

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Donna Barron, City Manager

**FROM:** James Kunke, Community Relations & Tourism Director

**DATE:** January 28, 2019

**SUBJECT:** **Approval of a Resolution in Support of Proposed Amendments to Chapter 460 of the Texas Transportation Code Related to Governance of Denton County Transportation Authority (“DCTA”); Supporting Legislation Adopting Said Amendments; Authorizing the Mayor, City Manager and the City Manager’s Designee to Represent and Communicate the City’s Position; and Authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to Sign all Letters, Petitions, and/or Other Documents on Behalf of the City to Promote the City’s Position.**

### **BACKGROUND**

City Council adopted its Legislative Priorities and Agenda in December 2018, establishing the City’s official position on dozens of items that have been or will be considered by legislative bodies and administrative agencies in state and federal government. This package was adopted by resolution and granted specific authority to the Mayor, City Manager, or other designated representatives to pursue and promote the City’s legislative priorities.

The 2019 Legislative Agenda sets two local bills as Legislative Objectives. One of those is to pursue changes to Chapter 460 of the Texas Transportation Code related to governance of the Denton County Transportation Authority governing board.

The cities of Lewisville, Denton, and Highland village have worked with DCTA on proposed legislation that would change the makeup of the DCTA governing board, giving more authority to the three cities financially supporting DCTA while maintaining a countywide voice in operations and planning. The attached resolution officially declares City Council support for legislation drafted by the four parties and being introduced in the Texas Legislature.

### **ANALYSIS**

Denton County Transportation Authority is governed by a 14-member board appointed by communities countywide. Large cities, small cities, and at-large members serve two-year terms. Board members must have professional experience in the field of transportation, business, government, engineering, or law. In accordance with DCTA by-laws, the board adopts the annual operating budget and is responsible for setting policy.

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The current DCTA board composition was originally created by statute as an “Interim Executive Committee” that included representation from communities throughout Denton County. However, only voters in three cities (Lewisville, Denton, and Highland Village) approved a half-percent sales tax to fund public transit. This means the DCTA budget is being approved by a non-elected board of directors that includes a majority of members who represent communities that do not pay into the system.

The three funding cities want to change this odd system of “representation without taxation” and limit voting board membership to the three funding cities plus two representatives appointed by Denton County.

The cities also want the ability to appoint current City Council members to the DCTA board of directors. Current law does not allow that, unlike the governing boards of DART and other transit bodies where cities do have that option. This could give cities more relevant input into DCTA budgeting and decision-making.

The proposed legislation would accomplish these objectives.

The three cities and the DCTA board are adopting similar resolutions of support that will be presented to Denton County legislators being asked to support passage the bill.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That City Council approve Resloution xxx-xx-2019 as described in the caption above.