

Texas Department of Transportation

news

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TxDOT's five goals: reduce congestion • enhance safety • expand economic opportunity
• improve air quality • increase the value of transportation assets.

October 30, 2008

Transportation Commission Accelerates Projects with Bond Funds

DALLAS - In a unanimous vote today, the Texas Transportation Commission approved more than \$1.8 billion in spending on new construction projects across the state using funds from bonds funded under Proposition 14. The debt will support development and construction projects through 2011.

Today's action by the Transportation Commission follows a special meeting in August held in response to a letter received by Commission Chair Deirdre Delisi, in which Governor Rick Perry, Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst and Speaker Tom Craddick urged the commission to exercise their ability to issue the bonds.

"TxDOT can now get needed transportation projects back on track," said Delisi. "I instructed TxDOT staff to identify projects across the state that are ready to start work and make use of these additional funds. Today, we endorsed a plan that will use bond funds to Keep Texas Moving for years to come."

With today's action, the Commission approved funding for projects identified by local leaders as their top transportation priorities. Included in the list of projects accelerated by the Commission are the last of the transportation projects that had been delayed by TxDOT's limited cash flow for Fiscal Year 2008.

In addition to encouraging the sale of bonds in their letter, the state's leaders identified measures they would address during the 81st Legislative Session in 2009 to address long-term transportation funding. One of the proposals would appropriate money from the state's General Fund for the Proposition 12 bonds approved by Texas voters in 2007.

Texas voters approved Proposition 14 highway bonding authority in 2003. To date, TxDOT has issued \$3.1 billion in Proposition 14 bonds. The Proposition 14 bond program authorizes the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to borrow money on a short-term basis to improve cash flow and cash management and to issue general obligation bonds secured by the State Highway Fund to accelerate transportation projects. The bonds are repaid with money from State Highway Fund including motor fuels taxes and vehicle registration fees. Issuance of the bonds must be approved by the state Bond Review Board, which will meet later today.

The Texas Department of Transportation

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining nearly 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 15,000 employees strive to empower local leaders to solve local transportation problems, and to use new financial tools, including tolling and public-private partnerships, to reduce congestion and pave the way for future economic growth while enhancing safety, improving air quality and increasing the value of the state's transportation assets. Find out more at www.txdot.gov.

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For more information, call TxDOT's Government & Public Affairs Division at (512) 463-8588

ADVANCED MOBILITY PROJECTS IN FY 2009

District	County	Contract CSJ	Hwy No	Limits From	Limits To	Description	Est Const Cost	Consultant Need	ROW Need
BEAUMONT	LIBERTY	0389-01-036	SH 146	US 90 IN DAYTON	0.2 MI S OF FM 1413	WIDEN ROADWAY FROM 2 LANES TO 4 LANES	\$ 14,504,139		\$ 200,000
HOUSTON	BRAZORIA	1524-01-041	SH 332	0.277 MI N OF THIS WAY STREET	0.196 MI S OF THIS WAY STREET	CONSTRUCT GRADE SEPARATION AND 2 2-LANE FRONTAGE ROADS	\$ 13,626,000	\$ 260,000	
LAREDO	MAVERICK	0299-14-006	SL 480	0.556 MI NORTH OF FM 1021	0.417 MI SOUTH OF US 277	EAGLE PASS INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE ROADWAY AND CONSTRUCT A 2 LANE UNDIVIDED FACILITY	\$ 14,323,503	\$ 367,000	\$ 1,000,000
LAREDO	MAVERICK	0299-14-007	SL 480	0.492 MI NORTH OF US 277	0.320 MI SOUTH OF US 57	FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 2 LANE UNDIVIDED FACILITY	\$ 10,728,925	\$ 367,000	\$ 500,000
LAREDO	MAVERICK	0299-14-015	SL 480	0.417 MI SOUTH OF US 277	0.492 MI NORTH OF US 277	FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERCHANGE	\$ 16,579,170	\$ 367,000	\$ 100,000
ODESSA	MIDLAND	0005-15-062	IH 20	EAST BI 20-E	WEST 2 MI.	AN INTERCHANGE FACILITY (LP 250/CR 1130)	\$ 24,826,572	\$ -	\$ 974,000
ODESSA	MIDLAND	1188-02-057	LP 250	CR 1135	0.1 MI S OF BI 20-E	AN INTERCHANGE FACILITY(LP 250 /BI 20-E)	\$ 14,672,235	\$ -	\$ 189,000
PHARR	HIDALGO	1804-01-057	SP 115	FM 1016	SP 241 @SP 115 IN HIDALGO	WIDEN TO 6 LANE DIVIDED	\$ 14,150,000		
PHARR	ZAPATA	0038-04-048	US 83	950' S. OF TEPOZAN CR/US 83 INT	JUST S OF MONTERREY LANE	WIDEN FROM 2 LANE RURAL TO 4 LANE DIVIDED	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -
PHARR	ZAPATA	0038-03-025	US 83	3.75 MI S OF FM 3169	0.975 MI S OF FM 3169	WIDEN FROM 2 LANE RURAL TO 4 LANE DIVIDED	\$ 14,320,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 3,000,000
SAN ANGELO	TOM GREEN	0264-07-028	SL 306	2.929 MILES NORTH OF US 87	5.177 MI NORTH OF US 87	CONSTRUCT MAIN LANES & INTERCHANGE AND REPLACE BRIDGE	\$ 20,000,000		
SAN ANTONIO	COMAL	3107-01-029	FM 3009	COMAL/GUADALUPE CO LINE	0.2 MI N OF FM 2252	EXPAND FROM 2 LANES TO 4 LAND DIVIDED WITH RAISED MEDIAN	\$ 6,500,000		
TYLER	SMITH	3487-02-007	LP 49	0.294 MI W OF FM 756, NE	0.266 MI W OF SH 110	CONSTRUCT 2 LNS CONTROLLED ACCESS TOLL ROAD ON NEW LOCATION (ULTIMATE 4-LANE FACILITY) (TOLL)	\$ 20,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000
TYLER	ANDERSON	0520-09-031	LP 256	US 79 IN PALESTINE, SE & S	US 84	RECONSTRUCT AS 4-LANE DIVIDED RURAL WITH FLUSH MEDIAN	\$ 9,850,000		
WACO	MC LENNAN	0162-01-056	SH 31	SH 31 & US 84 WYE	HILL C/L	WIDEN FROM TWO LANE TO FOUR LANE DIVIDED	\$ 39,000,000	\$ 311,148	\$ 872,796
WACO	HILL	0162-02-024	SH 31	MCLENNAN CO LN	CR 3344	WIDEN FROM TWO LANE TO FOUR LANE DIVIDED	\$ 36,000,000	\$ 287,214	\$ 1,078,987
FY 2009 Subtotals							\$ 281,580,544	\$ 2,009,362	\$ 9,414,783

