North Central Texas Council of Governments
Regional Transportation Council

2023 Regional Transportation Council Legislative Program
88th Texas Legislature

Adequately Fund Transportation and Utilize Tools

- Identify additional revenue for all modes of transportation, including fees on alternative fuel vehicles
- Support innovative funding methods to expand rail and transit options within the region
- Allocate funds to the existing Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund
- Return approximately $80 million in air quality user fees to counties for Local Initiatives Projects
- Ensure fair-share allocation of funds for roadway capacity improvements to metropolitan regions
- Support full appropriation of current funding initiatives previously approved by the Legislature, including Proposition 1 and Proposition 7

Expand Transportation Options in Mega-Metropolitan Regions

- Support use of Public-Private Partnerships; allow for the ability to create data corridors (i.e., digital twins) and tolled managed lanes for roadway and transit projects through an MPO/local decision-making process
- Authorize the use of a Comprehensive Development Agreement for specific needed projects
- Retain eminent domain authority to allow planning and development of new and/or expanded transportation corridors, including high-speed rail, commuter rail, freight rail, roadways, and trails
- Support the use of a balanced liability insurance program that would allow North Texas transit agencies to operate on additional rail corridors as part of the regional transportation system
- Provide counties and cities with expanded tools for land use control to preserve future transportation corridors

Enhance Safety

- Improve the safety of the statewide transportation system for all users, including controlling texting while driving, eliminating driving under the influence, lowering excessive speed limits, reducing aggressive driving, reducing the number of fraudulent temporary tags, and improving bicycle and pedestrian safety
- Reduce distracted driving through measures such as the use of hands-free cell phone technology
- Oppose legislation to increase freight truck weight limits above 80,000 pounds
- Support legislation allowing sponsorships to support roadside assistance programs
- Eliminate deferred adjudication for safety related traffic violations (e.g., traffic violations in construction zones are not eligible for deferred adjudication)
- Allow non-sworn police officers to complete crash reports and clear minor, non-injury traffic crashes

Improve Air Quality

- Modernize and increase flexibility in the Local Initiative Projects (LIP) through a limited program focused on transportation and air quality improvements
- Strengthen emissions enforcement through temporary tag enforcement
- Protect the TERP Trust fund and revenue balance to ensure funds are used for TERP purposes; modernize the program 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
- Support system reliability, congestion relief, and encourage trip reduction strategies
- Support legislation that improves air quality

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Pursue Innovation and Technology

- Utilize innovation in high-speed transportation, transit, autonomous vehicles, and freight
- Support the collaboration between local governments, the military, the State, and FAA to advance regulations for compatible land use and the safe operations of unmanned aircraft
- Plan for shared mobility solutions and technology-based transportation solutions; enable transportation data sharing and accessibility with appropriate privacy protection
- Establish and support programs to improve cybersecurity
- Support broadband expansion as a mode of transportation

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