

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Texas Transportation Code Chapter 311 grants home-rule municipalities exclusive control over and under the public highways, streets, and alleys of the municipality, including the assigning of street names to highways within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the process for the naming of a state highway within a municipality is set forth in the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT's) Signs and Markings Manual, Chapter 7, Section 18; and

WHEREAS, TxDOT's Signs and Markings Manual requires the municipality enact a resolution or ordinance naming the highway and forward the resolution or ordinance to the TxDOT district office for review of the name; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to make a recommendation that the segment of State Loop 375 currently referred to as the Border Highway West Project covering the area one mile east of Park Street to Racetrack Drive be named the "Ted Houghton Expressway".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the City Council recommends that the segment of State Loop 375 currently referred to as the Border Highway West Project covering the area one mile east of Park Street to Racetrack Drive be named the "Ted Houghton Expressway" and authorizes the City Manager to forward this Resolution to the Texas Department of Transportation for approval of the name and execute any necessary documents to effectuate the adoption of the name and make any budget transfers necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

ADOPTED THIS _____ **DAY OF** _____, 2015.

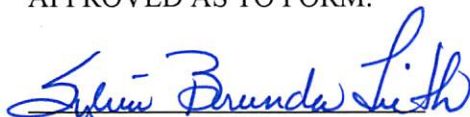
THE CITY OF EL PASO

Oscar Leoser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Sylvia Borunda Firth
City Attorney

BETO O'ROURKE
16TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

1330 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4831

303 N. OREGON, SUITE 210
EL PASO, TX 79901
(915) 541-1400

orourke.house.gov

July 9, 2015

Representative Cortney Niland
City Council District 8
300 N. Campbell
El Paso, Texas 79901

Dear Representative Niland:

I write to you today in support of the City Council resolution to designate the segment of Loop 375 currently being constructed from one mile east of Park Street to Racetrack Drive to be named the "Ted Houghton Expressway."

Mr. Houghton has been critical to the expansion and improvement of El Paso's transportation infrastructure for more than a decade. As a Commissioner on the Texas Transportation Commission (the Commission), Mr. Houghton was responsible for overseeing statewide activities of the Texas Department of Transportation, which is the largest state transportation department in the nation. In addition to his numerous achievements in this capacity, Mr. Houghton has been a key leader for the El Paso community and its residents.

Mr. Houghton is a fourth generation El Pasoan. Upon graduating from Coronado High School, he pursued his studies at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Between his time at UTEP and joining the Commission in 2003, Mr. Houghton served in various professional and political capacities, including as a member of the El Paso Electric board of directors and the Public Service Board. He was also president of the Sun Bowl Association and a member of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Committee.

Mr. Houghton is the first and only El Pasoan to be appointed to the Texas Transportation Commission, and was selected as its Chairman in 2011. Throughout his time on the Commission, Mr. Houghton oversaw \$2 billion in funding for transportation projects in El Paso – a record amount. This funding included \$360 million for completion of Spur-601, and \$80 million for the widening of Transmountain Road. The completion of these projects, as well as the remainder of Loop 375, not only improved El Paso's aging infrastructure but literally paved the way for the \$5 billion expansion of Fort Bliss. Growth at Fort Bliss has led to a positive \$6 billion annual economic impact to the El Paso economy.

Mr. Houghton's advocacy and leadership have been critical to improving El Paso's standing in the State of Texas, and beyond. Mr. Houghton's appointment to the Commission led the way for other influential El Pasoans to attain state appointments, and his advocacy was central to Texas Tech opening the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine and the Gayle Grieve Hunt School of Nursing in El Paso. For these efforts he was named the 2011 El Pasoan of the Year by El Paso Inc.

In light of Mr. Houghton's remarkable contributions to our community and his unique role in ensuring that El Paso could build Loop 375, it is my sincere hope that you will name this important transportation asset in his honor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beto O'Rourke." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

Ted Houghton

Mr. Ted Houghton served as the Chairman and Director of Texas Transportation Commission from October 7, 2011 to March 18, 2015. Mr. Houghton has served on the commission since 2003, and is a staunch advocate of hiring private developers to build and manage highways and toll roads. He has previous experience on the School Land Board, El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board, El Paso Rapid Transit Board, El Paso Electric Co. board and as President of the Sun Bowl Association. Mr. Houghton also was a member of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Committee.

