2027 Regional Transportation Council Legislative Policy Program

90th TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Legislation to Actively Pursue

- Support legislation to restructure the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board of Directors as agreed to by DART's service area cities
- Identify and pursue additional revenue for all modes of transportation
- Ensure fair-share allocation of funds for roadway capacity improvements to metropolitan regions and allow the use of Public-Private Partnerships
- Support innovative funding methods to expand rail and transit options within the region
- Support a statewide effort to request Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to quantify the transportation needs of the State

Legislation to Actively Pursue with Others

- 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
- Improve the safety of the statewide transportation system for all users; reduce aggressive driving, eliminate driving under the influence, enforce seat belts, advance bystander training into statewide drivers' education courses, and establish a framework for regulation and enforcement of high-powered electric mobility devices
- Use technology to improve safety; advance automated speed enforcement with technology-assisted law enforcement, and modernize messaging 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

- Support use of Public-Private Partnerships for roadway and transit projects, and tolled managed lanes through an MPO/local decision-making process
- Encourage measures that improve bicycle and pedestrian safety
- Oppose legislation to increase freight truck weight limits above current law; strengthen commercial vehicle weight policies to protect infrastructure
- Retain eminent domain authority in current statute
- Support system reliability, congestion relief, and trip reduction strategies
- Support high-speed rail development in Texas
- Support the continued collaboration between local governments, the military, the State, and FAA to advance compatible land use, infrastructure, and the safe operations of unmanned aircraft (UAS)
- Support funding, planning, and implementation efforts to advance airport modernization, Advanced Air Mobility, UAS integration, and related infrastructure
- Support legislation that improves air quality, including enhancing the emissions inspection/maintenance program, reducing heavy-duty truck idling, ending vehicle emissions inspection fraud, supporting tire disposal programs, and encouraging truck stop electrification
- Modernize and increase flexibility in the Local Initiative Projects through a limited program focused on transportation and air quality improvements

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Provide Testimony Upon Request (continued)

- Protect and modernize the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Trust Fund; preserve its revenue for TERP purposes and innovative air quality improvement strategies, including the purchase of heavy-duty zero emission vehicles such as hydrogen fuel cell and battery electric vehicles, transit vehicles, and associated infrastructure
- Require the State to contract with non-attainment MPOs for development of on-road emissions inventory to ensure consistency with air quality conformity
- Support policies that preserve open space needed for flood mitigation; support funding for roadway channel crossings and flood early warning systems in flash flood-prone communities

About the Regional Transportation Council

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) has served as the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area's regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Board since 1974. The MPO works in cooperation with the region's transportation providers to address the complex transportation needs of the rapidly growing metropolitan area. The 12-county DFW Metropolitan Planning Area includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Hood, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant and Wise counties. The RTC's 45 members include local elected or appointed officials from the metropolitan area and representatives from each of the area's transportation providers.

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