

April 23, 2026

Item No. 7.12.

Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Future Interstate Highway Formula Program

Sponsor: Jason Schubert

Reviewed By CBC: City Council

Agenda Caption: Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding a resolution supporting the inclusion of a proposed Future Interstate Highway Formula Program in the next Federal Surface Transportation Authorization Bill.

Relationship to Strategic Goals:

- Diverse & Growing Economy
- Improving Mobility

Recommendation(s): Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

Summary: The City of College Station has been asked to join other government agencies in supporting a push to include future funding for Interstate Highway projects in the next federal Surface Transportation Authorization Bill. Larry Myers with Hance Scarborough, LLP is a legislative consultant for the I-14 Coalition, Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition, which seeks to help realize the Congressionally authorized future Interstate 14 system. He presented an update to the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee on February 25, 2026 regarding their efforts and a federal legislative proposal to create a Future Interstate Highway Formula Funding Program. The program is intended to establish a predictable and stable level of federal funding to support development of congressionally authorized Future Interstates, including I-14, Americas Forts-to-Ports Strategic Corridor or Gulf Coast Strategic Highway, stretching 1,300 miles from western Texas to eastern Georgia and will address the need to focus federal transportation funding on projects that provide national benefit.

The Chamber Transportation Committee has requested that local jurisdictions provide a resolution in support of the proposal that can be shared with members of Congress and their staff when the Chamber of Commerce representatives travel to Washington, DC in mid-May. Brazos County and the City of Bryan are anticipated to pass similar resolutions. The proposed Resolution contains additional background on the development and funding of the interstate system, including the Congressional authorization for the future I-14 and I-214 loop around Bryan-College Station.

Budget & Financial Summary: N/A

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS, SUPPORTING THE PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE THE FUTURE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY FORMULA PROGRAM IN THE NEXT FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION BILL ENSURING A STRONG FEDERAL ROLE IN SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AS PREVIOUS INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS WERE DEVELOPED AS A NATIONAL INTEREST SO SHOULD FUTURE INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS.

WHEREAS, the United States economy must have the world's pre-eminent surface transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the Future Interstate Highway Formula Funding Program will establish a predictable and stable level of federal funding to support development of congressionally authorized Future Interstates, including I-14, "America's Forts-to-Ports Strategic Corridor" or "Gulf Coast Strategic Highway", stretching 1,300 miles from western Texas to eastern Georgia, and will address the need to focus federal transportation funding on projects that provide national benefit; and

WHEREAS, the first section of the I-14 Corridor in Texas was approved by Congress in 2015 under the FAST Act and the 25 miles of freeway from Killeen/Fort Hood to I-35 in Central Texas became I-14 in 2017; this was followed by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which led to congressional designation of the entire I-14 Corridor across Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama and Georgia on November 15, 2021 with the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure bill. That 2021 law expanded the Texas designation to include San Angelo and Midland-Odessa and included four north-south future interstate spurs that will connect I-14 to Interstate 10 and serve the Port of Corpus Christi, the Port of Houston and the ports at Beaumont and Port Arthur and it added a fifth north-south spur connecting to the Port of Gulfport in Mississippi and included a future interstate loop at Bryan-College Station designated Interstate 214; and

WHEREAS, the Formula Funding Program will provide needed investment in the next generation of the Interstate Highway System to keep pace with growing population national connectivity, and efficient freight movement demands; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Interstate Highway System is to provide a safe, efficient, and high-capacity roadway network for the movement of people and goods; and

WHEREAS, highways meeting interstate standards substantially enhance safety for the traveling public while also addressing emergency evacuation needs; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Future Interstate Highways is to expand and enhance the national transportation network by identifying and developing key corridors that will eventually meet full Interstate Highway standards, with the goal of supporting 1) National Connectivity; 2) Freight and Economic Development; (3) Cross-Border Trade and International Commerce; 4) National Defense; 5) Emergency Evacuation; and 6) Transportation Modernization; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no dedicated federal funding to plan and construct Future Interstate Highways; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 10 can be disrupted by tropical storms and hurricanes and an additional hurricane evacuation route is needed to provide alternatives during those disruptions; and

WHEREAS, despite the authorization of a 40,000-mile Interstate Highway System by Congress in 1944 and the initial designation of 37,700 miles in 1947, the total constructed mileage has significantly fallen short of long-term national mobility demands and by 1960, over 10,000 miles were completed, followed by rapid expansion to 20,000 miles by the mid-1960s, 30,000 miles by 1970, and 40,000 miles by 1980, with 92% of the system completed by 1986. Incremental additions brought the system to approximately 42,700 miles in the 1990s, 46,747 miles by the early 2000s, and over 48,000 miles in the 2020s; and

WHEREAS, the modest mileage growth of interstate highways over the past four decades reflects the need for renewed federal commitment to expanding and modernizing the Interstate System to meet 21st-century transportation, economic, and security challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of College Station desires to affirm its support of the continued development of the Interstate Highway System, including I-14 and I-214 loop around Bryan-College Station, and encourages the inclusion of Future Interstate Highway Funding in the next federal surface transportation authorization bill.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS:

PART 1: That the City Council hereby supports the recitals and findings set forth in the preamble above.

PART 2: That the City Council hereby supports the proposal to include the Future Interstate Highway Formula Program in the next federal surface transportation authorization bill whereby federal taxpayers' funds are used for the national interest, ensuring a strong Federal role in surface transportation. Interstate Highways were developed as a national interest and Future Interstate Highways should be treated the same.

PART 3: That this Resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of April 2026.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

City Secretary

MAYOR

APPROVED:

City Attorney