



**State Senator  
Kirk Watson  
District 14**

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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*The following is a statement from Sen. Watson regarding I-35 funding:*

At times, it has felt like an un-ending road to nowhere, but we've finally arrived at a place that will ensure the complete redesign and construction of I-35 through central Travis County, including managed lanes from the Williamson County line to the Hays County line. The significant investment being discussed today is long overdue, but it's greatly appreciated.

Lowering I-35 through downtown Austin and removing the upper decks will be transformational changes for our community. This investment, combined with the an ongoing conversation being led by the Downtown Austin Alliance, provides the opportunity for us to address the needs of our neighborhoods while also improving mobility.

The proposal to invest an additional \$4.3 billion in funds to address I-35 is the kind of bold investment we should all expect from our public leaders. I thank Governor Abbott and the Transportation Commission Chairman Bruce Bugg for working closely with me and for being willing to make such a bold investment. This is a generational — actually a multi-generational — commitment. It's absolutely needed. It needs to be big, and it needs to happen ASAP.

I don't think this financing mechanism is perfect. It's not, in my view, the best way to meet our mobility needs locally and the financing needs of our state. But it's significant and welcome progress. I recognize the political environment in which we live, and I'm not going to let a fight for my idea of the perfect outcome lead to our getting no outcome when we can get a very good outcome.

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