

TORNILLO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED BORDER HIGHWAY EAST EXTENSION OF STATE LOOP 375 IN ITS CURRENTLY CONTEMPLATED FORM AND ALIGNMENT

WHEREAS, the Tornillo Independent School District (“Tornillo ISD” or the “District”) is committed to protecting the safety, educational opportunities, transportation needs, and long-term interests of its students, families, employees, and the communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation (“TxDOT”) is conducting the Border Highway East Corridor Study, which contemplates an approximately 20-mile extension of the César Chávez Border Highway (State Loop 375) southeast toward the Lower Valley, including areas in the vicinity of Tornillo and Fabens; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the importance of addressing regional transportation, freight mobility, congestion, and connectivity needs, while also ensuring that major transportation projects do not create unreasonable adverse impacts on students, schools, families, established communities, or the resources upon which those communities depend; and

WHEREAS, the proposed corridor could affect Tornillo ISD students and employees, school bus routes, access to schools, pedestrian and traffic safety, emergency response, District facilities, and the District’s ability to safely and efficiently provide educational services; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Valley has a rich agricultural, historical, and cultural heritage extending more than 400 years, and the proposed corridor could significantly affect agricultural lands, private property, local businesses, established communities, and the historic and cultural character of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Valley continues to face significant water challenges, and the Board is concerned about potential impacts to existing and planned water infrastructure, water resources, and conservation efforts essential to the region’s long-term sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Valley contains important natural resources, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and areas of biodiversity, such as the Rio Bosque Wetlands, including resources used by students and families for education, recreation, and community engagement, which could be adversely affected by the proposed corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Board is also concerned about the significant public investment associated with the proposed corridor and believes its costs and demonstrated regional benefits should be carefully and transparently evaluated against other transportation, roadway, safety, and infrastructure needs in the Lower Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that reasonable alternative alignments, transportation solutions, design modifications, and mitigation measures should be fully evaluated and that affected school districts and communities should have meaningful and transparent opportunities to participate before final decisions are made.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tornillo Independent School District Board of Trustees hereby **opposes the proposed Border Highway East extension of State Loop 375 in its currently contemplated form and alignment** because of its potential adverse impacts on students, families, schools, transportation and safety, agricultural lands, private property, businesses, water resources and infrastructure, natural resources, historic and cultural resources, community connectivity, and the overall quality of life of the communities served by Tornillo ISD.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board respectfully urges TxDOT and other responsible governmental entities to fully evaluate and publicly communicate the potential impacts of the proposed corridor and all reasonable alternatives, including impacts on:

- Tornillo ISD students, facilities, transportation routes, pedestrian safety, traffic patterns, and emergency access;
- agricultural lands, private property, businesses, and established communities;
- regional water resources, infrastructure, and conservation efforts;
- wetlands, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and other natural resources;
- historic and cultural resources; and
- the costs and demonstrated regional benefits of the project compared with other transportation and infrastructure priorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board requests serious consideration of alternative alignments, transportation solutions, design modifications, and mitigation measures that address legitimate regional transportation and freight-mobility needs while avoiding or substantially minimizing adverse impacts on Tornillo ISD and Lower Valley communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board requests continued, meaningful, transparent, and accessible public engagement throughout the planning, environmental review, design, and subsequent phases of the project and requests that Tornillo ISD be included as a stakeholder whenever proposed decisions could affect District facilities, transportation routes, student safety, emergency response, school operations, or other District interests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board's opposition is specifically directed to the Border Highway East extension **in its currently contemplated form and alignment** and shall not be construed as opposition to reasonable transportation improvements or regional mobility initiatives that adequately address the concerns expressed herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing in this resolution shall be construed as an attempt to interfere with the legal authority of TxDOT or any other governmental entity, nor shall it authorize the use of District funds or resources for electioneering, political advertising, or advocacy prohibited by law. Any District activity related to this resolution shall be limited to lawful governmental communication and participation concerning the District's institutional interests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools, or designee, is authorized to communicate this resolution and the Board's position to TxDOT and appropriate governmental representatives and to participate in appropriate stakeholder meetings and governmental proceedings consistent with applicable law and District policy. The Board's

official position may not be modified or withdrawn without further action by the Board of Trustees.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Tornillo Independent School District Board of Trustees respectfully urges TxDOT and other responsible governmental entities to pursue transportation solutions that address regional mobility needs while protecting the safety, educational opportunities, natural and cultural resources, and long-term interests of students, families, schools, and the communities served by Tornillo ISD.

ADOPTION

This Resolution was considered and adopted by the Tornillo Independent School District Board of Trustees at a duly called meeting held on this 26th day of August, 2026.

**TORNILLO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

President, Board of Trustees

Secretary, Board of Trustees

Superintendent of Schools