

SHORT TITLE: A Joint Resolution relating to transportation;
authorizing ODOT to join the NAFTA Corridor Coalition; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

SENATE JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 22

By: Leftwich

AS INTRODUCED

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, will 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 is anticipated to 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 the sole, 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 only 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 and I-44 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.

45-1-0383

GH