



TRANSPORTATION TEAM ISSUE PAPER

San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
San Antonio Mobility Coalition

Protect Local Government Ability to Pursue Infrastructure Projects

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY: Supports legislation that would protect the ability of local governments to pursue infrastructure projects.

BACKGROUND:

A potential threat to the ability of local governments to pursue infrastructure projects is the recent efforts to limit local government's capability to fund infrastructure projects. Local government entities are accountable to the community they serve. They strive to be strong fiscal stewards of public funds to address the priorities of the community. One of the fundamental priorities of all communities is infrastructure that improves quality of life and economic growth. Legislative efforts to limit local authority and the principles of self-government negatively impact the ability to manage and improve our infrastructure.

H.B. 35, filed in the 87th Legislative Session, is an example of this. The bill would make the results of an election to issue bonds void if less than 25% of registered voters participate in the election, making the success of bond funding for large scale infrastructure projects depend on a metric that local governments have no control over. During the past fifteen years, San Antonio voters have overwhelmingly approved three bond programs that have successfully funded hundreds of projects in surface transportation, parks, libraries, and health and public safety facilities without the need for tax increases. The capability to fund infrastructure projects must be protected for the benefit of the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Support legislation to protect the ability of local governments to pursue infrastructure projects. Oppose legislation to the contrary.

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