August 13, 2013

The Honorable Louis Cooper  
Mayor, City of Alamo Heights  
6116 Broadway  
San Antonio, Texas 78209  

Dear Mayor Cooper:

As you know, transportation infrastructure is an important component of the Texas economy and quality of life for Texans. As such, the key to sustainability in transportation is meeting future needs, such as population growth, urban development, and market-driven changes, while also maintaining our current system. This is a daunting task when demand so often outpaces revenue.

However, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is committed to solving our transportation challenges with practical and publicly acceptable solutions. To that end, the Texas Transportation Commission (Commission) is considering a highway transfer turnback program that will allow the transfer of state-owned roads, which are functionally local, from the state back to the local governments.

The turnback program is envisioned as a cooperative venture between TxDOT and local jurisdictions to increase local control. The roads under consideration are state-owned, but serve primarily local traffic. Some benefits to local jurisdictions include the ability to control driveway access, speed limits, on-street parking, and road closures, and the ability to control maintenance scheduling that is more responsive to the needs of local residents and businesses. TxDOT will work with you and your staff to ensure the roadway is in satisfactory condition before a transfer occurs.

Your TxDOT District Engineer will reach out to you in the near future to introduce you to the proposed program. In partnership, candidate roadways will be discussed to ensure any concerns and questions you may have are addressed. In addition, this proposal will be up for discussion only, with no action taken, at the August 29th Commission meeting. You may wish to attend or watch online at www.txdot.gov.
Each of us is coing our part in maintaining a balanced and multimodal transportation network that best serves local communities and the state stimulates economic activity and creates employment opportunities. This turnback program can enhance each community's flexibility and responsiveness in addressing their growing populations and changing employment needs. We look forward to our discussion and the opportunity to strengthen our partnership.

Sincerely,

Phil Wilson
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Donna Campbell, Texas Senate
    The Honorable Leticia Van de Putte, Texas Senate
    The Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker, Texas House of Representatives
    The Honorable Ruth Jones McClendon, Texas House of Representatives
    Mark Browne, City Manager
    John A. Barton, P.E., Deputy Executive Director, TxDOT
    Mario Medina, P.E., San Antonio District Engineer, TxDOT