

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, the decade-long construction of improvements to Highway 183 in Northwest Austin is nearing completion and has already been paid for using the public tax dollars of Austin residents, and other Texas citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Highway 183 is the major arterial road serving the residents and businesses of Northwest Austin, including providing the primary access to downtown Austin, several public schools, and most of the area's grocery stores, local small businesses and shopping centers; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Northwest Austin and the businesses located along Highway 183 have endured nearly a decade of road construction, which has led to serious traffic congestion; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Texas undertook a major reconstruction of Highway 183 that would improve traffic and the quality of life for residents of Northwest Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, the project was represented to the public as being funded entirely by public tax dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, no feasible alternative, non-toll route to Highway 183 for residents in Northwest Austin exists; and

**WHEREAS**, charging tolls for access to Highway 183 would result in traffic seeking alternate routes through Northwest Austin residential

neighborhoods, creating congestion, more dangerous conditions in these neighborhoods and reductions in property values; and the imposition of tolls on Highway 183 would create a hardship on area residents who have already contributed their fair share to the construction of the road; and

**WHEREAS**, the increased traffic on Northwest Austin residential streets diverting from a toll road, and resulting increases in dangerous situations would place a greater demand on Austin public safety services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) website has identified Highway 183 in Northwest Austin as a candidate for conversion to a toll road; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) continues to consider the possibility of converting Highway 183 in Northwest Austin into a toll road; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin does not have any voting power on decisions by either the CTRMA or TXDOT concerning toll roads within the City of Austin's jurisdiction and therefore can only provide public comment regarding proposed toll roads and toll road conversions within the City of Austin's jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, TXDOT requested public comment on its guidelines for conversion of existing non-toll roads into toll roads, and the CTRMA has likewise encouraged public comment on this issue and

**WHEREAS**, the Travis County Commissioners have recommended to TXDOT that no conversion of a non-toll road into a toll road occur unless the governing body of each affected county and city supports the conversion, and Austin would be a city affected by the conversion of Highway 183 in Northwest Austin into a toll road; and

**WHEREAS**, the Austin City Council, as the governing body for Austin, recognizes the necessity of funding new road construction as toll roads and supports this policy for new roads; and

**WHEREAS**, the Austin City Council, as the governing body for Austin, opposes conversion of Highway 183 in Northwest Austin into a toll road because of the unique hardships cited above; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The Austin City Council respectfully requests that the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation reject plans for the conversion of Highway 183 in Northwest Austin into a toll road.

**ADOPTED:**                      , 2004      **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Shirley A. Brown  
City Clerk