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DONNA CAMPBELL, MD
DISTRICT 25

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SEN. CAMPBELL CELEBRATES REMOVAL OF TOLLS FROM 281

AUSTIN-- State Senator Donna Campbell celebrated the announcement by TxDOT and the Alamo Area MPO to remove toll roads from plans to expand U.S. 281 north of Loop 1604, something she has been fighting for since she was elected in 2012.

"I have made funding for non-toll highways a priority since I was elected to the Senate, and today's announcement that toll roads will no longer be part of the expansion of U.S. 281 is a reflection of that success. With the passage of Prop 7 in November, we will have increased funding for Texas roads by over \$5 billion a year since I arrived in Austin," Senator Campbell stated.

"San Antonio drivers deserve the best roads and demand that their tax dollars go to build toll free roads," Senator Campbell continued. "That's exactly what we've accomplished by creating new, non-toll funding mechanisms for our highways. It's important voters go to the polls in November and vote for Prop 7."

The new plans to expand U.S. 281 were approved by members of the MPO on Monday, eliminating four previously planned toll lanes and converting them to free expressway lanes from Stone Oak to the county line. In addition, two new lanes will be designated as HOV/Bus Lanes from Stone Oak to the county line and a lane previously designated for tolls from Stone Oak to Loop 1604 will be designated as an HOV/Bus Lane.

"I'm disappointed that all vehicles will not have access to the proposed HOV lanes, but there is far more to celebrate than to criticize with the new plans. I applaud the MPO and TxDOT for working together to eliminate tolls from this project, and I am grateful for members of the community who have been vocal about improving U.S. 281 without tolls for years. We finally got it done."

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Senator Campbell is Chair of the Veteran Affairs and Military Installations Committee and represents Senate District 25. She did not attend the transportation press conference in Bexar County today due to a previous commitment in Selma, where she broke ground on the new Liberty Pass Veteran Housing Community for Wounded Warriors.