

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-42
RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE CURRENT SOURCES OF FUNDING OF
THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the budget of the Tennessee Department of Transportation does not have enough money to offset the budget issues that the State of Tennessee now faces with shortfalls estimated to be near \$400 million in Fiscal Year 2001-02 and \$800 million in Fiscal Year 2002-03; and

WHEREAS, the Interstate and highway system in the State of Tennessee has provided the backbone for our economic diversity through the attractiveness that access to the road system provides within, to, and from our State boundaries; and

WHEREAS, our State hosts thousands of visitors annually who use our acclaimed Interstate and highway system; and

WHEREAS, our road system supports intrastate commerce and travel of Tennesseans by providing excellent access to communities throughout our Great State; and

WHEREAS, the highway program is funded by a user fee through the gas tax such that only those who drive pay this fee; and

WHEREAS, the road system is maintained based upon a pay-as-you-go concept that provides for zero bond indebtedness, thereby maximizing the use and efficiency of the available funding; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Transportation as well as the counties and cities therein have maintained an excellent highway system with the revenues generated from the user fees; and

WHEREAS, the state gas tax is 21.4 cents which ranks at 26th highest in the nation and the diesel tax is 18.4 cents at 41st of all the States; and

WHEREAS, from the distribution of these fees, the state receives 12 cents(60%) of the gas tax with the remainder to the counties(25%), cities(13%) and general fund(2%); and

WHEREAS, the two percent already diverted to the general fund produces \$100 million annually to other agencies of state government, such as the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Finance & Administration.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's population increased 16.7% over the past 10 years and the number of miles driven increased 130%, yet the state's total lane miles increased by only 5% overall; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's roads were recently voted the best in the country by the very people who use them the most, the truckers; and

WHEREAS, according to statistics from the Federal Highway Administration, for every \$1 billion dollar invested in transportation, 44,709 full-time jobs are created in all sectors of the economy; and

WHEREAS, because Tennessee's approximate \$1.4 billion annual transportation program creates 11,750 full-time construction jobs and 50,850 jobs in other sectors of the economy, raiding the Road Fund would certainly cause loss of jobs throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, road conditions are a factor in 30% of traffic fatalities and two-lane roads are the most dangerous, continued upgrades to our two-lane roads will save hundreds of lives each year; and

WHEREAS, diverting funds to the general fund could threaten the very system and program it has taken decades to build; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated gas tax should be used for its intended purpose of constructing and repairing our transportation system.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Weakley, Tennessee supports the continuation of the current structure of dedicated user fees for funding the Interstate, highway and bridge system of the State of Tennessee.

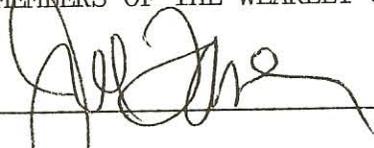
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Weakley, Tennessee supports the efforts of the Tennessee Better Roads Coalition to protect the current sources of funding of the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Weakley, Tennessee supports efforts to ensure against the raiding of the Road Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Weakley, Tennessee directs a copy of this resolution be sent to each member of the legislature, to the Governor, to each member of Congress as well as the Tennessee Municipal League.

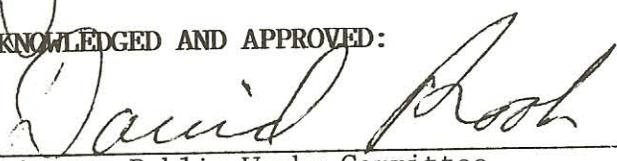
This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

PURSUANT TO THE RULES OF THE COMMISSION, THIS RESOLUTION IS SPONSORED BY THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE WEAKLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:





ACKNOWLEDGED AND APPROVED:



Chairman, Public Works Committee

Motion was made by Commissioner Westbrook that the foregoing resolution be approved. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phebus. Upon being put to a roll call vote, motion carried by a vote of:

AYES 18 NAYS 0 PASS 0 ABSENT 0 2 Vacant

ATTEST:



Pat Scarborough, County Clerk

APPROVED:



Ron Gifford, County Executive

THIS THE 18TH DAY OF MARCH, 2002