

Trans-Texas Corridor route selection

SB 718 by Ogden (Gattis)

DIGEST: SB 718 would have required the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC), to the extent possible, to select a route segment for the Trans-Texas Corridor that lies on the Texas Highway Trunk System, which is a 10,500-mile statewide network of secondary highways identified for upgrades from two- and four-lane roads to four-lane divided highways. If the TTC determined that it could not select that route, it would have had to file with each member of the Legislature within 10 days a written report with the reasons for the determination.

**GOVERNOR'S
REASON FOR
VETO:**

“Senate Bill No. 718 requires the Texas Department of Transportation, to the extent possible, to select a route for a segment of the Trans Texas Corridor that lies on the Texas Trunk System. This will likely compromise the environmental process required by the National Environmental Policy Act which requires the state to ‘rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives ... so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits.’ This bill undermines the integrity of the environmental study process and could cause the Federal Highway Administration to conclude the state did not complete a valid alternatives analysis because the legislature dictated a preferred route by state statute.”

RESPONSE: Neither Sen. Steve Ogden, the bill’s author, nor Rep. Dan Gattis, the House sponsor, had a comment on the veto.

NOTES: SB 718 passed the House on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*.