

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Background

In anticipation of previous state legislative sessions, the TPC has endorsed a policy agenda for the Houston region. The agendas typically reflect a consensus among the members on regional transportation priorities and desired legislative action.

Current Situation

With the 82nd session of the Texas Legislature quickly approaching, the TPC officers have developed a proposed agenda for the session. As it is anticipated that the proposed transportation funding will not meet forecasted mobility needs, the draft legislative agenda focuses on the transportation funding strategies that may be implemented statewide and/or at the local level.

Action Requested

For information only. Any edits should be submitted to Alan Clark or Allen Richey at Allen.Richey@h-gac.com. The draft agenda will be brought to TPC for approval at its December 2010 meeting.

**DRAFT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 82ND SESSION OF THE TEXAS STATE
LEGISLATURE**

Legislation to Support

- Standardization of Registration Fee
 - The Texas Legislature should consider standardizing vehicle registration fees across counties, vehicle years and models to raise additional revenue.
- Reduce or eliminate diversions from Fund 6
 - The Texas Legislature should consider reducing or eliminating diversions of funds from Fund 6 to non-transportation related activities.
- Use bonding authority under Prop 12
 - The Texas Legislature should consider authorizing the remaining proposition 12 bonding capacity to fund mobility improvements.
- Raise the Gas Tax and index it for inflation
 - The Texas Legislature should consider increasing the tax charged on motor vehicle fuels in an amount needed to maintain the state highway system and support priority mobility projects and should consider indexing the tax for inflation.
- Eliminate redundancy at TxDOT
 - As funding continues to diminish, the Texas Legislature should continue to insist that TxDOT eliminate redundant procedures and requirements and streamline operations to ensure efficient expenditure of resources.
- Provide local governments the option to raise revenue for transportation improvements
 - The Texas Legislature should provide local governments the tools to raise revenue and capture the resources for transportation improvements within their region, subject to voter authorization.
- Authorize advanced purchase of right-of-way
 - The Texas Legislature should support authorizing the Texas Department of Transportation to acquire property from willing sellers/donors when their property is identified for a future transportation facility identified in a regionally adopted transportation plan.
- Utilize Public Private Partnerships
 - The Texas Legislature should support legislative initiatives to encourage appropriate private investment to address mobility challenges.

Legislation to Monitor

- Toll Roads
 - Any legislation that changes the process of toll road development, toll revenue collections or rate setting should be closely monitored.

Legislation to Oppose

- Mandates that pass on cost of constructing and maintaining the state system to local governments
- Any legislation that diminishes local toll primacy.

Administrative Issues

- Reduce time to complete environmental reviews and approval
- Direct and Indirect costs billed to local governments on air quality and other programs and projects should be eliminated.
- Toll Development Credits should be sub-allocated to Transportation Management Areas.
- Transportation Enhancements should be sub-allocated to Transportation Management Areas.