

RESOLUTION NO. 14  
TO VOICE OPPOSITION TO BILLS DIRECTED AT  
HAVING COUNTY HIGHWAY FUNDS  
SHARED WITH CITY STREET DEPARTMENTS

WHEREAS, public roads of this state are open to all persons. No distinction in use is based on city or county residency.

WHEREAS, counties maintain approximately 66% of the public road mileage in Tennessee. Cities maintain approximately 16%. The Tennessee General Assembly has shared state gasoline taxes with cities and counties. Estimates for 1989-90 show counties will get \$2,593 per mile of road maintained while cities will get \$4,694 per mile of road maintained. Further, counties maintain 10,032 bridges in Tennessee. Cities maintain 1,046. Cities have 115 on the Tennessee Department of Transportation's list as unsafe for loads of more than 15 tons. Counties have 2,203 bridges on this list.

WHEREAS, statewide only approximately 3-5% of the county property taxes are going into county highway departments. City residents have representation on the local legislative bodies levying these taxes. City residents benefit from the use of the roads that this revenue maintains.

WHEREAS, piecemeal efforts to change one aspect of a taxing scheme are inappropriate. Tax reform should be accomplished with a more comprehensive study and proposal, including consideration of ability to raise revenue and need. Such a study should show that county highway departments need the revenues they are currently receiving and that counties are already having difficulty raising property taxes sufficient to meet the needs of the county, especially the education needs that take precedence over county highway needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Weakley County Legislative Body meeting in regular session on this 16th day of January, 1990, that:

1. This County Legislative Body is in opposition to any proposal to authorize use of or redirect county highway funds for use on city streets. Counties need the revenues they are receiving for the vastly greater number of miles of roads and bridges that the counties are maintaining.

2. The members of the General Assembly, particularly those members representing Weakley County, and the Governor of the State of Tennessee are hereby urged to oppose any such legislation.

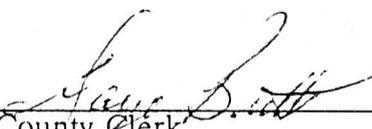
3. If legislation designed to divert county highway funds to city streets passes, we urge that Weakley County be exempted from its provisions.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage, the public welfare requiring it. The county clerk of Weakley County is requested to immediately transmit a copy of this resolution to members of the Tennessee General Assembly representing Weakley County and to the Honorable Ned Ray McWherter, Governor of the State of Tennessee.

APPROVED:

  
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County Executive

ATTEST:

  
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County Clerk