



RESOLUTION 2021-8

WHEREAS, the Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization was established to identify and support the implementation of regionally significant transportation projects to address future mobility needs of the Waco Region; and,

WHEREAS, the Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board is composed of representatives appointed by the elected City Councils and Counties located within the jurisdiction of the MPO; and,

WHEREAS, Interstate Highway 35 is the most heavily travelled highway within the Waco Region with a daily volume of over 120,000 vehicles and 50,000 heavy trucks; and,

WHEREAS, Interstate Highway 35 has been identified by the Texas Department of Transportation as one of the most important freight corridors within the State of Texas; and,

WHEREAS, the population of IH-35 counties within Texas is expected to double by 2050; and,

WHEREAS, the resulting population growth will significantly increase traffic and freight volumes utilizing IH-35 by 2050; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation and the 6 MPOs impacted by IH-35 have conducted numerous independent studies to identify strategies to improve traffic and freight flows along the corridor; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute has proposed to conduct a comprehensive evaluation and analysis of the I-35 corridor from Laredo to Oklahoma; and,

WHEREAS, this study will consider linking existing traveler information systems along the route into a comprehensive system to supply seamless information to enable drivers of freight and passenger vehicles to make better travel decisions and facilitate planning and mitigation of adverse events; and,

WHEREAS, this study will assess strategies to reduce congestion, improve air quality, increase supply-chain reliability and resiliency, enhance economic competitiveness, and improve quality of life for the citizens along the corridor; and,

WHEREAS, this study will determine infrastructure and operations requirements for the utilization of automated and connected vehicles and electric vehicles; and,

WHEREAS, this study will address cybersecurity concerns by investigating strategies to ensure the security of the supply chain; and,

WHEREAS, this study will assess the condition and mitigation requirements of pavements, bridges and other structures along the corridor; and,

WHEREAS, this study will build upon and leverage Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) programs for connected freight corridors and My35 construction zone traveler information systems; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute is currently requesting \$7.5 million for this study from the Texas Legislature and from the US Congress; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute has requested support for this study from each Texas MPO along and adjacent to IH-35.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE POLICY BOARD OF THE WACO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION:

That the Waco MPO Policy Board hereby agrees to support a legislative funding request in the amount of \$7.5 million by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute to conduct an Innovative Corridor Study for IH-35.

That it is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by law.

That all public participation requirements identified within the Waco MPO Public Participation Plan related to this action by the Policy Board were met and completed.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 20th day of May, 2021.

Jacob Bell
Citizen Representative – City of Waco
Chair – Waco MPO Policy Board

ATTEST:

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Christopher Evilia, AICP
Director

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