

Agenda Item No.

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Vice Chancellor and Dean of Engineering
November 2, 2016

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Adoption of a Resolution Honoring Dennis L. Christiansen, Ph.D., P.E., for His Outstanding Dedication and Service as Agency Director of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute

I respectfully request the Board of Regents' approval of the following resolution honoring Dr. Dennis L. Christiansen for his service to the Texas A&M Transportation Institute and The Texas A&M University System.

“WHEREAS, Dennis Christiansen has faithfully served The Texas A&M University System for 45 years – from 1971 through 2016 – most recently as the fifth Agency Director of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), which is widely known as the largest and finest higher education-affiliated transportation research center in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christiansen received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Northwestern University and master's and Ph.D. degrees in civil engineering from Texas A&M University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christiansen began his TTI career as a Research Assistant in 1971, while a master's degree student, and received increased leadership responsibilities throughout the years, serving as an Engineering Research Associate, Assistant Research Engineer, Program Manager, Associate Research Engineer, Research Engineer, Division Head, Associate Agency Director, Agency Deputy Director and Agency Director since 2006; and

WHEREAS, with his extensive research experience in traffic operations, transportation planning, and transit planning, Dr. Christiansen became an international expert in high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, pioneering the HOV lane concept in Houston; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christiansen served as a Visiting Associate Professor on the civil engineering faculty at Texas A&M University where he developed and taught a graduate civil engineering course in public transportation planning, operation and management, and was the author of numerous books, reports and publications about various facets of transportation and traffic engineering; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as TTI's Agency Director, from 2006 to 2016, the Institute's annual research expenditures grew more than 60 percent – from \$38 million to \$61 million – and the Institute's total operating budget grew from \$44.5 million to \$67.8 million; and

WHEREAS, during the same time period, TTI's intellectual property portfolio has generated more than \$76 million in gross royalties, and TTI researchers have received 62 U.S. patents to date; and

Agenda Item No.
November 2, 2016

WHEREAS, during his leadership, TTI's research facilities and laboratories across the state of Texas expanded from 216,000 square feet in 2006 to more than 324,000 square feet in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christiansen has overseen the development and expansion of current TTI facilities, including the TTI State Headquarters and Research Building Environmental and Emissions Facility, the Sediment and Erosion Control Laboratory, and the Visibility Research Laboratory, in addition to expanding current agency urban offices in Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston and San Antonio, and opening new urban offices in Waco, Washington, D.C. and Mexico City; and

WHEREAS, his visionary leadership and commitment to TTI's future led to TTI's partnership with the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station in the joint Center for Infrastructure Renewal and the development of TTI's new State Headquarters, both in development at The A&M University System's RELLIS Campus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christiansen has championed research diversification and partnerships and overseen the creation of innovative new research programs and products during his time as Agency Director, including initiatives in physical and perimeter security, transportation finance and policy, transportation safety and mobility, environmental and air quality, connected and automated transportation, and the Freight Shuttle System; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Agency Director, Dr. Christiansen implemented a successful professional staff development program for TTI staff to build not only technical competency, but also managerial and leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, in honor of his research and leadership accomplishments and service to The Texas A&M University System, Dr. Christiansen received the Regents Fellow Service Award from The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents in 2004; and

WHEREAS, his accomplishments have been recognized nationally with numerous awards for his leadership in higher education in the field of transportation, including honorary membership in the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), the ITE Theodore M. Matson Award, the Transportation Research Board's Fred Burgraff Award, and the S. S. Steinberg Award from the American Road and Transportation Builders Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christiansen's many accomplishments have been recognized by his peers, including elected membership as president of the International Institute of Transportation Engineers, the Council of University Transportation Centers, the Research and Education Division of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, and the ITS America Board; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christiansen has dedicated 45 years – his entire professional life – toward advancing the national and international reputation of TTI and The Texas A&M University System, where he is well-respected among his peers; now, therefore, be it

Agenda Item No.
November 2, 2016

RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, gratefully acknowledge the dedication and service of Dr. Christiansen to TTI and The Texas A&M University System and, be it, further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be included in the minutes, and copies thereof be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, and be presented to Dr. Christiansen and to the Archives of Texas A&M Transportation Institute as an expression of appreciation and respect for Dr. Dennis L. Christiansen.

ADOPTED, this 10th day of November 2016.”

Respectfully submitted,

M. Katherine Banks
Vice Chancellor and Dean of Engineering
Director, Texas A&M Engineering
Experiment Station

Approval Recommended:

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

John Sharp
Chancellor

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Billy Hamilton
Executive Vice Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer