

Update on the Texas 2030 Committee Findings

Background

In 2008, the Texas Department of Transportation enlisted the assistance of several Texas business leaders and transportation experts to conduct a long-term mobility needs assessment for the state. The committee of business leaders and transportation experts is called the 2030 Committee. The Needs Study performed by the Texas 2030 Committee found a need for \$315 billion of funding for preserving bridge and roadway pavement infrastructure and rural and urban mobility and connectivity projects. The Advisory Committee of 12 business and community leaders and transportation experts recommended a level of investment that targets economic competitiveness for Texas urban and rural regions. The analysis indicates a “pay me now or pay me later” relationship between transportation spending and congestion and preservation needs. In short, the study results suggest that the residents of Texas can either pay now to improve transportation systems or suffer the higher costs of fuel, congestion and delayed shipments later.

Current Status

The urban mobility investment in Houston indicates a need that is 65 percent larger than the current funding trend between now and 2030 to meet the goal of a congestion level better than the median of other large metropolitan regions. Even though the funding needs are large, congestion will actually increase under this investment scenario from 38 hours of annual delay per commuter today to 60 hours in 2030. The set of strategies that might be used will be determined in the region over the next two decades, but the benefits of implementation will exceed the costs by a factor of 8:1.

The 2030 Needs Study will be presented to the Texas Legislature on or before the 2009 session begins. The results of the 2030 Needs Study will undoubtedly be a hot topic of discussion as the Legislature debates and formulates policies and strategies to maintain and improve mobility, quality of life, economic competitiveness, air quality, and safety throughout the state.

Action Requested

For information only.