

Transportation Coalition of Central Texas

Preparing for the Legislative Session

Transportation Funding Crisis

- Central Texas is facing a crisis in transportation funding.
- More than \$4.5 billion in road and transit projects are waiting funding in Central Texas.
- Traditional sources of funding are inadequate, eroding in value, and politically at risk.
- The shortfalls at TxDOT and the Federal Highway Trust Fund are real.

Legislative Action

In Central Texas, it is clear we need to pursue legislative action that will increase funding for transportation by:

1. Strengthening current sources
2. Pursuing new revenue streams

Proposed Legislative Agenda for
Transportation Coalition of Central Texas

Strengthening Current Sources of Revenue

- Stop diversions of gas tax not constitutionally obligated
- Renew and expand the authority of RMAs to enter into Comprehensive Development Agreements (CDAs)
- Provide appropriations for Proposition 12 and the Rail Relocation & Improvement Fund

Proposed Legislative Agenda for
Transportation Coalition of Central Texas

Pursuing New Revenue Streams

- Initiate enabling legislation authorizing *local option funding* for transportation

Local Option Funding

- Other major metropolitan areas are planning to pursue the legislative authority to generate new funding for transportation.
- Each region is pursuing a different package of local option funding dependent on what is most appropriate for their community.
- We don't want Central Texas to be left out.

Top 3 Local Option Items

1. Increase Vehicle Registration Fee
2. Increase Safety Inspection Fee
3. Increase Sales Tax on Motor Vehicles

Revenue Projections Based on Data from Travis & Williamson Counties Combined

- A \$10 increase in vehicle registration or safety inspection fees could raise more than \$11 million with potential bonding capacity more than \$132 million
- A \$50 increase in vehicle registration or safety inspection fees could raise more than \$55 million with potential bonding capacity more than \$660 million
- An increase of 1.75% in new vehicle sales tax could generate \$34 million in revenue and more than \$400 million in bonding capacity

What You Can Do

- Join the Transportation Coalition of Central Texas, current members include representatives of:
 - Real Estate Council of Austin
 - Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
 - Downtown Austin Alliance
 - Capital Area Transportation Coalition
 - Austin Area Research Organization
- Volunteer to discuss the importance of transportation funding with others
- Encourage your elected officials to support increased funding for transportation in our community