



TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

RON DAVIS
Commissioner, Pct. 1

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
County Judge

SARAH ECKHARDT
Commissioner, Pct. 2

KAREN HUBER
Commissioner, Pct. 3

MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
Commissioner, Pct. 4

September 7, 2010

The Honorable Deirdre Delisi, Chair
The Honorable Ned S. Holmes
The Honorable Ted Houghton
The Honorable William Meadows
The Honorable Fred Underwood
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11th St.
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Members of the Texas Transportation Commission:

House Bill 3139, enacted by the Legislature last session, authorizes toll project entities to offer free or discounted tolls to Disabled Veterans, Purple Heart recipients, or Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. Veterans or service-members who qualify for the discount program are those who have been determined by their U.S. armed forces branch as being either a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor or a Purple Heart recipient; this information is indicated/recorded on the discharge document (DD 214). The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determines the eligibility of all disabled veterans.

Because the state makes license plates honoring them available to those veterans, toll entities do not have to take on the administrative burden of determining who is eligible for the discount. And even though the bill's fiscal note found that the cost to toll entities of offering such discounts "would not be significant," the bill authorizes the Legislature to appropriate general revenue to make up any losses faced by a toll project entity.

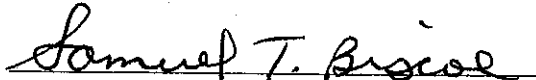
Travis County is blessed to have many veterans who qualify for this program, and their service to our country has earned them this modest gesture of respect. We urge the Texas Transportation Commission to take whatever steps are necessary to allow qualifying veterans free access to all the toll roads in Travis County.

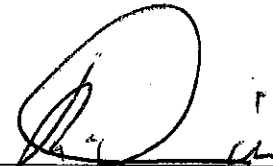
According to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, here are the numbers of currently registered military/veterans plates in Travis County:


Congressional Medal of Honor	0 plates
Purple Heart	634 plates
Disabled Veterans	2,506 plates


We hope you will give this important issue your prompt and favorable attention.

Sincerely,


SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE


RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1


SARAH ECKHARDT
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2


KAREN HUBER
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

absent
MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

Cc: The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas
The Honorable David Dewhurst, Lieutenant Governor of Texas
The Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives
Members of the Travis County Legislative Delegation:
The Honorable Jeff Wentworth
The Honorable Kirk Watson
The Honorable Elliott Naishtat
The Honorable Dawwna Dukes
The Honorable Eddie Rodriguez
The Honorable Donna Howard
The Honorable Valinda Bolton
The Honorable Frank Corte, Author, House Bill 3139, 81st Legislature
The Honorable Leticia Van de Putte, Senate Sponsor, House Bill 3139, 81st Legislature