

Mr. PICKLE. I do appreciate the opportunity to appear before your committee.

What I wish to submit to the committee this morning is a proposal for an alternative route of the Interstate 10 road that will go through Austin, Tex.

You will notice in the map over here it runs currently now from Houston to San Antonio and out to El Paso.

The route I am proposing which would constitute some 200 miles or a little less would go from Houston to Austin and then on out to a point near a junction of the western part of the State.

The division point would be where the red and the black lines meet. That is at the point called Columbus, Tex.

The route proposed, shown in red, the alternate route, would be in effect about 20 to 25 miles less than the present route which is the present Interstate 10 system.

The road would run from a line roughly from Columbus through the towns of La Grange, Smithville, Austin, Dripping Spring, Johnson City, and tie in back to a place called Junction. This would be a spur or a loop.

What I would like to submit to the committee now is some information about Austin and why we think this should be seriously considered by the committee.

The adequate road service of yesterday is simply not good enough for today and the surge of the economic growth of the area demands new service.

Each of you will find in the little kit I have distributed a copy of my statement analyzing seven of the economic indicators which are often used to measure a city's economic growth.

I think you will look at them and see that they demonstrate dramatic progress.

The significant economic indicator of effective buying income in central Texas has increased more than 50 percent in the period from 1952 to 1966, while in the United States generally the increase was only 16 percent.

The University of Texas continues to grow. The university itself has had a 25-percent increase in both its enrollment and employment in the last 5 years and the combined total now reaches over 39,000.

The university registrar estimates that our enrollment at the college itself is 29,841 and will grow to some 35,000 in 1975.

The State government is based in Austin. It continues to grow and expand. Already it has a building complex covering a large area and there is a very definite need to connect Houston and El Paso with the seat of government which is in Austin.

It is only natural that the traffic would flow from Houston to Austin and thence to El Paso.

We have a great deal of increase in commercial enterprises and you will see listed many prominent firms that are now locating in Austin with large enrollment.

There is a great deal of Federal activity there in the city of Austin. You have the Internal Revenue Service center for the Southwest, the regional office of the OEO, the Economic Development Administration, and now the Veterans' Administration has an automatic data processing center.