

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Background

Texas Legislative Special Session

Resulted in the passage of a sunset bill that extends TxDOT for two years;
Resulted in the authorization to issue \$2 billion worth of bonds with limitations prohibiting using the funds to convert non-tolled lanes to tolled;

Transportation significant vetoes from the 81st Session

Governor Perry vetoed SB 488, commonly known as the “safe passage of vulnerable road users bill,” saying that “this bill contradicts much of the current statute and places the liability and responsibility on the operator of a motor vehicle when encountering one of these vulnerable road users.”

Governor Perry vetoed SB 2169, a bill which would have created a smart growth policy working group to develop smart growth policy for Texas. The Governor indicated that “[t]his legislation would promote a one-size-fits-all approach to land use and planning that would not work across a state as large and diverse as Texas.”

Notable Federal Legislation

HR 2454, The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, was passed by the House of Representatives on June 26. It contains several provisions that affect transportation planning, including:

Requiring greenhouse gas reduction targets and strategies be included in transportation planning after national targets have been established by the EPA and DOT.

MPOs must “develop, submit, [and] publish” emission reduction targets and strategies;

Current Situation

The Texas Legislature appears to be adjourned for the foreseeable future.

Federal transportation related legislation will continue through the process with an undetermined deadline for passage.

Action Required

For information only