



April 30, 2021

The Honorable Greg Bonnen
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Chairman, Bonnen:

Thank you for your service to Galveston County. We especially appreciate your hard work on the State budget and your continued commitment to public transportation.

As you work through the conference committee process, there is one issue of difference between the House and Senate we would like to discuss. In article VII, page 27 of SB 1, as passed by the House, the House preserved Rider 23, which states:

23. Public Transportation. Notwithstanding other transfer provisions in Article IX of this Act, appropriations made to the Department of Transportation in Strategy C.1.1, Public Transportation, from the State Highway Fund shall not be reduced.

The Senate version changed the language of the rider to read as follows:

23. Public Transportation. Notwithstanding other transfer provisions in Article IX of this Act, appropriations made to the Department of Transportation in Strategy C.1.1, Public Transportation, from the State Highway Fund shall not be reduced without a substitute or different source of eligible funding for the same purpose equal to or greater than the amount being reduced.

The House version of the rider has been adopted by previous legislatures to ensure that public transit agencies can use the appropriate funds as matching dollars to receive federal monies. The Senate version of the rider creates a scenario that our members believe puts at risk certain matching funds and federal dollars, which would be harmful on rural and small urban transportation systems. We ask that you please support the House version of the rider.

We look forward to working with you, the House, the Senate, and the Texas Department of Transportation to ensure that our State continues to enjoy safe and reliable public transportation. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Allen E. Hunter', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Allen E. Hunter
Executive Director