



The 88th Texas Legislature (2023)

Texas Innovation Alliance,
February 2023

TxDOT State Legislative Affairs



February 14, 2023



Texas Government Code

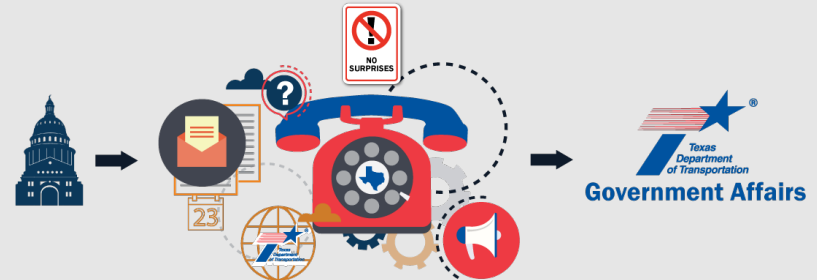
Sec. 556.006. LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING. (a) A state agency may not use appropriated money to attempt to influence the passage or defeat of a legislative measure.

(b) This section does not prohibit a state officer or employee from using state resources to provide public information or to provide information responsive to a request.

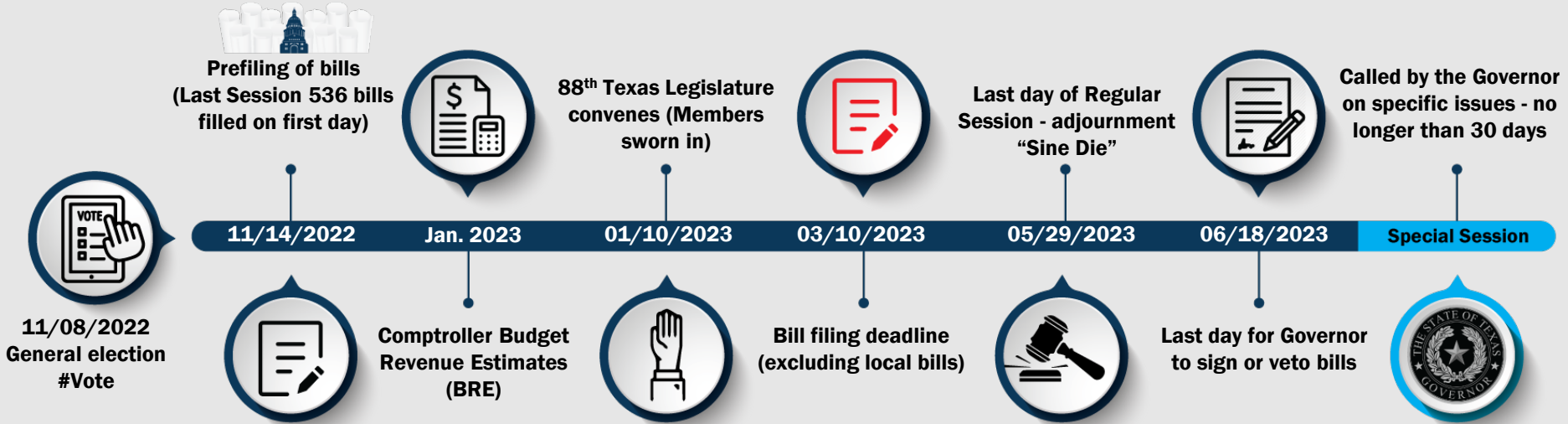
Texas Transportation Code

Sec. 201.210. LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING. (a) In addition to Section 556.006, Government Code, the commission or a department employee may not use money under the department's control or engage in an activity to influence the passage or defeat of legislation.

- State Legislative Affairs (SLA), within TxDOT's Government Affairs Division (GOV), oversees the department's relationship with the Texas Legislature, Governor's Office, and other statewide elected officials.
- Tracks legislation that impacts TxDOT, analyzes relevant bills for fiscal and operational impacts, and handles legislative inquiries and outreach.
- SLA is also responsible for tracking and overseeing the implementation of any legislation, Memorial Highway Signs, and tracking statutory reports TxDOT is required to produce.



State Legislative Timeline





Senate Committee on Transportation

Chair Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville)

Vice Chair Royce West (D-Dallas)

Sen. Carol Alvarado (D-Houston)

Sen. Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin)

Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills)

Sen. Phil King (R-Weatherford)

Sen. Borris Miles (D-Houston)

Sen. Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound)

Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock)

House Committee on Transportation

Chair Terry Canales (D-Edinburg)

Vice Chair John Raney (R-Bryan)

Rep. Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin)

Rep. Yvonne Davis (D-Dallas)

Rep. Erin Gámez (D-Brownsville)

Rep. Caroline Harris (R-Round Rock)

Rep. Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa)

Rep. J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville)

Rep. John Lujan (R-San Antonio)

Rep. Claudia Ordaz (D-El Paso)

Rep. Jared Patterson (R-Frisco)

