

## **RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 2557**

### Recitals

1. The 36A Coalition (the “Coalition”) is a Texas non-profit organization, currently comprised of three counties (Brazoria, Fort Bend, and Waller Counties), ten cities, Port Freeport, Prairie View A&M University and over 30 private corporations. The Members of the Coalition appoint representatives to the Coalition’s Board of Directors. The Coalition promotes public and private investment in a regional free-flowing transportation corridor on the Texas Gulf Coast.

2. The Coalition’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) expresses its support for House Bill 2557, which will amend Chapter 172 of the Texas Transportation Code, and/or other applicable statutes in order to update, as more fully set forth below, the powers of rural rail districts and other local governments that undertake projects with such districts.

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE 36A COALITION, THAT:**

Section 1. Support for House Bill 2557. The Board hereby expresses its support for amendments to Chapter 172 of the Texas Transportation Code that will:

a) Define “intelligent transportation system” as a “rail facility” for purposes of the statute. “intelligent transportation system” would include the “freight shuttle system” developed by Texas A&M Transportation Institute that would move freight off our roads and rail lines to ease traffic congestion.

b) Explicitly permit rural rail districts to enter into public-private partnerships by clarifying that “rail facilities” are a “qualifying project” for rural rail districts under Chapter 2267, Texas Government Code. Brazoria and Fort Bend Counties and Port Freeport have advanced funds for essential studies of a possible rail line from Port Freeport to the only rail hub on the Texas Gulf Coast in Rosenberg, Texas where the three Class 1 railroads that serve Texas converge. The counties and the Port want the private entity that will build and operate the potential rail line to reimburse these advanced funds.

c) Clarify that rural rail districts may pledge any revenue source, including, without limitation, grant and contract revenue, to the repayment of bonds and other obligations.

Section 2. Further Actions. The Board hereby authorizes the Chairman or his designee to take all other actions and do all other things, as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out or assist in carrying out the purposes of this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of April, 2017.

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W. A. “Andy” Meyers Chairman

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Vern Hegwood Secretary