ADVANCED MOBILITY PROJECTS IN FY 2010

District	County	Contract CSJ	Hwy No	Limits From	Limits To	Description	Est Const Cost	Consultant Need	ROW Need
AUSTIN	WILLIAMSON	0440-01-035	SH 195	SH 138	3.4 MI S OF SH 138	WIDEN TO FOUR LANE DIVIDED HIGHWAY	\$ 36,800,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 4,500,000
AUSTIN	WILLIAMSON	0836-01-009	SH 195	0.805 MI S OF BELL CO LN	SH 138	WIDEN TO FOUR LANE DIVIDED HIGHWAY	\$ 28,000,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 3,500,000
HOUSTON	MONTGOMERY	0177-05-092	US 59	LIBERTY COUNTY LINE	1.0 MI S OF FM 2090	WIDEN TO 6 MAIN LANES, GRADE SEPARATIONS AND RECONSTRUCT SB FR AND SECTIONS OF NB FR	\$ 43,045,000	\$ 270,000	
LAREDO	WEBB	0086-01-052	US 83	0.02 MI WEST OF MONTERREY ST	0.02 MI WEST OF CEDAR ST	CONSTRUCT RAILROAD GRADE SEPARATION STR AND APPROACHES	\$ 18,500,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,800,000
LAREDO	MAVERICK	0299-14-014	SL 480	0.542 MI SOUTH OF FM 1021	0.566 MI NORTH OF FM 1021	FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERCHANGE	\$ 16,981,569	\$ 400,000	\$ 1,300,000
LAREDO	WEBB	0086-14-025	LP 20	0.4 MI SOUTH OF SH 359/LP 20 INT	0.9 MI NORTH OF SH 359/LP 20 INT	FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERCHANGE FACILITY	\$ 28,000,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 7,000,000
LAREDO	MAVERICK	0299-14-013	SL 480	EAGLE PASS INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE II	0.542 MI SOUTH OF FM 1021	FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 2 LANE UNDIVIDED FACILITY	\$ 25,549,294	\$ 400,000	\$ 5,500,000
FY 2010 Subtotals							\$ 196,875,864	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 23,600,000

