Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

Please don’t leave commuters and residents of North Dallas, Mesquite, Garland and further east in limbo. We need you to move the I-635 East expansion project forward with managed toll lanes in 2018.

This long-awaited project becomes more expensive as the months tick off the calendar. As tax-payers, it debunks the double taxation argument because delays are costing tax payers more with nothing in return.

The 200,000 people who depend on I-635 East to get to work, school and daily activities want THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE free lanes or the toll lanes. This is the same freedom drivers have enjoyed west of US 75 on I-635 since 2015.

We support LBJNow, because we’re tired of the traffic bottleneck east of US 75. We’re tired of being stuck on I-635 East in both directions. We need your help to keep us moving.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

Your unexpected mid-December 2017 removal of the long-awaited I-635 East expansion project slated for early 2018 felt like the *Grinch Who Stole Christmas* to many North Texans who depend on I-635 for their daily commutes and transportation needs.

Our immediate ask is that you remedy this knee-jerk reaction from December and put all these plans back on the table – all of them. The I-635 East project with free *and* managed toll lanes, along with continuous frontage roads have been in the works for years and were approved by voters and elected officials in our communities.

Managed toll lanes are the commonsense approach to funding this project and produce a win-win for all drivers because it relieves congestion and creates safer roads. We want the Freedom to Choose.

We have been patiently awaiting this project and working locally to help spur it along. We’re confident this project will impact safety, economic development and future growth of our area. Doing nothing is not an option.

Thank you for moving this project forward and serving our great state.

Sincerely,

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

With more than 200,000 drivers per day, I-635E to I-30 is one of the most congested and dangerous thoroughfares in the region. From 2012-2014 there were 2,268 reported crashes, of which 14 were fatal, and 63 resulted in incapacitating injuries.

I know I speak for most parents of teen drivers when I say we are terrified when our children drive on I-635 East. As a family, we go out of our way to avoid that freeway, even though it’s less than 2 miles from our home and connects our teens to most of their sporting and after-school activities.

Ironically, we’ve been waiting on improvements and the I-635 East expansion long before our kids began driving with hopes it would be completed by now. It’s incredibly unfortunate that we’re unable to benefit from a freeway that’s in our backyard. In essence, this “free” benefit is not free because we barely get to use it in its current state.

The long-awaited I-635 East expansion with free and managed toll lanes would give drivers, businesses and families like ours, the real Freedom to Choose – the type of freedom Texans want and have come to expect.

Please don’t let politics compromise the safety of our kids and families in our communities.

We’d love to see construction begin now – LBJNOW.

Thank you,

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

As longtime residents in Dallas-Lake Highlands and supporters of LBJNOW, we are writing to express our complete disapproval of your removal of the LBJ East expansion in December. We are urging you to put this much-needed freeway project - with managed toll lanes - back on the table. This includes BOTH free and managed toll lanes giving all drivers the freedom to choose going both directions.

Since 2015, drivers have benefitted from safety improvements and options for mobility along the expansion of I-635 from I-35E to US 75. The successful LBJ TEXpress project was made possible when the State of Texas allowed a tolling component to help fund the project. Without this component, there is no funding for expansion, creating further delays on an already overdue project.

In its current state, the I-635 East “freeway” is not free. It’s a congested, dangerous - often unusable - roadway that “costs” drivers and businesses time and money. Using a managed toll lane is optional, but being trapped in gridlock is not.

Highway congestion is costly and dangerous. It’s bad for business. Drivers waste time and fuel. First responders are delayed. Flights are missed. Managed toll lanes reduce congestion and provide a sustainable source of highway revenue through the combination of free and managed toll lanes.

The tax dollars that have been wasted through legislative inaction, delays, and engineering rework would likely have already paid for the construction. Inflation costs alone are in the millions and counting daily.

Communities should be able to work with regional planners and leaders and advocate for transportation projects that work best for their area. We, along with our neighbors, who live and work east of US 75 and depend on I-635 ask that you advance the I-635 East project as it stood when it was approved in August 2017.

Thank you for your continued service to improving transportation safety in Texas.

Best regards,