



Donna KEEL

for State Representative District 47

What needs to be done?

1. Reduce legislative diversions from the Texas Highway Fund.
2. Improve efficiency of operations and accounting procedures at TxDot.
3. Stop diversions of funds by TxDot to non-road related projects.

On Toll Roads

I don't like toll roads; nobody does. However, a case can be made for them. I think that in the long run they are much more expensive, possibly as much as three times as expensive, and therefore an inefficient use of funds.

First of all, they require long-term indebtedness. That means interest payments. Anyone with a mortgage knows that your monthly payments don't begin to reduce the principal amount until about halfway through your mortgage. That interest can easily equal or even exceed the amount of the original loan. That money could have gone to road maintenance and operations, even more construction.

Secondly, it's an expensive and inefficient means of collecting revenue. It's a nickel and dime at a time, with a huge amount of administrative overhead. Consider all the people that must be employed – toll booth operators, security guards, cashiers to count and deposit the coins, lawyers, accountants, auditors, administrators...

On the pro side, there is something to be said for charging only those who actually use a product or service instead of charging everyone. Toll roads are an optional user fee. Anyone who doesn't want to use them can use the access roads instead. They usually decrease traffic on the untolled roads. In addition, they allocate some of the cost to future users as well as current.

Bottom Line

1. I would never support tolling existing roads—that's double taxation.
2. I would support tolls only as a last resort.
3. I'd support tolling roads only until the debt for that particular road is paid off, rather than allowing the toll to continue in perpetuity. To do so would unduly burden the residents of Oak Hill, for the benefit of everyone in Travis County.
4. Toll Roads should be locally approved.

For more information on Donna, please visit www.donnakeel.com

Political Ad by:
Donna Keel Campaign
23912 Tres Corona Rd
Spicewood, Tx 78669
www.donnakeel.com
512-264-3457