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June 4, 2015

Brendan Wittstruck, Chair
Neighborhoods of the North Central I-35
Neighborhood Coalition 2 (NCINC2)
4609 Parkwood Road
Austin, Texas 78722

Dear Mr. Wittstruck:

Thank you for your letter dated May 26, 2015, and for the continued interest of the members of NCINC2 in the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Mobility35 Program. Members of the Mobility35 team enjoyed meeting and visiting with you at the fifth decks-neighborhood workshop held on May 28, 2015. I understand you're already talking with Karen Lorenzini, TxDOT's Mobility35 Program Manager, about a presentation at the next NCINC2 meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2015. As promised, Ms. Lorenzini will stay in touch with you regarding that meeting.

As you know better than most, I-35 is critical to the health and well-being of our economy and our community. This interstate serves many local, regional, and national needs, and carries more than 200,000 vehicles per day on some segments. In fact, I-35 through downtown Austin is one of the most congested roadways in Texas. However, improvements to I-35 represent a serious challenge due to its proximity to downtown Austin, neighborhoods, the University of Texas, cemeteries and other landmarks, combined with an extremely constrained right of way.

In recognition of this challenge, we have taken a community-driven approach to improving I-35. Public involvement is at the heart of this community-driven effort that includes local, state, and federal agencies, the public, and community stakeholders throughout the three-county study area. Team members have held more than 200 stakeholder meetings, including NCINC2 and neighborhoods represented by the coalition. As mentioned at the workshop, we have planned improvements along the I-35 corridor to be developed as individual projects and each project will go through the process prescribed by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) where they will be further evaluated for impacts on adjacent neighborhoods, and other environmental, economic and social factors. We encourage you to stay involved as individual I-35 projects advance, and project specifics are analyzed in greater detail.

Again, thank you for continuing to connect with the Mobility35 team. We appreciate the time you and your members have spent on understanding the concepts under development, and providing feedback. Should you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Lorenzini at 512-832-7369 or by email at Karen.Lorenzini@txdot.gov.

Sincerely,


LtGen J.F. Weber, USMC (Ret)
Executive Director

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cc: The Honorable Kirk Watson, Texas Senate
The Honorable Dawna Dukes, District 46, Texas House of Representatives
The Honorable Elliott Naishtat, District 49, Texas House of Representatives
The Honorable Steve Adler, Austin Mayor
The Honorable Kathie Tovo, Austin Mayor Pro Tem
Austin Council Members
Ashby Johnson, Executive Director, CAMPO
Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director, CTRMA
Rob Spillar, City of Austin
William Powers, President, University of Texas
Greg Fenves, President-Elect, University of Texas
Jim Walker, University of Texas
Greg A. Malatek, P.E., Austin District Engineer, TxDOT
Karen Lorenzini, Mobility35 Program Manager, TxDOT

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