

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

RESOLUTION NO. 16-97

WHEREAS, the North East Texas 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, Van Zandt, Wood, Titus, and Kaufman joined the Authority and are represented on the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the US Highway 271 Corridor ("US 271") is a vitally important transportation corridor in East Texas impacting the daily lives of approximately 495,000 people living and working in the seven Counties of Smith, Gregg, Upshur, Camp, Titus, Lamar, and Red River, as reflected on Attachment "A"; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation ("TxDOT") has plans to construct approximately \$310 million in improvements to US 271 within the next 10 years, as reflected on Attachment "B"; and

WHEREAS, there is widespread support and unity among representatives of local governments, economic development organizations, regional councils of governments, and private sector interests for a more accelerated and more aggressive commitment from TxDOT to undertake the construction improvements to US 271 between Tyler, Texas, and Paris, Texas, as a means to facilitate greater vehicle safety, enhance overall connectivity of the road system in the region, and hasten more regional economic development along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, there is significant traffic volume on US 271 thereby raising safety concerns along the corridor and mandating urgent actions to construct roadway safety improvements, as reflected on Attachment "C"; and

WHEREAS, US 271 serves as an invaluable connection between Interstate 20 and Interstate 30 thereby providing direct and indirect connectivity throughout the East Texas region, as well as to other areas of Texas and surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, there were approximately 42,486 businesses and industries representing such sectors as manufacturing, industrial production, transportation, agriculture, timber, and service-related businesses employing over 210,000 citizens in the seven counties that border US 271, as reflected on Attachment "D"; and

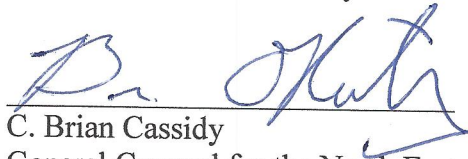
WHEREAS, overall regional economic success and quality of life will be substantially improved through increased connectivity of US 271 and depends greatly on TxDOT implementing the planned improvements at an earlier time; and

WHEREAS, the NET RMA is dedicated to improving mobility in the North East Texas region, and the development of US 271 is consistent with the NET RMA's goal.

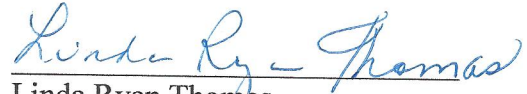
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NET RMA Board of Directors supports and urges immediate action by TxDOT for the development and implementation of construction improvements to US 271 between Tyler, Texas, and Paris, Texas, at a more accelerated schedule in order to greatly improve the safety of the corridor, enhance connectivity, and facilitate regional economic development opportunities.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority on the 9th day of November, 2016.

Submitted and reviewed by:


C. Brian Cassidy
General Counsel for the North East
Texas Regional Mobility Authority

Approved:


Linda Ryan Thomas
Chair, Board of Directors
Date Passed 11/09/16