



# The Senate of The State of Texas

**DAN PATRICK**  
**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

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November 16, 2017

Commissioner J. Bruce Bugg, Jr.  
Chairman  
Texas Transportation Commission  
125 East 11th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2409

Dear Commissioner Bugg:

Since I became Lt. Governor and before, as a state senator, I have strongly supported efforts to reduce the state's reliance on toll roads by making transportation funding a priority. That's why I am writing to let you know I oppose the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) plan to add managed toll lanes to fifteen major roadway projects in the Unified Transportation Plan (UTP).

In 2015, the Texas Senate led the charge on prioritizing transportation funding. We constitutionally dedicated a significant portion of our state's sales tax and vehicle sales tax revenue to transportation funding. We also worked to end the diversion of transportation dollars away from the State Highway Fund. These efforts resulted in making an additional \$8.6 billion available to TxDOT this biennium. This historic infusion of transportation funding allowed the Texas Transportation Commission to program \$70 billion worth of projects in the 2017 UTP.

The Texas Legislature and voters have made additional revenues available to address the serious funding challenges of meeting our state's transportation infrastructure needs. In fact, Texas is spending record amounts on transportation. TxDOT's proposal to add managed toll lanes is simply not consistent with the policies set forth by the legislature.

The legislature helped bridge TxDOT's reported \$5 billion annual shortfall to reduce or eliminate the need for new toll projects. It is surprising and disappointing to learn that TxDOT created a plan to add managed toll lanes to virtually every major roadway currently under consideration.

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I remain committed to working with you during the interim to determine how, with the additional funding and toll reforms put in place by the legislature, TxDOT can meet the needs of our growing infrastructure demands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Patrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dan Patrick  
Lieutenant Governor