

ENROLLED SENATE
JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 22

By: Leftwich, Weedn, Roberts
and Hendrick of the Senate

and

Adair, Bastin, Mitchell,
Hilliard, Smith (Bill),
Hefner, Plunk, Voskuhl,
Smith (Dale), Stites and
Ferguson of the House

A Joint Resolution relating to the International NAFTA Superhighway; authorizing Director of Oklahoma Department of Transportation to join I-35 Corridor Coalition; stating purpose; authorizing fee; urging Congressional Delegation; directing distribution; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the North American Free Trade Agreement, known as NAFTA, may create the largest market for goods and services in the world, a 6.5 trillion dollar market consisting of 370 million people; and

WHEREAS, NAFTA may create 200,000 additional high-wage jobs related to exports to Mexico by the end of this year; and

WHEREAS, Interstate Highway 35, known as I-35, is a central land artery linking Canada, the United States and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, like the trunk of a tree, I-35 provides access to all major interstate routes branching east to west across the United States; and

WHEREAS, capacity improvements are vital to keep I-35 current with the demands placed on it as the north-south artery that links the three NAFTA partners; and

WHEREAS, the I-35 Corridor Coalition was formed to win from the Congress of the United States the International NAFTA Superhighway designation for I-35 within the framework of the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA); and

WHEREAS, designation of I-35 as the International NAFTA Superhighway will lead to identification and elimination of barriers to international commerce and traffic, enhanced funding for upgrading capacity and safety, and reduced congestion; and

WHEREAS, public investment in transportation infrastructure historically yields direct benefits to the economy in the form of private-sector investment, which is the most desirable and long-lasting benefit of all; and

WHEREAS, designation of I-35 as the International NAFTA Superhighway and designation of I-40 and I-44 as Official United States Corridor Branches would enhance this state's position as a national hub for transportation sensitive industries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation shall enter into an agreement with the I-35 Corridor Coalition to join such coalition, for the purpose of obtaining

designation of I-35 as the International NAFTA Superhighway. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to pay any membership fees associated with joining the I-35 Corridor Coalition, such fees not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00).

SECTION 2. The Oklahoma Congressional Delegation is strongly urged to support the designation of I-35 as the International NAFTA Superhighway, and the designation of I-40, I-44, U.S. 69, U.S. 412, U.S. 62, U.S. 60, S.H. 152, Chickasaw Turnpike, S.H. 7 and U.S. 70 as Official United States Corridor Branches.

SECTION 3. Copies of this resolution shall be distributed to all members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the Governor, and to the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 17th day of April, 1995.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 4th day of April, 1995.

Speaker of the House of