



Save the Transportation Enhancement Program Sample Letter

Recently, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) decided, without public input from Texas citizens or their elected officials, to cease funding the single most important resource for Texas communities trying to make their communities a better place to live.

In response to the Federal Highway Administration's latest rescissions of unobligated highway funds to the states, TxDOT is halting the Transportation Enhancements Program.

If not for the Transportation Enhancements Program, the following projects in my community would not have been achievable:

INSERT LIST OF CITY, COUNTY OR REGION PROJECTS:

<http://www.enhancements.org/projectlist.asp> (search Texas and check all years since 1992)

Because of this recent move by TxDOT, the following projects will be affected:

INSERT LIST OF CURRENT PROJECT PROPOSALS:

<http://www.texasdowntown.org/TxDOT%20Round%20of%20Nominations06.pdf>

There is no doubt that times are tough, but TxDOT's decision further puts the pressure on municipalities, counties and regions that depend upon the Transportation Enhancement Program to make their communities more livable and attractive for investment. Texas is the only state to raid such funds and the results will have a devastating impact on Texas communities.

One of the original goals of the Transportation Enhancements Program was to compensate for past intrusions of transportation projects on cultural and historic assets in our communities. The program is accomplishing this goal, with tremendous benefits to Texas communities. Flexibility and community-based decision making, the hallmarks of this program, have led to projects that maximize community benefits and new partnerships in transportation and community planning.

More than \$466 million has been distributed to 505 different enhancement projects since 1991. For 15 years, hundreds of communities have utilized the Transportation Enhancement Program for downtown streetscape projects, visitor centers, historic preservation projects and hike and bike trails. The Transportation Enhancement Program has revitalized local economies, improved accessibility in Texas downtowns, increased visitation to cultural and historic sites and raised the awareness of the importance of historic preservation to the tourism industry. The Texas Heritage Trails Program, which provides technical, financial and marketing assistance to Texas communities, is just one of the many casualties of this recent action.

It's clear that these funds were intended to go to Texas communities. I implore you to review TxDOT's decision and give us a voice for the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

INSERT NAME HERE