



**Bruce Wood**  
COUNTY JUDGE  
(469)-376-4138

**KAUFMAN COUNTY**  
KAUFMAN, TEXAS 75142

February 8, 2018

Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

I am writing you regarding my concerns over how transportation issues are being handled in North Texas in general and Kaufman County in particular.

Kaufman County has recently seen the need to take control of part of its own transportation destiny. Kaufman County is not a wealthy county but we are one of the fastest growing counties in Texas with an estimated population of 125,000. However, we know the need to work hard and do our part. In 2013, the voters overwhelmingly approved a \$56 million road bond program, by over 65 percent. Of that amount, \$52 million was earmarked for state highway facilities that are not directly our responsibility, but do directly impact our residents' quality of life.

We in Kaufman County have had to deal with the misguided representation we've received from Freshman Senator Bob Hall for three years. He approaches our issues with his mind already made up on his position with no open mind to even attempt to understand the issues. Additionally, he and others accuse anyone who doesn't agree with them as being a "bureaucrat" or "entrenched politician," and in my case, an "educrat." I am proud to say that I have given 40 years of my life teaching and educating our children in Texas public schools. This behavior is junior high style bullying and quite frankly I am fed up with this type of insulting behavior from our Freshman Senator and others like him.

**Letter to Governor Abbott**  
**February 8, 2018**  
**Page Two**

Initially it was just irritating to be lectured by a person who has so little time in office and no historical perspective.

However, these actions have now potentially caused great harm to the residents of Kaufman County. Because of Senator Hall's and Senator Don Huffines' bullying tactics and political showmanship, the Texas Transportation Commission has derailed the region's plans for IH 635 from US 75 to IH 30. Now, in an effort to 'backfill' the funding gap caused by elimination of the tolled managed lanes, the North Texas Region is now proposing to delay indefinitely the \$263 million in transportation improvements to US 80, a major transportation artery for Kaufman County. This is unacceptable. It is also absolutely unnecessary.

Those who traffic in political gamesmanship and peddle misinformation over tolled managed lane facilities are hurting their residents and wasting taxpayers' dollars. That is not the definition of good stewardship. Leveraging precious resources are what we as public servants are called to do.

However, for too many years, the Legislature has either ignored the funding problems with transportation or provided "one time" revenue infusions to buy them another election cycle where they can brag that they passed a budget that balanced and didn't raise taxes. They didn't fix the problem. They simply pushed the problem down to the County and City level as an unfunded mandate.

Local government elected officials at the City and County level do not survive long when they implement bad policy. At the recent Texas Transportation Commission meeting, local, unelected residents who live throughout the IH 635 corridor told the Commissioners they wanted the same type of facility that North Dallas has along IH 635, including tolled managed lanes. There is no formidable opposition to tolled managed lanes in North Texas. We've seen them work. Drivers are using them at rates higher than projected. IT'S THEIR FREEDOM OF CHOICE!

I am adding my name to the list of County Judges you are hearing from that are asking you to allow us to continue to do what we've seen work.

Sincerely,



Bruce Wood  
Kaufman County Judge

BW/at

**Letter to Governor Abbott**

**February 8, 2018**

**Page Three**

cc: Lt. Governor Dan Patrick  
Honorable Lance Gooden, State Representative District #4  
Honorable Cindy Burkett, State Representative District #101  
Mayor Rick Wilson, City of Forney  
Mayor D. J. Ory, City of Terrell  
Mayor Jeff Jordan, City of Kaufman  
Mayor Larry Farthing, City of Talty  
Mayor Jeff Norman, City of Mabank  
Mayor Laura Peace, City of Kemp  
Publisher, The Kaufman Herald  
Publisher, The Terrell Tribune  
Publisher, The Cedar Creek Monitor  
Publisher, The Forney Post  
Publisher, InForney.com  
Publisher, The Dallas Morning News  
Publisher, The North East Texan