ADVANCED MOBILITY PROJECTS IN 2011

District	County	Contract CSJ	Hwy No	Limits From	Limits To	Description	Est Const Cost	Consultant Need	ROW Need
AUSTIN	WILLIAMSON	0440-01-039	SH 195	5.254 MI S OF SH 138	8.105 MI S OF SH 138	WIDEN TO FOUR LANE DIVIDED HIGHWAY	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 8,200,000
AUSTIN	WILLIAMSON	0440-02-010	SH 195	8.105 MI S OF SH 138	IH 35	WIDEN TO FOUR LANE DIVIDED HIGHWAY	\$ 45,000,000	\$ 850,000	\$ 14,000,000
HOUSTON	HARRIS	0178-01-026	SH 35	0.108 MI N OF BRAZORIA C/L AT BW8	BRAZORIA C/L	WIDEN TO 6-LANE DIVIDED CURB & GUTTER	\$ 802,000	\$ 164,654	\$ -
HOUSTON	BRAZORIA	0178-02-055	SH 35	HARRIS COUNTY LINE	FM 518	WIDEN TO 6-LANE DIVIDED WITH CURB AND GUTTER	\$ 29,950,000	\$ 408,620	\$ 4,000,000

FY 2011 Subtotals

\$ 95,762,000 \$ 2,173,274 \$ 26,200,000

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL MOBILITY PROJECTS

District	County	Contract CSJ	Hwy No	Limits From	Limits To	Description	Est Const Cost	Consultant Needs	ROW Needs
AUSTIN	TRAVIS	0113-13-106	US 290	@ IH 35		CONSTRUCT NEW DIRECT CONNECTORS	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	
BEAUMONT	LIBERTY	0389-01-041	SH 146	0.2 MI S OF FM 1413	CHAMBERS CO LINE	WIDEN ROADWAY FROM 2 TO 4 LANES	\$ 11,032,570	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,500,000
BRYAN	ROBERTSON	0049-06-060	SH 6	FM 1644 IN CALVERT	1.2 MI N OF MUD CREEK	WIDEN TO 4 LN DIVIDED HWY	\$ 6,700,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,615,148
BRYAN	ROBERTSON	0049-07-046	SH 6	1.2 MI N OF MUD CREEK	US 79 & SH 6 I/C N OF HEARNE	WIDEN TO 4 LN DIVIDED HWY	\$ 25,900,000	\$ -	\$ -
EL PASO	EL PASO	2552-04-029	LP 375	US 54 (PATRIOT FWY)	ZARAGOZA RD	ADD TWO INSIDE TRAVEL LANES	\$ 74,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FORT WORTH	WISE	0134-08-030	US 360	BU 360-F	DENTON CO LINE	RECONSTRUCT 2 LANES TO 4 LANES DIVIDED RURAL	\$ 50,697,879	\$ 214,000	\$ 1,024,660
SAN ANTONIO	COMAL	3107-02-023	FM 3009	IH 35	COMAL/GUADALUPE COUNTY LINE	EXPAND FROM 2 LANES TO 4 LANE DIVIDED WITH RAISED MEDIAN	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000
WACO	HILL	0014-07-083	IH 35	FM 1304	FM 310	WIDEN TO 6 LANES AND RELOCATE FRONTAGE ROADS	\$ 45,800,000	\$ 172,668	\$ 10,346,954
DALLAS	VAR	VAR	VAR	TBD	TBD	TBD (REIMBURSEMENT FOR TWO PROJECTS FUNDED WITH SH121 RTR FUNDS)	\$ 180,000,000		
Additional Mobility Projects Subtotal							\$ 437,630,449	\$ 1,686,668	\$ 17,486,762

OTHER RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

District	County	Contract CSJ	Hwy No	Limits From	Limits To	Description	Est Const Cost	Consultant Needs	ROW Needs
AMARILLO	MOORE	0425-02-029	US 87	AT BNSF RAILWAY IN DUMAS		RR GRADE SEPARATION	\$ 15,750,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 1,900,000
BEAUMONT	LIBERTY	0338-12-002	SH 105	SH105 WEST OF CLEVELAND	W OF FM 1010	CONSTRUCT 2 LINES OF A 4 LANE DIVIDED ROADWAY	\$ 34,850,000	\$ -	\$ -
LUBBOCK	LUBBOCK	0053-01-030	US 82	US 84	0.8 MILES EAST OF IH 27	MARSHA SHARP FREEWAY (PHASE IV)	\$ 66,000,000	\$ 850,000	\$ -
ODESSA	MIDLAND	0906-32-048	CS	BUS IH 20	IH 20	EXTENSION OF GARFIELD AVENUE 4 LANE W TWCLTL	\$ 1,673,256		
ODESSA	MIDLAND	0380-18-004	SH 349	County Road 60	SH 158	NEW LOCATION NON-FREEWAY	\$ 3,194,327	\$ 75,000	\$ 530,000
ODESSA	MIDLAND	1718-07-033	SH 349	FM 1788	County Road 60	NEW LOCATION NON-FREEWAY	\$ 3,750,155	\$ -	\$ -
SAN ANTONIO	COMAL	3107-01-031	FM 3009	0.9 MI W. OF IH 35	FM 2252	CONSTRUCT RAILROAD GRADE SEPARATION STRUCTURES & APPROACHES	\$ 19,348,449	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000
TYLER	GREGG	0545-04-033	SH 42	0.3 MI SOUTH OF IH 20	US 80	ADD SHOULDERS AND REHAB PAVEMENT	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 250,000

