

One of KBH's favorite red herrings ...

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... is the specter of "foreign money" -- as in the Spanish company Cintra, which was in the hunt for the Trans-Texas Corridor project and the SH 121 project in Collin and Denton counties.

Kay Bailey Hutchison's new anti-[Rick Perry, anti-TTC television spot](#) uses all the buzzwords like "land grab," roads that are "already paid for," and allowing "a foreign company" to collect tolls from us.

Does this mean that, were she elected governor, foreign capital would be unwelcome to do business building Texas toll roads?

She better be careful in defining terms. [Two massive highway rebuilding projects](#) are going forward in North Texas with those nasty Spaniards as partners. [It's hard to see how these projects would happen aside from private capital](#), given the funding picture in Texas. And the private companies interested in this stuff are from abroad.

Would Hutchison have tried to block these projects, since they involve foreign money, rebuilding roads that are now free, and adding toll lanes? (I'll send that question over to her campaign.)

Hutchison has been beating her anti-foreigner, nativist drum for months, since [her campaign coming-out party on Aug. 17](#). Her highway mantra then was:

It is time to return to our tradition of free, quality highways and roads.

Actually, that's only kind of what she meant. [Last week she made clear that public-private partnerships would be OK](#) for building toll roads, but she suggested that, under Perry, they are running rampant and need to be reined in.

Actually, there are only three. And I have no doubt that [many local drivers would invite more](#), if that could help them get to work or home in a reasonable time.

<http://transportationblog.dallasnews.com/archives/2010/01/one-of-kbhs-favorite-red-herri.html>