



Most people assume that their fuels tax goes fully towards highway maintenance and construction. It's a logical assumption, considering there is a direct relationship between the number of gallons purchased and number of miles driven.

Not so. According to the San Antonio newspaper, over \$1.57 billion dollars was diverted from the Texas Highway Fund to other purposes last session.

Many of these are necessary and important projects. But they should be funded from the General Fund as warranted.

To continually divert money from its intended purpose is a violation of public trust.

- What needs to be done?
1. Stop raiding the gasoline tax / Texas Highway Fund.
 2. Improve safety on Hwy 71.
 3. Build overpass & highway system at the Y in Oak Hill.

On Transportation

Infrastructure is a primary responsibility of government and a critical issue for District 47. Traffic and road construction affect our health, safety, and quality of life. If you live here, you already know where the problem areas are: Highway 71 and the Y in Oak Hill.

I live off Highway 71. A recent wreck victim was a friend of the family and the tragedy affected us deeply. My family, including my children, drive Highway 71 every day. Obtaining a permanent solution is of the highest priority to me.

The Y in Oak Hill is just as critical to the residents of southwest Austin – too important for their representative to be anything but up front about her position. Residents deserve to understand exactly which plan their representative supports.

Four groups were brought together in mediation to find a plan that all could accept – Oak Hill Business and Professional Association, Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods, TxDot and Fix290. The mediation took over 45 hours and resulted in a plan that addressed access and capacity, cleaned out Williamson Creek, improved the Edwards Aquifer recharge, and saved over 40 oak trees.

Is everyone completely satisfied with the plan? Of course not. One of the groups continues to advocate another alternative. I support the mediated plan, primarily because it allowed local citizens to participate and have their concerns addressed. Further changes and controversy will only delay the project even more. The community would like to see a Town Center build in the area as well as other improvements. None of this can happen until the road is built.

Although a state representative is limited in direct authority over this issue, she does have a responsibility to be an advocate for the people she represents. Postponing needed road improvements only increases fatalities along Highway 71, runoff pollution into Williamson Creek at the Y, and the stress and anxiety for everyone. We must move forward to secure funding for critical road projects and stop raids on the Texas Highway Fund for non-road projects.