

AN ACT

relating to the development of certain local government transportation infrastructure projects; authorizing the issuance of bonds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 172.001, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (4-a) and amending Subdivision (7) to read as follows:

(4-a) "Intelligent transportation system" means:

(A) innovative or intelligent technological transportation systems, infrastructure, or facilities, including elevated freight transportation facilities:

(i) in proximity to, or within, an existing right-of-way on the state highway system; or

(ii) that connect land ports of entry to the state highway system;

(B) communications or information processing systems that improve the efficiency, security, or safety of freight movement on the state highway system, including improving the conveyance of freight on dedicated intelligent freight lanes; or

(C) a transportation facility or system that increases truck freight efficiencies in the boundaries of an intermodal facility or hub.

(7) "Rail facilities" means:

- 1 (A) passenger or freight rail facilities,
2 including:
3 (i) tracks;
4 (ii) a rail line;
5 (iii) switching, signaling, or other
6 operating equipment;
7 (iv) a depot;
8 (v) a locomotive;
9 (vi) rolling stock;
10 (vii) a maintenance facility; and
11 (viii) other real and personal property
12 associated with a rail operation;
13 (B) an intermodal hub;
14 (C) an automated conveyor belt for the movement
15 of freight;
16 (D) an intelligent transportation system that
17 operates with or as part of facilities described by Paragraphs
18 (A)-(C); or
19 (E) a system of facilities described by
20 Paragraphs (A)-(D) [~~property, or an interest in that property, that~~
21 ~~the board determines is necessary or convenient to provide a rural~~
22 ~~rail transportation system; and~~
23 [~~(B) property or an interest necessary or~~
24 ~~convenient to acquire, provide, construct, enlarge, remodel,~~
25 ~~renovate, improve, furnish, use, or equip the system, including:~~
26 [~~(i) a right-of-way,~~
27 [~~(ii) an earthwork or structure, including~~

1 ~~clearing and grubbing of right-of-way, demolition of a structure,~~
2 ~~relocation of utilities, a pipeline, or any other obstacle in a~~
3 ~~right-of-way, stripping and stockpiling, removal of subsoil for~~
4 ~~embankment or spoil, a borrow pit, dressing and seeding of a slope,~~
5 ~~construction of a culvert, a road crossing, a bridge, restoration~~
6 ~~of a roadway, drainage within a right-of-way or along a road~~
7 ~~network, and restoration of a hydrologic system;~~

8 ~~[(iii) trackwork;~~

9 ~~[(iv) a train control, including~~
10 ~~signalling, interlocking equipment, speed monitoring equipment, an~~
11 ~~emergency braking system, a central traffic control facility, and a~~
12 ~~communication system;~~

13 ~~[(v) a passenger or freight service~~
14 ~~building, terminal, or station, a ticketing facility, a waiting~~
15 ~~area, a platform, a concession, an elevator, an escalator, a~~
16 ~~facility for handicapped access, an access road, a parking facility~~
17 ~~for passengers, a baggage handling facility, a local maintenance~~
18 ~~facility, and offices for district purposes and includes an~~
19 ~~interest in real property necessary or convenient for an item~~
20 ~~listed under this subparagraph;~~

21 ~~[(vi) rolling stock; and~~

22 ~~[(vii) a maintenance facility].~~

23 SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 172, Transportation Code,
24 is amended by adding Section 172.211 to read as follows:

25 Sec. 172.211. OTHER POWERS OF COUNTY, DISTRICT, AND
26 NAVIGATION DISTRICT. (a) This section applies only to a county
27 that:

1 (1) is adjacent to a county with a population of four
2 million or more;

3 (2) has a population of 300,000 or more; and

4 (3) has created a district by concurrent order with an
5 adjacent county pursuant to Section 172.052.

6 (b) A county acting through the commissioners court or a
7 local government corporation may adopt an order that authorizes the
8 county and a navigation district located wholly or partly in the
9 county to:

10 (1) develop rail facilities as a qualifying project
11 under Chapter 2267, Government Code; and

12 (2) issue bonds for rail facilities secured by a
13 pledge of the revenues of the facilities, including contract
14 revenue, grant revenue, or other revenue collected in connection
15 with the facilities.

16 (c) If each county that created a district adopts an order
17 described by Subsection (b), the district may exercise the powers
18 described by that subsection.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2557 was passed by the House on May 12, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 129, Nays 12, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2557 was passed by the Senate on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor