

**GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE NORTH EAST TEXAS
REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY**

RESOLUTION NO. 25-42

WHEREAS, the North East Regional Mobility Authority (“NET RMA”) was created pursuant to the request of Gregg and Smith Counties and in accordance with provisions of the Transportation Code and the petition and approval process established in 43 Tex. Admin. Code § 26.1, et seq. (the “RMA Rules”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the NET RMA has been constituted in accordance with the Transportation Code and the RMA Rules; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the initial formation of the NET RMA the Counties of Cherokee, Rusk, Harrison, Upshur, Bowie, Panola, Wood, Van Zandt, Titus, Kaufman, Camp, and Cass joined the NET RMA and are represented on the Board of Directors; and

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

WHEREAS, the Multi-State Future Interstate Highway Formula Funding Program (the “Formula Funding Program”) will establish a predictable and stable level of federal funding to support development of congressionally authorized Future Interstates and will address the need to focus federal transportation funding on projects that provide national benefit; 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 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 multi-state 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 Movement; (3) Regional Economic Development; (4) Cross-Border Trade and International Commerce; (5) National Defense; (6) Emergency Evacuation; and (7) Transportation Modernization; and

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

WHEREAS, international trade has grown from \$39 billion in 1956 to \$5.8 trillion in 2023, an increase of 14,700 percent in 67 years, an average annual growth of 219.4 percent; and

WHEREAS, entry into NAFTA (1994) and now USMCA (2020) strengthened trade with Mexico and Canada and as a result land ports of entry became critical -- especially for energy, agriculture, and auto parts trade across North American corridors; and

WHEREAS, initially trade across the United States moved primarily east-west and the original Interstate Highway System was built to serve the east-west movement; and

WHEREAS, the nation has an increasing reliance e-commerce and just-in-time logistics, the resulting growth in freight further highlights that highways are critical for supply chains; and

WHEREAS, the Congress in 1956 authorized an Interstate Highway System of 41,000 miles and later expanded it to a maximum of 43,000 miles; and

WHEREAS, by 1985 the 43,000-mile system was largely complete; and

WHEREAS, while incremental additions by individual states brought the current system to approximately 47,000 miles, the total constructed mileage is significantly short of the nation's long-term mobility needs; 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 NET RMA is dedicated to promoting mobility in the Northeast Texas region, and the Formula Funding Program's mission is consistent with the NET RMA's goal; and

WHEREAS, the NET RMA desires to express its support of the proposal to include the Formula Funding Program in the next federal surface transportation authorization bill.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the NET RMA supports the proposal to include the Multi-State Future Interstate Highway Formula Funding 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 the same.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority on the 4th day of November 2025.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Signed by:

Brian O'Reilly

~~Brian O'Reilly~~

General Counsel for the North East
Texas Regional Mobility Authority

Approved:

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Gary Hallbrooks

~~Gary Hallbrooks~~

Chair, Board of Directors
Date Passed: 11/04/2025
Resolution No. 25-42