Experience:

- Chair, Transportation Commission, State of Texas, 2011-present
- Former Member, School Land Board, El Paso, Texas
- Former Member, Water Utilities Public Service Board, El Paso, Texas
- Commissioner, Transportation Commission, State of Texas, 2003-2011
- Appointed by Governor Perry, October 7, 2011

In the Media:

1. "One of El Paso's unsung heroes': Ted Houghton helps prep city for economic growth, prosperity", Chris Roberts, 7/18/2011 El Paso Times: http://www.elpasotimes.com/ci_18499277

Hundreds of millions of dollars in highway construction is providing a framework for unprecedented economic growth in El Paso, and a fourth-generation El Pasoan is getting much of the credit.

"Before Mr. (Ted) Houghton became a member of the Texas Transportation Commission, El Pasoans felt like we were never getting our fair share of state dollars. That goes back 15 years or longer," said Roy Gilyard, executive director of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization. "He has played a very, very valuable role in getting El Paso the kinds of transportation money it has needed."

During Houghton's term as commissioner, the city received about \$1 billion for its Comprehensive Mobility Plan, which includes numerous highway projects creating a loop around the city. Most of that money is allocated through the Texas Department of Transportation from federal and state sources. The commission oversees TxDOT, which has a \$9 billion budget this year.

Gilyard said Houghton's efforts as the first El Pasoan on the commission have helped the city go from "catch-up mode" to a state leader in transportation and mobility.

Highway funding for El Paso has increased "exponentially" since Houghton was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry in 2003, said city Rep. Steve Ortega. "In my opinion, Commissioner Houghton is one of El Paso's unsung heroes," he said. The Houghton clan is very familiar with the region's highways and byways. In the late 1800s, Houghton's great-grandfather built a home on Oxford Avenue in El Paso.

2. "Ted Houghton: 2011 El Pasoan of the Year", Robert Gray, 12/26/2011 El Paso Inc. http://www.elpasoinc.com/news/top_story/article_ae949a1c-2d91-11e1-b3aa-001a4bcf6878.html

El Paso has experienced a renaissance in transportation since Ted Houghton became the first El Pasoan to serve on the Texas Transportation Commission in 2003 and was named chair in October.

Houghton, 60, brought his love for El Paso to Austin, and it's hard to overstate or measure the dramatic change in El Paso's transportation fortunes since, with new infrastructure to support El Paso's unprecedented economic growth.

"He has been our only political appointee to the Texas Department of Transportation in our history, and that in itself is historical," local businessman Woody Hunt says. "It's one of those agencies that has a reputation for being extremely demanding."

You'll never hear it from Houghton, but friends and colleagues say his behind the scenes work was crucial in securing approval for Spur 601 several years ago - a \$360-million project that helped pave the way for the staggering \$5-billion expansion of Fort Bliss.

"That has been absolutely critical," says state Rep. Dee Margo. "His work at TxDOT has been phenomenal."

Houghton's work was also crucial in securing almost \$80 million to widen Transmountain Road in West El Paso, part of an overall plan to complete El Paso's outer loop.

"Ted has been the driving force in El Paso receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for new highway construction and improvements," says fellow businessman J. Robert Brown, who was one of many who nominated Houghton for El Pasoan of the Year.

The Far Eastside "spaghetti bowl" interchange is rising at the intersection of Interstate 10 and Loop 375, a new entrance to UTEP is under construction, and new lanes are being added to the Border Highway.

But those are not the only reasons why Houghton has been selected as El Paso Inc.'s El Pasoan of the Year for 2011.

Although heading one of the state's largest agencies and running his own business, Houghton Financial Partners, is demanding enough, Houghton's being recognized for what he has done above and beyond his role in transportation and business.

Getting things done

Friends and colleagues talk about Houghton like he's an iceberg - most of what he does happens below the surface. He's the man working behind the scenes who just gets things done, and transportation projects are the tip of the iceberg.

"One phone call and things happened; it was amazing. His importance cannot be overstated," says Rick Francis, chairman of local Bank of the West. Francis serves on the Texas Tech Board of Regents and played a key role in Tech's establishment of medical and nursing schools in El Paso.

He says Houghton also played a critical role in that effort to establish the med school.

"We believe the economic opportunity for this generation and the next generation, permanent jobs in this community, will be around the Texas Tech medical school and now the nursing school and now, hopefully, the dental school," Houghton says.

Houghton is quick to credit others, like the city and El Paso's state delegation, but his friends and colleagues say El Paso's growing influence in Austin has a lot to do with his involvement.

"If there is anything I have learned from serving is that people don't know about El Paso and its needs, and it takes somebody credible to articulate it," says state Rep. Margo.

The effort to improve El Paso's influence at the state level began quite deliberately about a decade ago, when a group of influential El Paso business people decided to change a long-time El Paso reality, insiders say. At the time, many felt that El Paso was not getting its fair share of state dollars.