Other Recommended Projects Subtotal \$ 148,566,187 \$ 1,005,000 \$ 4,160,000

RECOMMENDED SAFETY PROJECTS

District	County	Contract CSJ	Hwy No	Limits From	Limits To	Description	Est Const Cost	Consultant Needs	ROW Needs
HOUSTON	BRAZORIA	1524-01-066	SH 332	0.216 MI N OF OAK DRIVE	0.712 MI S OF OAK DRIVE	CONSTRUCT GRADE SEPARATION AND 2 2-LANE FRONTAGE ROADS	\$ 17,135,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
HOUSTON	BRAZORIA	1524-01-067	SH 332	0.657 MI N OF PLANTATION DR	0.726 MI S OF PLANTATION DR	CONSTRUCT GRADE SEPARATION AND 2 2-LANE FRONTAGE ROADS	\$ 20,263,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
HOUSTON	BRAZORIA	1524-01-068	SH 332	0.480 MI N OF DIXIE DR	0.467 MI S OF DIXIE DR	CONSTRUCT GRADE SEPARATION AND 2 2-LANE FRONTAGE ROADS	\$ 16,269,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
HOUSTON	BRAZORIA	1524-01-069	SH 332	0.511 MI N OF MAIN ST	0.360 MI S OF MAIN ST	CONSTRUCT GRADE SEPARATION AND 2 2-LANE FRONTAGE ROADS	\$ 13,539,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
LUFKIN	SAN JACINTO	0177-02-053	US 59	AT UPRR IN SHEPHERD		CONSTRUCT FOUR LANE DIVIDED OVERPASS AT UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD	\$ 50,791,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,100,000
TYLER	GREGG	2642-01-041	LP 281	.96 MI S OF SH 300(SHOFNER DR),N&E	US 259 IN LONGVIEW	RECONSTRUCT AS 6-LN URBAN HIGHWAY WITH RAISED MEDIAN	\$ 26,620,000		
CORPUS CHRISTI	NUECES	0074-06-202	IH 37	0.25 MI E OF CARBON PLANT RD	MCKINZIE RD.	CONSTRUCT NEW DIRECT CONNECTOR AND FRONTAGE ROAD AND MODIFY ENTRANCE AND EXIT RAMPS PHASE I	\$ 12,100,000	\$ -	\$ -
VARIOUS	VARIOUS	VARIOUS	VAR			VARIOUS TYPES OF SAFETY PROJECTS	\$ 416,833,000	\$ 25,000,000	\$ -
Safety Projects Subtotal							\$ 573,550,000	\$ 25,350,000	\$ 1,100,000



STATE OF TEXAS

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August 19, 2008

Ms. Deirdre Delisi
Chairman
Texas Transportation Commission
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chairman Delisi:

As you are well aware, our state faces significant transportation funding challenges. Due to a variety of factors including the steady population growth of our state, inflation in the construction industry, rescissions in the federal highway funding program, and the Texas Mobility Fund reaching its bond capacity, our ability to fund needed transportation projects in the future is limited.

Recognizing this, we, as the elected leadership of this state, have been in a consistent dialogue to identify solutions to these ongoing challenges. We have agreed to work together to implement the following solutions in the 81st Legislative Session:

- Implement a plan that sets a definitive course to end the practice of funding the Department of Public Safety (DPS) with gas taxes that are needed for road construction, and return to funding the DPS with general revenue.
- Create a Transportation Finance Corporation or similar entity that will allow public Texas-based investment funds to invest directly in Texas transportation projects that offer a potential solid long-term return.
- Pass authorizing legislation and appropriation for the Proposition 12 bonds approved by voters in the November 2007 constitutional election.

We believe these measures to be a good start to addressing the long-term challenges of financing a world-class transportation system. However, we believe the ten-year priority needs assessment you are working on will show that more is needed, and we intend to keep working toward consensus on additional solutions to further ensure that this state and its communities have access to the necessary funding tools to meet our transportation needs.

Ms. Deirdre Delisi

August 19, 2008

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Additionally, we believe that immediate funds are needed and strongly urge you to take advantage of the Proposition 14 highway fund bonding authority approved by voters in 2003 and increased by the legislature in 2007. The immediate sale of up to \$1.5 billion in voter and statutorily authorized Proposition 14 bonds will ensure that greater road funding levels are maintained through the fall and spring until we can work with other elected officials to provide additional solutions. Please prepare your staff for an August 29 Bond Review Board Meeting and September sale of Proposition 14 bonds.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

David Dewhurst
Lieutenant Governor


Tom Craddick
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Steve Odgen
The Honorable John Carona
The Honorable Warren Chisum
The Honorable Mike Krusee