

State of Texas \*

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County of Comal \*

# *Proclamation*

## **Recognizing the successful partnership between Comal County and the Texas Department of Transportation and specifically applauding the contribution of San Antonio District Engineer Mario Jorge**

**WHEREAS**, Comal County has a long history of promoting and completing transportation improvements that serve the citizens of Comal County and the surrounding region, including in 1887 when the Comal County Commissioners Court funded the design and construction of the first high bridge over the Guadalupe River as a “toll free” bridge open to the public, which at the time was a testament to the County’s abundant resources and civic-mindedness as most bridges of this type were privately built and users were charged tolls; and

**WHEREAS**, Comal County has enjoyed a longstanding partnership with the State of Texas as demonstrated in 1917 when the newly established Texas Highway Department (THD) incorporated this bridge into the state highway system along Texas Highway No. 2, the predecessor to US 81 and IH 35, which served as a primary connection between Dallas/Austin to San Antonio until 1934; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1994 Comal County and the now named Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) partnered to fund the restoration of the Guadalupe River bridge, now known as the Faust Street Bridge, utilizing Statewide Transportation Enhancement program funds, resulting in a pedestrian/bicycle facility; and

**WHEREAS**, together the Comal County Commissioners Court and TxDOT worked to build arguably one of the best Farm to Market Road networks of any County in the State, and in more recent years the County has partnered financially with TxDOT to accomplish numerous projects such as improving FM 306 between IH 35 and River Chase Boulevard, improving SH 46 between Loop 337 and Range Road, improving US 281 between the Guadalupe River and the Blanco County line, as well as numerous other projects; and

**WHEREAS**, Comal County is part of the TxDOT San Antonio District, which has been directed by very capable leaders, none more so than the current District Engineer Mario Jorge, P.E., under whose skilled leadership Comal County has seen the successful planning and/or completion of such projects as the improvement of Loop 337 from Hillcrest Drive to IH 35, the improvement of FM 2252 from Evans Road to FM 3009, the improvement of many segments of IH 35, the Loop 337 overpass at River Road, and none more valued than the guidance and wisdom of Mr. Jorge as Comal County joined the membership of the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO); and

**WHEREAS**, under Mr. Jorge’s unparalleled leadership the San Antonio District has let \$3.6 billion to transportation projects with 124 projects currently under construction with a value of \$2.1 billion, and plans are underway to let over \$3 billion more in the next two years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Jorge has announced his retirement effective December 2020 and although the Comal County Commissioners Court will truly miss his friendship and leadership, we wish him the best in his retirement and express our deep appreciation for his faithful service, his unmatched expertise, his unquestioned integrity, and his public service, from which Comal County and the State of Texas have benefitted enormously.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT**, the Commissioners Court of Comal County, Texas, duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of Comal County, does hereby recognize the partnership between Comal County and the Texas Department of Transportation, the achievements gained from that partnership, and specifically applauds the contributions of San Antonio District Engineer Mario Jorge; and

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED THAT**, a copy of this proclamation shall be forwarded to members of the Texas Transportation Commission and its Executive Director for their review, consideration, and action as they deem appropriate.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this the 22nd day of December, 2020.



**Sherman Krause, County Judge**



**Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct. 1**



**Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct. 2**



**Kevin Webb, Commissioner Pct. 3**



**Jen Crownover, Commissioner Pct. 4**



**Attest:**



**Bobbie Koepf, County Clerk**