

Katy Hamilton

I am here representing myself, my family, and other concerned North Texans who could not be here today. I do my best to stay informed of state and local politics and have only recently come across plans to handle the current road problems in North Texas with the North Tarrant Express. Upon researching this project I came across some very disturbing information. TxDot is taking existing roads we have already paid for like 820 and turning them into toll roads, essentially double taxing us. To use the NE stretch of 820 will cost \$4. My family and I have used 820 everyday most of our lives and when I totaled the cost for me and my family to use this section of 820, altogether it will cost my family an average of \$9,000 a year, and my expense alone would be \$3,000 to use a road we have used many times to go to the grocery store, the doctor, our jobs, and all other daily obligations that require travel. With gas prices going up and the cost of living increasing exponentially, this new will bleed my family and the families in my community dry. My neighborhood is an older neighborhood with senior citizens including my grandmother who is on a fixed income. This toll road will drastically effect their quality of life.

Non compete agreements prohibit building new roads and upgrading existing highways that kill existing frontage roads, local roads, and will suffocate local businesses and local communities and force people currently living in these areas to use the toll roads, for that will be their only viable option left. This is convenient for TxDot and comprehensive development agreements (CDA's) for it will maximize toll revenues and will be a great cash cow that will fund their agendas for years to come with complete disregard for the people who pay for it.

This is what happens when government works with private foreign companies, who for any company, its main purpose is to make profit and certainly not to protect the interests of the public. CDA's pay the cost for toll roads up front so they can collect tolls for 50 yrs. under SB 792 and have no cap on the amount they toll us. MPO's proposing these toll roads who work hand in hand with TxDot heavily influence TxDot's decision making process and have no accountability toward the public and is essentially a self regulated organization. For something that effects the public's lives so greatly, MPO's should not be allowed to keep denying people representation and input. The people on these MPO's are not elected by the people for these positions. They are elected officials appointed to these positions and this cycle must be remedied now. We need local representation by individuals of our own communities specifically elected to serve on these MPO's so there is direct accountability to the people and transparency is created. State Agencies have completely lost sight of their duty to serve and instead they serve their own ends. Only transparency, accountability, and the service of the public interests will satisfy what is needed to solve our current road problems. Until you recognize local citizens concerns of these new toll road projects in our area and how they adversely effect local communities, we will keep making our presence known, hold you accountable, and increase awareness of CDA's and how public control of our roads are being surrendered for profit and private interests. Thank you for your time.

Hello Committee Members,

I noticed the proposed railway may go through my neighborhood. The house where I live faces the threat of being imminently domaine and taken from me. There is value in the community that I live and neighbors and the social network I built there. Fair market value in the social network ~~I built in that community~~ would not account for everything that would be lost in eminent domain. If the rail comes through my neighborhood all that I value would be gone.

Second is the issue of toll roads. Three times this year I have met people begging for gas money. With gas prices soaring, my money is tight. With a toll road to pay for it would be an extra \$3,000 a year for me because I use 35 and 820 everyday. Am I going to be the next begger on the street.