

From the Dallas Business Journal

:<http://www.bizjournals.com/dallas/news/2012/10/18/perry-wants-to-stop-diversion-of-state.html>

Perry wants to stop diversion of state transportation funds

Dallas Business Journal by Matt Joyce, Staff Writer

Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 11:00pm CDT



[Matt Joyce](#)

Staff Writer- Dallas Business Journal

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Google](#)

Gov. [Rick Perry](#) is calling on the Texas Legislature to stop diverting transportation funds for unrelated state expenses in the upcoming session, citing the importance of infrastructure to the state's economy.

Perry said during a visit to Irving this week that funds should not be diverted from Fund 6 for non-transportation related projects. Fund 6 is the state highway fund, made up of gas taxes, vehicle registration fees and federal reimbursements.

"Infrastructure is a major reason businesses decide to expand or relocate to Texas, and while we have been more than competitive in attracting employers, we have to keep up with demand," Perry said. "Bleeding that money off to other projects puts us at a disadvantage."

[Rider Scott](#), executive director of the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition, welcomed Perry's effort. He said about \$600 million is diverted from the roughly \$8 billion highway fund on an annual basis, mostly to fund the Department of Public Safety.

"It's not that we are saying that you should take that money away from DPS, because that's the majority of their budget, but you need to find a source other than Fund 6 to fund the department, and that's going to be general revenue," Scott said.

Using the motor fuels tax to fund road projects enforces the notion that users pay for the roads, Scott said.

"If you use the roads, you ought to pay for them, and so, when we have a crumbling and aging infrastructure, that's a way to use those funds that underscores user-pays," Scott said. "There

are no free roads, they all require user maintenance budget.”

Perry said ending the Fund 6 diversions is part of his Texas Budget Compact proposal “to practice greater truth in budgeting.”

“Committing to the core conservative value of truth-in-budgeting will maintain our national economic standing,” Perry said.

Matt covers transportation, energy, government and economic development.