction activity, or project component that could affect District facilities, school transportation routes, student safety, pedestrian access, traffic patterns, emergency response, school operations, access to District property, educational resources, or other District interests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board encourages appropriate communication and collaboration among TxDOT, Tornillo ISD, affected governmental entities, school districts, emergency service providers, and other appropriate stakeholders concerning the potential effects of the proposed corridor on students, schools, school transportation, District operations, educational resources, and the communities served by Tornillo ISD; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board's opposition expressed in this resolution is directed specifically to the Border Highway East extension in its currently contemplated form and alignment and shall not be construed as opposition to reasonable transportation improvements, regional mobility initiatives, or future transportation proposals that may be presented for consideration and that materially differ from the currently contemplated corridor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this resolution shall be construed as an attempt by Tornillo ISD or its Board of Trustees to exercise authority over TxDOT, the Texas Transportation Commission, federal transportation authorities, El Paso County, municipalities, or any other governmental entity possessing legal authority over the planning, approval, construction, acquisition of right-of-way, or operation of transportation infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this resolution authorizes or directs the expenditure of District funds or the use of District resources for electioneering, political advertising, or advocacy prohibited by applicable law, including advocacy for or against any candidate, measure, or political party; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any communication or activity undertaken by the District pursuant to this resolution shall be limited to lawful governmental communication and activities reasonably related to the District's institutional interests identified in this resolution, including communicating the Board's adopted position, providing factual information concerning potential impacts on students and District



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operations, participating in appropriate governmental or stakeholder meetings, and providing input through applicable governmental planning or review processes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools, or designee, is authorized to communicate this resolution and the Board's opposition to the proposed Border Highway East Corridor in its currently contemplated form and alignment to TxDOT and appropriate governmental representatives and to participate in appropriate stakeholder meetings and governmental proceedings concerning the project, consistent with applicable law and District policy; provided, however, that the Superintendent or designee shall not modify, withdraw, or otherwise alter the Board's official position stated in this resolution without further action by the Board of Trustees; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Tornillo Independent School District Board of Trustees respectfully urges TxDOT and other responsible governmental entities to carefully consider the concerns and opposition expressed in this resolution and to pursue transportation solutions that protect the safety, educational opportunities, educational resources, environmental resources, and long-term interests of students, families, schools, and the communities served by Tornillo ISD.

ADOPTION

This Resolution was considered and adopted by the Tornillo Independent School District Board of Trustees at a duly called meeting held on this ____ day of _____, 2026.

TORNILLO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President, Board of Trustees

Secretary, Board of Trustees

Superintendent of Schools