Federal and State Legislative Update

May 12, 2011

Regional Transportation Council
Federal FY 2011 Budget

- HR 1473 - the full year FY 2011 CR
  - Rescinds $400M from FY 2010 High Speed Rail
  - Cuts all new funding for High Speed Rail in FY 2011
  - Rescinds $280M in FY 2010 for New Starts Program
  - Reduces New Starts Program to FY 2008 funding levels, from $2 billion to $1.597 billion.
  - Cuts 2010 TIGER grants from $600M to $527M
  - Rescinds $630M from highway earmarks from 1998 TEA-21 and earlier surface transportation bills
  - Reduces unobligated contract authority for the highway program by $2.5 billion
    - $201 million in Texas likely to come from Category 1 – Interstate maintenance
    - No impact on FY 2011 planning funds
High Speed Rail Funds

- The US DOT announced the awards for the remaining $2 billion in high-speed and intercity passenger rail grants.
- Texas will receive $15 million in federal funds for preliminary engineering and environmental studies for the development of a proposed high-speed rail corridor between Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston.
## State Budget

### CSHB 1 - House
- Article VII - Includes TxDOT
- $16.2 million for Transportation
- House passed on April 3

### CSHB 1 - Senate
- $3.3 million more in transportation funding than the House, $19.5 M total
- Includes authority to issue the remaining $3 billion in Prop 12 bonds - $856 million to DFW
- Senate passed on May 5

House Conferees appointed May 6: Pitts (Chair), Crownover, Otto, Turner, Zerwas

Senate Conferees appointed May 9: Ogden (Chair), Duncan, Hinojosa, Nelson, Williams
State Budget

CSHB 1 - House
- Article VI - Includes TCEQ
- LIRAP funded at $25M, statewide, biennium
- $25M Rider contingent upon legislation that continues the Petroleum Products Delivery Fee

House Conferees appointed May 6: Pitts (Chair), Crownover, Otto, Turner, Zerwas

CSHB 1 - Senate
- LIRAP funded at $25M, statewide, biennium
- Rider would provide additional $15M

Senate Conferees appointed May 9: Ogden (Chair), Duncan, Hinojosa, Nelson, Williams
Transportation Revenue Legislation

- **HB 563 (Pickett)** - Transportation reinvestment zone
  - Eliminates the requirement that projects be on the state highway system
  - Eliminates the requirement that projects utilize TxDOT’s pass through toll program
  - Allows for greater flexibility of transportation projects
    - Passed out of the House, passed out of Senate Transportation, on Senate Intent calendar for May 12

- **HJR 63 (Pickett)** - Permits a county to issue bonds or notes to finance a transportation reinvestment zone.
  - Requires constitutional amendment
    - Passed out of the House, on May 9 referred to Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations
TxDOT Sunset Amendments

- CSSB 1420 (Hinojosa) - The TxDOT sunset bill, Passed on the House floor April 29 with 97 amendments, will go to conference committee
- Amendment 10 (Harper-Brown) - Codifies the process to distribute RTR funds to local governments in advance of construction of both on/off system projects
- Amendments 11,12 (Harper-Brown, Schwertner) - Directed toward expediting the environmental review process
- Amendment 90 (Phillips) - 14 statewide CDAs (HB 2255)
  - Includes North Tarrant Express, 35E and 183 projects

Senate conferees appointed May 6: Hinojosa (Chair), Hegar, Nelson, Nichols, Williams
House conferees not named as of May 12
MPO Legislation

• **HB 611 (Murphy)** - Restricts a regional planning commission from participating in environmental document preparation, engineering, architecture and construction services.
  - HB 611 reported favorably from committee April 6, no action since then.
  - May be considered as an amendment to HB 628, pending 3rd reading

• **HB 664 (Larson)** - MPO Policy Board voting member must be elected official
  - Voted favorably from committee, on May 9 recommended for House Local and Consent Calendar

• **HB 2160 (Coleman)** - Offers MPO Policy Board membership to a member of the legislature representing the region
  - Passed out of the House, on May 9 referred to Senate Intergovernmental Regulations Committee
Upcoming Legislative Deadlines

- May 12 – Last day for House to pass bills on second reading.
- May 21 – Last day for House committees to report Senate bills.
- May 24 – Last day for House to pass Senate bills on second reading.
- May 25 – Last day for Senate to pass bills on third reading.
- May 28 – Last day for conference committees to issue reports.
- May 29 – Last day to adopt conference committee reports.
- May 30 – Last day of 82nd Regular Session
- June 19 – Last day Governor can sign or veto bills