2025 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Legislation to Actively Pursue

- Ensure fair-share allocation of funds for roadway capacity improvements to metropolitan regions or allow the use of Public-Private Partnerships
- Support innovative funding methods to expand rail and transit options within the region:
  - Require expenditure of a portion of the Texas Mobility Fund for regional commuter rail and Class I railroad improvements
  - Support dedicated funding for public transportation and rail via TxDOT budget rider
  - Allocate funds to the existing Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund

Legislation to Actively Pursue with Others

- Protect existing transportation authority dedicated funding
- Provide tools to aid transit agencies in supporting transit-oriented development (TOD) and/or funding to supplement TOD financing/public-private partnerships while allowing for cities to maintain the lead and local control in development decisions
- Return approximately $80 million in air quality user fees to counties for Local Initiatives Projects
- Review with TxDOT and the Legislature options related to the creation of a new State high-speed rail authority
- Improve the safety of the statewide transportation system for all users; lower excessive speed limits, reduce aggressive driving, eliminate driving under the influence, enforce seat belts; advance automated speed enforcement over 90 mph
- Modernize messaging in construction zones through technology and electronic signage; support automated speed enforcement in construction zones
- Provide counties and cities with expanded tools for land use control to preserve future transportation corridors and safety needs

Provide Testimony Upon Request

- Identify and pursue additional revenue for all modes of transportation
- Support use of Public-Private Partnerships for roadway and transit projects, and tolled managed lanes through a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)/local decision-making process
- Support a budget rider for Texas MPOs to receive $100,000 per year for the next two years to complete a safety action plan within their metropolitan region
- Encourage measures that improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and focus on areas with pedestrian movements
- Explore transit and its ability to enhance community safety
- Oppose legislation to increase freight truck weight limits above current law
- Retain eminent domain authority in current statute to allow planning and development of new and/or expanded transportation corridors, including high-speed rail, commuter rail, freight rail, roadways, and trails
- Support system reliability, congestion relief, and encourage trip reduction strategies for regular workdays and special events
- Support high-speed rail development in Texas and its superior safety history
- Utilize innovation in higher-speed transportation, transit, autonomous vehicles, and freight

- Support the continued collaboration between local governments, the military, the State, and FAA to advance regulations for compatible land use, infrastructure, and the safe operations of unmanned aircraft
- Support broadband expansion as a mode of transportation
- Support legislation that improves air quality, including enhancing the emissions inspection/maintenance program, especially for heavy-duty vehicle trucks, reducing heavy-duty truck idling, ending vehicle emissions inspection fraud, and supporting tire disposal programs
- Modernize and increase flexibility in the Local Initiative Projects (LIP) through a limited program focused on transportation and air quality improvements
- Protect the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Trust fund and revenue balance to ensure funds are used for TERP purposes, including zero emission vehicle infrastructure investments
- Modernize TERP and ensure flexibility to accommodate innovative approaches to improving air quality and reducing emissions, including the purchase of heavy-duty zero emission vehicles such as hydrogen fuel cell and battery electric vehicles and associated infrastructure