



*State Representative*  
**Jeff Leach**  
*Dist. 67*  
**Rotunda Report**

**December 11, 2015**

*Legislative Update*

As you may know, Speaker Joe Straus recently released over 200 interim charges for the Texas House of Representatives, serving as a blueprint for each standing House committee during the interim period as we prepare for the 85th Legislature, which begins in January of 2017. The charges cover a variety of priorities for the State of Texas with a focus on jobs & private sector growth, budget transparency and public education. These charges serve as a foundation for the topics to study and potentially address legislatively next session. To learn more and to access the complete list, please click [here](#).

As your State Representative, I especially value this interim period as an opportunity to continue my "listening tour" across District 67 in order to hear from you and the people that have elected me to serve as their advocate and voice in Austin. During this time, I invite and encourage you to contact my office to discuss and deliberate any topics of interest that I may assist you with. Whether it's a legislative topic, or if you need assistance navigating through any of our state agencies, my office stands ready to serve you.

*District Spotlight*

As you know, the Collin County Legislative Delegation has been working collaboratively to ensure that our growing transportation infrastructure needs are addressed without adding an undue burden on commuters and taxpayers with additional tolls and fees. Great strides have been made over the past two legislative sessions with the passage of Proposition 1 (in 2014) and Proposition 7 (in 2015) by providing substantial funding for public, non-tolled roadways - all without raising taxes or fees.

Going forward, we have a great opportunity in Collin County to work cohesively as a region on the complete redesign and reconstruction of the US 75 corridor between I-635 and McDermott Road - which I consider the backbone of my district. Most recently, a collaborative plan to remove the pylons and open the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on this stretch of highway during peak traffic hours, all at no cost to commuters, was proposed with unanimous agreement at the local and regional level. To be clear, this plan requires approval from the Federal Highway Administration and is not a done deal. If approved, however, the plan would add 20% of capacity and result in significantly reduced congestion levels - a major step forward for our commuters. The Collin County Legislative Delegation issued a joint statement in support of this plan - [you can read it here](#).

With this in mind, the aforementioned plan is only a temporary solution to our greater, long-term transportation challenges, and I have made it one of my top priorities to continue working with

our local and regional community leaders to establish a sustainable, long-term solution for the complete reconstruction of this corridor.

With over 1,000 people moving into the State of Texas each day - and nearly 100 of them moving into Collin County - we have an obligation to ensure that our infrastructure system is able to sustain and support this exponential growth. While this presents a great challenge for our state and local leaders, I believe we have a tremendous opportunity to come together as a region and build consensus on a plan that addresses our growing congestion levels, supports economic development and ultimately welcomes this growth. Doing nothing is not an option and we have a duty to tackle this challenge head-on.

You have my commitment to lead the charge towards building a consensus throughout my district and Collin County by working alongside our community, business and political leaders in establishing a long-term plan. For the sake of our citizens and the future Texans of tomorrow - the time to act is now - and I believe we can, and will, establish a long-term plan that addresses our county's growing infrastructure needs.

After all, this is what we are elected to do.

For You and For Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Leach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Leach

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