"How communities get more dollars is they coalesce together," Houghton says, "they have a plan and they stick to the plan and they advocate for that plan."

Since that group of influential El Pasoans decided to change El Paso's fortunes, El Paso has become known as a state leader in transportation and several El Pasoans have been appointed to key boards and commissions.

Houghton was the first major appointment, and it's no coincidence that many more key appointments have followed, insiders say.

The list is long. Paul Foster is a UT System regent, Rick Francis is a Texas Tech regent, Harold Hahn is on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Robert Brown has been on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, Larry Patton and Cindy Lyons are on the Finance Commission of Texas, and Patrick Gordon is on the Rio Grande Compact Commission, which administers the Rio Grande Compact to ensure that Texas receives its equitable share of quality water.

"When you look at Dallas, Houston and Austin, they are closer together, so they have a better understanding of what is going on in each of the communities. But we are so far out there that we don't see that," Houghton says, "You get people on these boards and commissions and it makes a real difference."

Houghton's ability to get things done, friends and colleagues say, has a lot to do with his gift of bridging borders, whether it's giving a largely Democratic county a voice in a largely Republican state, or straddling the business and political worlds and making it look easy.

"As a native El Pasoan, Ted has seen the growth of our city and when given the opportunity has worked diligently to not only acquire the funding but to see the construction get underway," Brown says.

City Rep. Steve Ortega, who works with Houghton as a member of the Transportation Policy Board, says Houghton is somebody who gets things done.

"Ted Houghton has been a huge asset to our region. At the end of the day, it's not about titles, it's not about promises, it's not about visions, it's about delivering," he says.

Even democrats such as Ortega and El Paso County Judge Veronica Escobar, who come from a different political persuasion than Houghton, say he has the ability to work with people no matter their party affiliation.

Indeed, Escobar says Houghton meets regularly with a diverse group of El Paso movers and shakers.

And it was at one of those meetings, insiders say, that Houghton fielded the idea of using the franchise funds paid to the city every year to support the Medical Center of the Americas Foundation.

The idea caught on, and City Council voted in June to do just that, allocating 75 percent of the franchise funds to the MCA Foundation for the next 20 years. The first allocation is expected to total about \$3.3 million.

"City Council saw the incredible opportunity in that idea, and that money will help be an economic development catalyst," Escobar says. She works with Houghton as a member of the local Metropolitan Planning Organization.

"Ted is a great El Pasoan," Escobar says. "He is someone who is always thinking about our future, about how to make us competitive, about our assets and how to take full advantage of them, and, more importantly, about the families and people in the community. His work has been transformational. And despite the very high profile leadership position he has been given, he has always been El Paso-centric and humble - has always wanted to just ensure that El Paso gets the best it possibly can."

Family man

There another side of Houghton that is less known - that of a committed family man.

Houghton and his wife Hettie have five children. Three live in Houston, one in Dallas and one in College Station.

"Maybe I can get one or two of them back here. I would like to," Houghton says.

Pictures of his wife and sons cover the shelves in Houghton's office, along with a photo of Houghton running the Marine Corps Marathon with friend Rick Francis.

"He is a servant leader. He doesn't have a big ego, and he inspires us," Francis says. "You cannot overestimate the impact he has had on me."

Houghton is a fourth generation El Pasoan. His father - "a mentor of mine," Houghton says - was executive vice president of the original State National Bank and, before that, was president of Price's Creameries.

Houghton is not a big talker, although he doesn't shy away from telling it like he sees it. What he says is direct.

He spent high-school summers working on the family farm 90 miles north of Amarillo, and graduated from Coronado High School in 1970. He went on to earn a business degree from the University of Texas at El Paso.

About 15 years ago, Houghton started his business, Houghton Financial Partners, and got involved in politics as the campaign manager for Rick Francis's father Larry Francis, who served as El Paso mayor from 1993 to 1997.

Houghton served for eight years on the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board and on El Paso's Rapid Transit Board. He has served on the School Land Board, El Paso Electric's board of directors, as a past president of the Sun Bowl Association, and was even a member of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Committee.

"He has a vast understanding of the politics of our region and how the state machinery works," Francis says.

"He has a vast understanding of the politics of our region and how the state machinery works," Francis says.

He adds, "Infrastructure is what we're all starving for to advance our communities."

Houghton's term on the transportation commission ends in February 2015, although he can be reappointed at the pleasure of the governor.