Rep. Mary Ann Perez (D-Houston)

Rep. Ramon Romero, Jr. (D-Ft. Worth)



Senate Committee on Finance

Chair Joan Huffman (R-Houston)	Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham)
Vice Chair Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen)	Sen. Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville)
Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston)	Sen. Angela Paxton (R-McKinney)
Sen. Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels)	Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock)
Sen. Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe)	Sen. Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown)
Sen. Pete Flores (R-Austin)	Sen. Royce West (D-Dallas)
Sen. Bob Hall (R-Edgewood)	Sen. John Whitmire (D-Houston)
Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills)	Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo)
Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola)	



House Committee on Appropriations

Chair Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood)	Rep. Carrie Isaac (R-Dripping Springs)	Rep. David Spiller (R-Jacksboro)
Vice Chair Mary González (D-Clint)	Rep. Jacey Jetton (R-Sugarland)	Rep. Lynn Stucky (R-Denton)
Rep. Steve Allison (R-San Antonio)	Rep. Jarvis Johnson (D-Houston)	Rep. Carl Tepper (R-Lubbock)
Rep. Cecil Bell, Jr. (R-Magnolia)	Rep. Armando Martinez (D-Weslaco)	Rep. Kronda Thimesch (R-Carrollton)
Rep. John Bryant (D-Dallas)	Rep. Trey Martinez Fisher (D-San Antonio)	Rep. Ed Thompson (R-Pearland)
Rep. Mano DeAyala (R-Houston)	Rep. Geanie Morrison (R-Victoria)	Rep. Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands)
Rep. Gary Gates (R-Rosenberg)	Rep. Angelia Orr (D-Itasca)	Rep. Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston)
Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio)	Rep. Lina Ortega (D-El Paso)	Rep. Armando Walle (D-Houston)
Rep. Donna Howard (D-Austin)	Rep. Toni Rose (D-Dallas)	Rep. Gene Wu (D-Houston)

FY 2024-25 Exceptional Items Requests & HB 1/SB 1



Exceptional Items	FY 2024-25 LAR Amount	HB 1 / SB 1 (88R, 2023)
Additional Full-Time-Equivalents (FTEs)*	349	-
Aviation Facilities Development [†]	\$94,000,000	\$0
Aviation - TxDOT Flight Services at Austin Bergstrom Airport [†]	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000
Public Transportation - State Transit Per Capita Funding (2020 Census Impacts) [†]	\$7,540,000	\$0
Ports Capital Program [†]	\$150,000,000	\$150,000,000
Ship Channel Improvement Revolving Fund [†]	\$400,000,000	\$400,000,000
Total:	\$663,540,000	\$562,000,000

*FTEs are funded with State Highway Fund dollars.

[†] General Revenue is requested for items 2-6 due to a lack of available, eligible funding.



- State Transportation Funding – Propositions 1 & 7
 - SB 225, Sen. Robert Nichols
 - HB 2230, Rep. Terry Canales
 - HJR 77/SJR 37
- Multimodal Funding
- Electric Vehicle Registration/Renewal Fees
- Electrification & Grid Resilience
- Highway Safety



- The Texas Constitution **prohibits the House and Senate from passing legislation during the first 60 days of a regular legislative session** – unless either chamber suspends the rule by a vote of four-fifths of its membership, or if the legislation is an appropriation or other matter declared by the Governor to be an emergency item.
- Last week, Governor Abbott identified his “emergency legislative items” during his State of the State address. None of the governor’s emergency items directly impact transportation.
- The following bills have only been filed and have yet to be voted on in committee and/or by either chamber.

Electric Vehicle Fee/Road Usage Charge Bills



- **SB 505, Sen. Robert Nichols/HB 2199, Rep. Terry Canales** - Would impose a \$400 fee for electric vehicle owners at time of new vehicle registration and \$200 for registration/renewal, revenues would be credited to the State Highway Fund.
- **HB 960, Rep. Jacey Jetton** – Would impose a \$100 fee for electric vehicle owners at time of vehicle registration/renewal, revenues would be credited to the State Highway Fund.
- **HB 2028, Rep. Jay Dean** - Would impose a motor fuel tax recovery fee of at least \$300 for electric vehicle owners at time of vehicle registration/renewal, revenues would be credited to the State Highway Fund. Fee would be adjusted every fifth year to align with average taxes imposed on gasoline-operated/diesel-fueled vehicles. Revenues would be remitted to the comptroller and allocated in alignment with gas tax revenues.
- **HB 820, Rep. Ken King** – Would impose a \$200 fee for electric vehicles and \$100 fee for hybrid vehicles at time of registration/renewal; 10% of fees would go to a newly created EV battery disposal account and the remainder to the State Highway Fund.



