

Sunset Advisory Committee – December 9, 2:00 PM

OPENING STATEMENT:

Congressman Carter, members of the Sunset Advisory Committee, and Special Guests.

My name is Dave Swarthout. I am a business owner in Salado and the incoming Chairman of the Salado Chamber of Commerce/Tourism Bureau.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to share with you the undue hardship the Historic Village of Salado has endured over the past 5 years.

A brief history as to why we are here today:

I-35 work began January 2012

May 2015 – Letter to Federal, State and local officials.

June 2015 – TxDot officials met in Salado. General Weber stated a new target date of completion for December 2015.

March 2016 – meeting with Gov. Abbott's staff in Austin.

And multiple other meetings with various TxDot officials, both in Austin and Salado.

I want to express a heartfelt thank you for the work that is now done. We have a beautiful new I-35, Salado Plaza underpass and frontage roads, with excellent exit ramps to the Village as completion nears. However the reputation of Salado as being a family friendly destination for tourists from all over Texas and beyond has been significantly damaged.

The damaged reputation is a result of a construction project that was mismanaged, poorly planned and without the necessary safety concerns in place. The project was financed through Proposition 12. (Proposition 12) Are, selected projects built using funds from bonds backed by general revenues of the State of Texas. These projects have been identified for **accelerated** development. Work began on January 4, 2012 and was to be completed April 1 2015.

The latest TxDot Project Tracker report dated 12/2/16.

Construction Cost/Estimate = \$69,902,150.00

Financial Information:

Project Engineering – Amount Paid to Date = \$12,683.537

Construction – Amount Paid to Date = \$129,886.293

Construction Engineering – Amount Paid to Date = \$18,383.210

TOTAL = \$160,958,041

ACCIDENT REPORT

Source: Salado Fire Department, Chief Berrier

1/1/2015 to 3/1/2016

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 113 |
| Vehicles Involved | 202 |
| No Transports | 230 |
| Injuries | 46 |
| Dead on Arrival | 3 |

Month of March on I-35 only

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 16 |
| 18 Wheelers involved | 11 |
| Vehicles involved | 25 |
| No Transports | 38 |
| Injuries Transported | 13 |

4/1/2016 to 11/30/2016

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 89 |
| Vehicles Involved | 130 |
| Not Transported | 175 |
| Transported to ER | 22 |

The total loss of revenue to the Village, the business owners and to the State of Texas is probably immeasurable. The resilience of this Historic Village is proven in its history. But with the reputation so badly damaged by newspaper articles reporting the number of accidents, even calling Salado “Smashalado”, the

inconvenience for tourist to get to Salado, it will take all the help from the State of Texas to undue this unwarranted and unnecessary economic hardship.

Thank you for your time today. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Dave