3. "Perry names Ted Houghton chairman of Texas Transportation Commission" Michael A. Lindenberger, 10/7/2011, The Dallas Morning News, <http://transportationblog.dallasnews.com/2011/10/perry-names-ted-houghton-chair.html/>

Update: TxDOT just sent a statement from Houghton, who says: "I'd like to thank Governor Perry for his trust in me to continue TxDOT down a path of responsiveness, change and modernization. I look forward to leading the department as it becomes a better TxDOT, living up to the expectations of the Governor, the Legislature and our stakeholders."

“Texas is a national leader in infrastructure and transportation system development, and I intend to reaffirm our place among the best, strongest and most innovative states as TxDOT delivers the projects the Legislature, our local partners and Texas motorists expect.”

The new chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission is Ted Houghton of El Paso, according to a press release issued moments ago by Gov. Rick Perry.

Houghton has been on the commission since the chairmanship of Ric Williamson and, since 2008, Deirdre Delisi. (Update: He was appointed in 2003.)

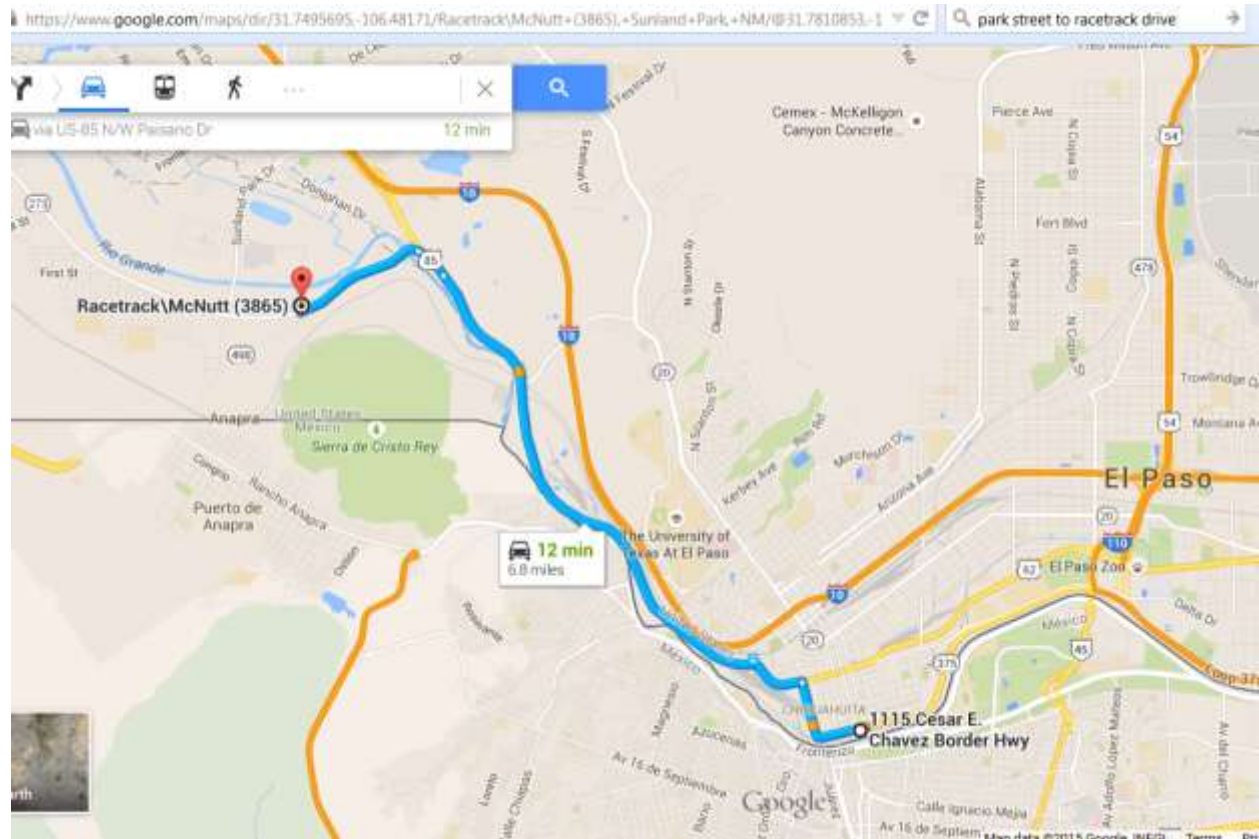
Unlike Delisi, a former Perry chief of staff who now works for his presidential campaign, and the outspoken Williamson, who was one of Perry’s best friends and a former Austin roommate, Houghton lacks the strong personal connection to the governor of his two predecessors.

