

August 17, 2015

We are fortunate to reside in Gregg County, with a County Judge who believes in ensuring infrastructure remains one of the top priorities as well as community leaders who represent us in the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority. The Chamber board believes mobility is key to maintaining our quality of life and it is critical for economic success! That is why the Longview Chamber of Commerce is enlisting the active support of the citizens of Gregg County to vote "Yes" to Proposition 7: the constitutional amendment slated for the November 3, 2015, ballot.

Proposition 7 is a constitutional amendment that would direct up to \$2.5 billion in state sales tax revenue annually to TXDOT. It will aid in right-of-way purchases, construction and maintenance of non-tolled highways and will make payments on general fund-backed debt that TXDOT has accumulated in the past five years. State transportation funding over the past several years has been supplemented by bond programs and those bond programs are now exhausted and have resulted in a significant level of debt for Texas. According to the latest report of the 2030 Commission, approximately \$6.1 billion per year in construction funding is needed to achieve "worst possible" conditions and \$9.5 billion per year is needed to achieve "minimally competitive" conditions. While the proposed amendment would not fully fund the state's overall transportation needs, it would be a key step toward securing critical funding for transportation projects in Texas.

The amendment will authorize a new, stable source of funding for transportation in Texas, dedicated to the construction and maintenance of roads. Passing the amendment will provide a significant step toward meeting the unmet funding needs for transportation projects in Texas. A strong transportation system is fundamental to Texas' quality of life and economic vitality; it helps attract new businesses and generates jobs.

To learn more about Prop 7 visit www.MoveTexasForward.com. The site provides up to date information on the importance of funding transportation in Texas as well as information funding streams from sources like Senator Robert Nichols from Jacksonville. Example:

Proposition 7 has two separate streams of funds that will go into the state highway fund:

- 1. Beginning fiscal year 2018 (Sept. 1, 2017), about \$2.5 billion will be dedicated annually from the state's general sales tax, once the sales tax totals \$28 billion.*
- 2. Beginning fiscal year 2020 (Sept. 1, 2019), about 35 percent of motor-vehicle sales tax revenue will be dedicated, once that revenue reaches \$5 billion.*

Please make sure you cast your vote on November 3rd and vote yes for Proposition 7th. Encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same to **Move Texas Forward!**

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