- **HB 821, Rep. Ken King** – Would allow a state agency that owns or controls state property to allow a charging provider to install and maintain electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment on their state property.
- **HB 1420, Rep. Matt Shaheen** – Would require TxDOT to ensure charging stations installed or funded by TxDOT can send information through a certain communication network, can respond to a signal from the electric grid, and have an interface that allows a user at a charging station to operate both the network and grid functions at the charging station.
- **HB 2236, Rep. Matt Schaefer** – Would prohibit the state's participation in and use of funds administered through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program established under the IIJA to administer a statewide EV infrastructure plan.
- **SB 1002, Sen. Charles Schwertner** – Would establish a framework to encourage competitive private sector investment in the deployment of electric vehicle charging stations to foster rapid private-sector EV charging infrastructure deployment by setting standards for electric utilities' regulation of EV charging infrastructure.

Other Notable Bills – Highway Safety & Inclement Weather Response



- **HB 1885, Rep. Terry Canales** - Would allow TxDOT to implement variable speed limits (VSL) and adopt associated rules to allow for the temporary reduction of speed limits to accommodate real-time traffic and highway conditions to up to 10 mph below the posted speed limit on state highways. Probable scenarios for VSL use include inclement weather, roadway repairs and construction, and other safety-related uses.
- **SB 41, Sen. Judith Zaffarini** – Would broaden the existing ban on cell phone use while driving to include any use, not just "to read, write or send an electronic message" and narrows the specified exceptions to the ban.
- **HB 2033, Rep. Ryan Guillen** – Would add TxDOT's executive director to the Texas Electricity Supply Chain Security and Mapping Committee and allow TxDOT staff to access maps related to statewide maps developed by the Texas Energy Reliability Council showing critical infrastructure across the state. Would enhance TxDOT and other state agencies' planning related to routes and key infrastructure while responding to emergency and inclement weather events.



- Purpose of Study: Explore the potential benefits and impacts of Automated Driving Systems (ADS) and Connected Driving Systems (CDS) on:
 - Motor vehicle congestion at the Texas-Mexico border
 - Statewide driver and public safety
 - Texas's transportation industry workforce
- Study used potential “what if” scenarios in terms of ADS and CDS adoption/usage to consider how Texas can prepare for an uncertain future (three tiers: low, medium, high adoption/usage)
- Study considered potential benefits of ADS/CDS on border congestion, efficiency around ports of entry (POEs), driver and public safety, driving environment, transportation industry workforce, and the Texas economy.

SB 1308 Study, 86th Legislative Session – Key Findings



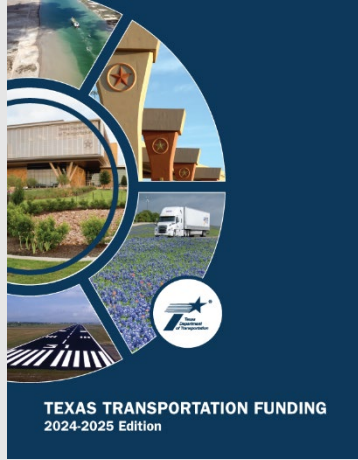
- Motor vehicle congestion at the Texas-Mexico POEs is significant and forecasted to grow.
- ADS and CDS applications at the Texas-Mexico border can directly target congestion.



- ADS and CDS may lead to reduced fatalities, injuries, and crashes in Texas by reducing driver errors, reducing risky driver behaviors, increasing compliance with safety laws, and enhancing communication to improve safety.



Resources: Funding Brochure & Educational Series



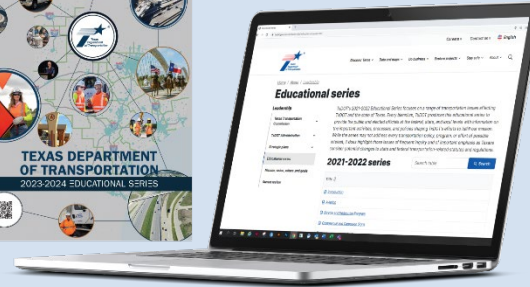
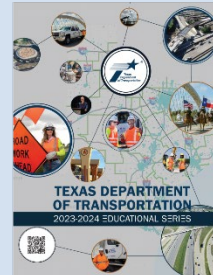
TxDOT Funding Brochure

Comprehensive guide to understanding TxDOT's traditional and non-traditional funding sources

- The 2023 brochure contains information on TxDOT's FY 2024-2025 Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR)
 - Budget Totals (Budget Uses)
 - Methods of Finance (Budget Sources)
 - Exceptional Items requests

Educational Series

- Aviation
- Bicycle and Pedestrian
- Commercial Signs
- Contracting and Purchasing
- District Office Signs
- Emergency Operations
- Eminent Domain
- Federal Government
- Funding
- Interstate Designation
- Local Government Assistance
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Ports and Waterways
- Project Development and Selection
- Public Transportation
- Rail
- Regional Mobility Authorities
- Safety, Travel Information and Speed Limits
- Memorial and Specialized Highway Signs
- Toll Roads
- **Transportation Technology**





Contact Us

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