

81st Texas State Legislative Session

Background

The Texas State Legislature will convene for the 81st Regular Session on January 13, 2009. Transportation is high on the list of the legislature's concerns. It will deal with funding, project development, the Sunset Commission's report on the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and other related matters. In terms of funding, the legislature will be looking at options for providing additional revenue to TxDOT to fund a backlog of mobility projects. There have been calls from around the state to end the diversion of motor fuels tax revenues to other purposes, to index the state motor fuels tax for inflation, and to allow local or regional governments additional taxing authority for transportation. The Dallas-Fort Worth region will be pursuing legislative authority to initiate a local option tax to fund transportation initiatives.

Current Status

A number of bills have been filed prior to commencement of the state legislative session. Throughout the session, staff will be monitoring the progress of these bills and others that relate to transportation projects and policies. Staff will provide regular updates to the Technical Advisory Committee and the Transportation Policy Council throughout the session.

Action Requested

For information only.