TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION APPROVES RECORD \$85 BILLION 10-YEAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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On August 30, 2022, the Texas Transportation Commission approved TxDOT's 2023 Unified Transportation Program (UTP), advancing a record \$85 billion, 10-year statewide roadway construction plan. The 2023 UTP reflects an unprecedented level of projected transportation funding dedicated to improving transportation safety, addressing congestion and rural connectivity, and preserving roadways for Texas drivers.

The \$85.1 billion plan represents an increase of \$11.5 billion from the FY 22 ten-year plan, as a result of increased oil and gas tax revenue dedicated to the State Highway Fund, the federal infrastructure bill, and related factors.

"The UTP reflects a continued focus on improving transportation safety as the top priority, maintaining our current system, addressing traffic congestion, and improving statewide connectivity over the next decade," said TxDOT Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr. "Additionally, we are making significant progress in addressing congestion in our busiest parts of the state through our Texas Clear Lanes initiative, which improves top chokepoints in our largest metro areas."

"Texas' rapid growth reinforces the importance of investing in transportation to efficiently move both people and freight across our diverse state," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "TxDOT is working hard to not only build the new roads and transportation capacity Texas needs, but to maintain the more than 80,000 miles of roads and other transportation infrastructure under our care."

Many projects in the UTP plan are roadway segments identified on Texas' 100 Most Congested Roadways list and critical connectivity corridors. The projects will be funded through legislative and voter-approved initiatives that allocate portions of oil and gas taxes, sales taxes, and other money to the state highway fund. These initiatives have increased the UTP over \$50 billion over the 10-year period, with \$34.3 billion in projects approved in the 2014 UTP in August 2013. With rural regions of the state supporting the critical energy and agricultural industries, the approved plan includes a historic increase in funding to \$14 billion for projects in rural areas.

"On behalf of Transportation Advocates of Texas (TAoT), I want to congratulate Chairman Bugg, commissioners, and TxDOT staff for an investment in our highway system and economy almost double the level of just a few years ago," said Drew Campbell, 2022 TAoT Chair. "We also want to thank the Governor, legislators, and Texas voters for their support of funding initiatives such as Propositions 1 and 7 in recent years, which have helped generate additional revenue to fund priority transportation projects in our state."

"Having said that, we still have numerous unfunded transportation projects in all regions of our state that will be critical to addressing continuing rapid population and economic growth. We still have a lot of work to do."

More information on the UTP projects is available here: www.txdot.gov/projects/planning/utp.html

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