

## KEY BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE 82<sup>ND</sup> LEGISLATURE

Presented below are summaries of bills introduced in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature that address H-GAC legislative issues.

### Regional Planning Issues

**HB 664 (Larson)—Metropolitan Planning Organizations:** would provide that, to be eligible to be a voting member of a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) policy board, a member must be an elected official. *Committee substitute sent to Local and Consent Calendar. As substituted the bill applies only to the San Antonio area MPO.*

**SB 336 (Gallegos)—Regional Planning Commissions:** would require that Harris County withdraw from H-GAC by November 1, 2011. Harris County would be authorized to form a regional planning commission with cities located wholly or partly in Harris County, but not with any other County. *Still in committee - Intergovernmental Affairs.*

### County Development Authority

**SB 136 (Wentworth)—County Development Authority:** would: (1) grant counties additional authority over transportation planning through the subdivision process; and (2) in a subdivision that is not served by fire hydrants as part of a centralized water system certified by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as meeting minimum standards for water utility service, allow a commissioners court to require a developer to construct a limited fire suppression system for certain subdivisions. *Still in committee - Intergovernmental Affairs.*

### Transportation and Transportation Funding

**H 1 (Pitts) / SB 1 (Ogden) – General Appropriations:** would: 1) appropriate money for the support of the Judicial, Executive, and Legislative Branches of the State government, for the construction of State buildings, and for State aid to public junior colleges; 2) authorize and prescribe conditions, limitations, rules, and procedures for allocating and expending the appropriated funds; and 3) establish conditions, rules, limitations, and procedures of declaring an emergency. *HB 1 – Passed Senate, Sent to Governor / SB 1 – Scheduled for public hearing*

**SB 102 (Davis) – Texas Emission Reduction Program (TERP):** would: 1) add and fund monitoring requirements to be conducted by the TCEQ; and 2) set aside 5% of funding for a clean fleet program. *Still on committee - Natural Resources Committee*

**HB 1145 (Geren) – Projects Funded Through TERP:** would allow for air monitors to be funded through the Texas Emission Reduction Program (\$7 million in 2012, and \$3 million in 2013). *Tabled*

**HB 630 (Pickett)—Environmental Review:** would permit TxDOT, counties and regional mobility and toll authorities to enter into funding agreements with state and federal agencies to

expedite transportation project environmental review. As substituted the bill makes clear that it does not affect public rights to review and comment on transportation projects. *Passed House as substituted and considered in Senate Homeland Security and Transportation.*

**SB 135 (Wentworth)—Transportation Funding:** would provide that: (1) the state highway fund may no longer be used to finance the Texas Department of Public Safety; and (2) money in the state highway fund or loans from the state infrastructure bank may be used only to improve the state highway system. *Still in committee – Finance; HB 1131 by Larson is identical.*

**H.B. 1131 (Larson)—Transportation Funding:** would provide that: money that is required to be used for public roadways by the Texas Constitution or federal law and that is deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the state highway fund be used only: (a) to improve the state highway system; or (b) to mitigate adverse environmental effects that result directly from construction or maintenance of a state highway. *Committee report sent to Calendars.*

**SB 1420 (Hegar)—TxDOT Sunset:** would continue the Texas Department of Transportation. As substituted the bill makes no change to current Texas Transportation Commission comprised of five commissioners. The bill requires TxDOT to develop a long range plan in consultation with metropolitan planning organizations, improve progress and expenditure reporting and allocate certain funds by district or MPO. *Passed the House with numerous amendments. The amendments include providing TxDOT with authority to enter into Comprehensive Development Agreements for a number of projects around the state. Senate did not concur in House bill and has appointed conferees.*

**SB 1719 (Williams)—Grand Parkway:** would require that TxDOT fulfill all other obligations, including any agreements related to terms and conditions, for developing the Grand Parkway. *Passed the Senate and House Transportation and sent to House Local and Consent Calendar.*

**SB 1007 (Williams)—Comprehensive Development Agreements:** would permit TxDOT to enter into a comprehensive development agreement for the Grand Parkway. *Passed Senate and referred to House Transportation*