

Do not transfer control of our public ROW to billboard companies!

SAY NO to House Bill 3741 by Terry Canales

Help us protect our trees! Trees not only enhance the beauty of our city, they provide improved air quality, health benefits, economic cost savings, storm water management, higher property values, crime reduction, and much needed shade. **With so many cities and states planting more trees, why would Texas consider removing them and turn over its public ROW to billboard companies?**

Current Law:

- ▶ Trees and vegetation on the public ROW are funded by the public. Any planting, trimming, or removal of vegetation is a TxDOT responsibility, performed on behalf of the public. Currently, TxDOT does NOT install greenery along the service road edge where a business is operating and our public ROW has trees and landscaping that add to the scenic value of our city.

What HB3741 Changes:

- ▶ Billboard owners operating adjacent to a public ROW will be able to remove existing publicly-owned trees and vegetation and TxDOT will lose control of the ROW. If HB3741 passes, it will mandate a program for private billboard companies to plant or replace existing vegetation and trees growing on the public ROW whenever they deem that it "affects" their property.

What Does that Mean for You:

- ▶ This Bill intends to legalize the clearing of publicly-owned trees off the TxDOT ROW for better visibility of advertising billboards. If this bill passes, control of our public ROW will be given to billboard companies operating for their own gain and wealth. This will negatively affect the scenic space of our great city. **Below are photos from Florida and North Carolina where control of the public ROW was given to billboard companies. Do we want this for Texas?**



Thank you for keeping our public spaces scenic and safe. **SAY NO to HB 3741.**