

## RESOLUTION NO. 20240624

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WOODVILLE, TEXAS OPPOSING A RELIEF ROUTE FOR US 69 WITHOUT ADEQUATE UTILITIES TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT AND TRAVELERS, WITHOUT OPPORTUNITY FOR ANNEXATION RESULTING IN REDUCTION OF TAX BASE, AND THAT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY; FURTHER SUPPORTING AN EASTERN ROUTE CLOSER TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS WITH ACCESS TO UTILITIES AND ALLOWING FOR ACCESS TO THE EXISTING BUSINESS DISTRICT OF WOODVILLE**

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has proposed a relief route of US Highway 69 through Tyler County from south of Black Creek to south of Recreational Road 255; and

**WHEREAS**, TxDOT identifies two proposed routes, Route A and Route D; and

**WHEREAS**, Route A will cross US Highway 190 approximately 4 miles West of the current US 69 and US 190 intersection; and

**WHEREAS**, Route D that will cross US 190 approximately .6 miles East of the current US 69 and US 190 intersection; and

**WHEREAS**, the remote geographic proximity of Route A from the City of Woodville (City) would be detrimental to the local economy and would reduce the quality of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, TxDOT commissioned Report No. FHWA/TX-0-1843-3 titled Economic Impacts of Highway Relief Routes on Small- and Medium-Size Communities: Case Studies which concludes that such relief route will result in a definite change and likely decline in downtown businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, a decline in downtown businesses will directly impact the sales tax revenue and the City's tax base which currently comprises approximately 85% of the annual revenue that funds police protection services, fire protection services, street maintenance and improvements, animal control, parks and recreation, and general municipal administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has identified barriers related to annexation of the property adjacent to either proposed route which would be necessary to provide infrastructure to the relief route and essential in managing the expense of extending and expanding such infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, proposed Route A is outside of the City's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity issued by the Texas Public Utility Commission for water and/or wastewater services which would further inhibit the City's ability to provide utilities to support development and travelers along the route; and

**WHEREAS**, the US 69 Relief Route is a designated hurricane evacuation route and the proposed routes would impact the Evacuation Clearance Time (ECT) by adding travel time to

evacuees in need of fuel and supplies also creating a bottle neck within the City as a result of the limited proposed exits to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, a route closer in geographic proximity to the corporate limits of the City would provide an opportunity for the City to retain/regain a portion of its current tax base; and

**WHEREAS**, a route closer to the corporate limits would result in more resources and support of travelers along the route, specifically hurricane evacuees; and

**WHEREAS**, an Eastern route would provide the City with the opportunity to provide utilities along the relief route; and

**WHEREAS**, the City does not feel the current proposed routes have adequate access to the City's current business district and routes intersecting with US 69, including but not limited to exits, interchanges and on/off-ramps; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is concerned that future maintenance of the existing US 69 route by TxDOT would be costly and impractical resulting in the State abandoning the route and further impact accessibility to homes and businesses located along the route and further compound financial burdens imposed upon the City and Tyler County to maintain an abandoned roadway.

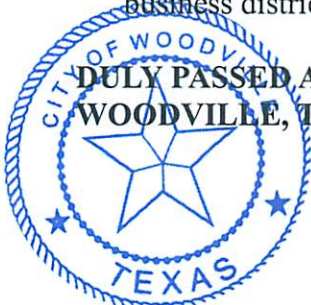
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODVILLE, TEXAS, THAT:**

**SECTION 1:** The City of Woodville strongly opposes a route that does not have adequate utilities to support development or travelers, has no opportunity for annexation resulting in reduction of the City's tax base, and would be detrimental to the local economy.

**SECTION 2:** The City of Woodville supports an Eastern Route that is closer to the corporate limits of the City that has access to utilities and an existing infrastructure.


**SECTION 3:** The City of Woodville supports a redesign of an Eastern Route that allows for the consideration of exits, interchanges and off-ramps that allow access to the current business district.

**DULY PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODVILLE, TEXAS ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2024.**



ATTEST:

  
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Terri Bible, City Secretary

  
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Amy Bythewood, Mayor