



DONNA CAMPBELL, M.D.

TEXAS STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 25

For Immediate Release:
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Contact: Jon Oliver
512-463-0125

Donna Campbell and Lyle Larson Ask Transportation Commission to Redirect Dollars from Cancelled Streetcar Project to U.S. Hwy 281

AUSTIN-- With the City of San Antonio pulling the plug on downtown streetcar, State Senator Donna Campbell and State Rep. Lyle Larson requested that the \$92 million previously allocated for the streetcar project be returned to the Texas Mobility Fund where it can be prioritized for highway funding in Bexar County, including the expansion of U.S. Hwy 281 without tolls.

The full text of their letter is included below:

July 29, 2014

Texas Transportation Commission
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Commissioners:

On Monday, the City of San Antonio withdrew its financial support for the proposed VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA) streetcar project and made the decision to redirect those \$32 million toward other projects. We are requesting that the Commission follow the City's lead and withdraw the \$92 million in Texas Mobility Funds allocated to the project last year.

We have indicated in various forums and multiple letters to you, VIA, and Bexar County, that San Antonians are strongly opposed to VIA's plan to institute a streetcar line in downtown San Antonio. Now that the project lacks the City's support, it's time to redirect these funds to help pay for projects that will have a major impact on mobility in the San Antonio area.

According to a recent study by TRIP, San Antonio's major roads are in significantly worse condition than the other metro areas in Texas. The \$92 million that TxDOT committed for the streetcar project would go a long way to improving these conditions. In particular, we recommend providing dollars for a traditional funding strategy to add capacity to U.S. Hwy 281 from Loop 1604 to Marshall Road, replacing the need for tolls.

Please set a vote for the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting to return the \$92 million in TMF dollars to mobility projects that will relieve the most congested roadways and corridors in Bexar County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Donna Campbell, M.D.
Texas Senate District 25



Lyle Larson
Texas House District 122

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State Senator Donna Campbell sits on the Senate Transportation Committee and the Select Committee on Transportation Funding. She is an emergency room physician who represents Senate District 25.