



RYAN GUILLEN
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 11, 2017

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GUILLEN HELPS BRING BETTER ROADS TO RURAL AREAS
HB 1140 Will Ensure Fair Distribution of Transportation Funding

AUSTIN – State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) is an author of HB 1140, which will change the public transportation funding categories for the State of Texas. On **Tuesday, May 10**, HB 1140 was sent to the Governor's office for action.

"Right now, areas with lower populations are unfairly disadvantaged when competing for state funding," said Guillen. "This bill allows us to right that wrong."

Current Texas law stipulates that these categories can receive funding:

- 1) Rural areas with populations of less than 50,000; and
- 2) Urbanized areas with populations over 50,000.

Currently, some areas with populations over 200,000 are drawing funds that are intended for areas closer to the 50,000 mark. HB 1140 will create separate categories for small urban areas with populations of 50,000 to 199,999 and large urban areas with populations of 200,000 or more. Rural areas with populations just over 50,000 will then have a better chance of receiving funding due to less competition from large rural areas with populations above 200,000.

It's very difficult for small towns to compete against large cities for transportation funding. By narrowing the population categories in Texas Code we can level the playing field for our rural areas in need of state funds. Simply put, HB 1140 will ensure that transportation funding in Texas is distributed more fairly.

"This is a common sense fix," said Guillen. "Our rural towns deserve a fair chance at funding their roadways."

Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen is serving in his sixth term in the Texas House representing House District 31, which includes the South Texas counties of Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.

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