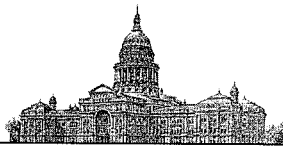
But Houghton brings a passionate — and articulate — defense of the pro-business and pro-privatization approach Perry has long championed. Houghton has been one of the fiercest advocates for an untrammelled pursuit by TxDOT of partnerships with private firms to finance and operate Texas toll roads.

He has, however, matched that ferocity with a willingness to reach out to competitors and adversaries, including the North Texas Tollway Authority.

It was Houghton who took the lead in mending fences with then-chairman Paul Wageman of the NTTA and worked with Victor Vandergriff and others on the NTTA board to craft the deal that became the unprecedented loan guarantees that have made NTTA’s financing of the SH 161 and Chisholm Trail Parkway possible.

Gov. Perry Names Houghton Chair of Texas Transportation Commission





TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

Joe Moody

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 78 • EL PASO COUNTY

July 13, 2015

Representative Cortney Niland
City Councilmember—District 8
300 N. Campbell | El Paso, TX 79901

Re: Ted Houghton Expressway

Dear Representative Niland:

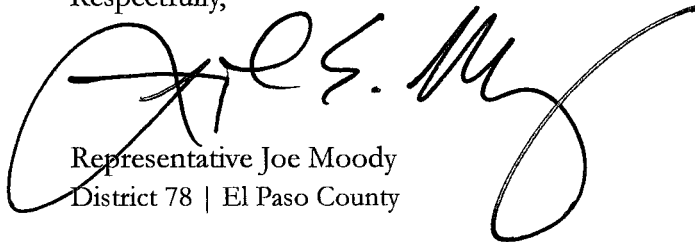
I am writing in support of the El Paso City Council resolution that would dedicate a segment of Loop 375 as the “Ted Houghton Expressway.”

I am sure you know that El Paso owes a great debt to Mr. Houghton for his work in transportation. As a member and eventually the chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission, he oversaw two billion dollars of projects in El Paso—Spur 601, Transmountain Road, and Loop 375 among them—which helped make the five billion dollar expansion of Fort Bliss possible. He was also very successful in promoting El Paso and El Pasoans statewide, and he played an integral role in bringing Texas Tech’s medical schools here. These developments have been a boon to our economy, statewide standing, and local opportunities.

Of course, that dedication is not surprising for a fourth generation El Pasoan who studied at the University of Texas at El Paso. We should all be proud of his success and loyal reinvestment in his hometown. I believe this resolution is a fitting tribute to that.

I hope that you will honor this proud El Pasoan by giving his name to part of the very expressway he was central in developing. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,



Representative Joe Moody
District 78 | El Paso County



VERONICA ESCOBAR

El Paso County Judge

July 13, 2015

The Honorable Cortney Niland
City Representative, District 8
300 N. Campbell
El Paso, TX 79901

Dear Representative Niland:

I write to communicate my support of your item before El Paso City Council to name the segment of the Loop 375 currently being constructed from one mile east of Park Street to Racetrack Drive to the "Ted Houghton Expressway."

It was always a pleasure working with Chairman Houghton during his tenure on the Texas Transportation Commission. He was extremely supportive of El Paso County's efforts to address our infrastructure gaps and led the charge in finding traditional and creative ways to address community needs. As an example, he helped El Paso County gain the ability to increase vehicle registration fees, and he ensured TxDOT matched our community's investment over five years, enabling us to add significantly to El Paso's transportation assets through the El Paso County Mobility Plan.

As we are all aware, Chairman Houghton secured nearly \$2 billion in funding for construction and maintenance projects in El Paso County to include: Spur 601, widening of Transmountain Road West El Paso, Far Eastside "spaghetti bowl" interchange rising at the intersection of Interstate 10 and Loop 375, constructing Spur 1966 between Shuster Ave. on the UTEP campus and Paisano Dr., Border West Expressway, the Trolley System and El Paso County's Mobility Plan. His work has changed the face of El Paso and made us more competitive as a result.

We have a naming policy that we strictly adhere to at the County. Our policy discourages the naming of public assets after individuals – unless, as happens in this case, the individual has made an extraordinary contribution. Without a doubt, Ted Houghton's leadership has been extraordinary. Without him, the aforementioned portion of Loop 375 as well as hundreds of millions of dollars of transportation projects would never have been a reality. For that, I enthusiastically support naming this important transportation asset in his honor.

I thank you again for recognizing Chairman Houghton's tremendous contributions to our community. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Veronica Escobar
El Paso County Judge

CC: Mr. Bob Bielek, El Paso District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation
The Honorable Beto O'Rourke, U.S. Congressman 16th District of Texas