



Tarrant Regional
Transportation Coalition



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DFW WEIGHS IN ON TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PROPOSALS

Enactment of Legislative Solutions Essential to Avoiding Transportation Funding Cliff, Preserving DFW Area's Continued Job Growth and Economic Vitality

DALLAS and FORT WORTH, Texas – April 12, 2013 – This week, the two leading advocacy entities for transportation in the DFW region, the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC) and the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition (TRTC), joined others to organize and schedule local business and transportation experts to testify before a House Appropriations Subcommittee that held hearings in Austin on key transportation funding measures. The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Myra Crownover (Denton-R), will shape a funding proposal that could help avoid the transportation funding cliff that threatens the region before the next Legislative Session. It is referred to as a cliff because funding for major, new capacity projects statewide could fall from more than \$6 billion per biennium today to approximately \$800 million per biennium, absent funding solutions.

Planned improvements to IH 35E alone are estimated to cost \$4.3 billion. With only \$800 million available statewide, critical, major projects will grind to a halt. This is also in the face of 2,500 new people moving to the DFW area every week. Without adequate funds to add capacity to already clogged local highways, the area's job creation activity, inbound corporate relocations and growing economy will be choked by increasing congestion.

DRMC and TRTC applaud the DFW area's State Representatives and Senators for their prompt leadership. The day after the House hearings, Rep. Dan Branch (Dallas-R), Rep. Helen Giddings (Dallas-D) and Rep. Stephanie Klick (Ft. Worth-R) called a joint delegation meeting of the Dallas and Fort Worth members of the Texas Legislature. During the meeting, DFW's key Senators and Representatives were briefed by area leaders and experts on how best to move forward. As the Session begins to wind down, there must be consensus around select funding bills in order to bring them to the floor of the House and then on to the Senate.

Without prompt action and leadership from our legislative delegation, there is a good chance that the state will plunge over the transportation cliff. The cost of doing nothing will reverse the North Texas region's

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job growth and economic vitality. DFW will be well on its way to looking like Los Angeles with its terminally choked highways.

The **Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC)** is an organization of cities, counties and public transportation agencies in a five-county region (Dallas, Denton, Collin, Rockwall and Ellis) that advocates for transportation policy, funding and solutions on a local, state and federal level. The DRMC supports policies and initiatives that: (1) Invest in infrastructure to keep our region competitive with other state and foreign markets; (2) Achieve more efficient movement of people and goods; (3) Improve our air quality by reducing congestion; and (4) Recognize that our quality of life depends on adequate and efficient transportation. For more information about the DRMC and a full calendar of upcoming transportation meetings and events in North Texas, visit www.dallasmobility.org.

The **Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition (TRTC)** is a non-profit membership organization that advocates for solutions to the looming mobility crisis in the western half of the North Texas Metroplex. By galvanizing the public and key policymakers, TRTC aims to increase the state's investment in transportation – including improved highways and expanded railways – while working to enhance air quality and the sustainability, livability and economic vitality of the region. For more information, please visit www.trtcmobility.org.

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