



## DALLAS REGIONAL MOBILITY COALITION

*Leading the Way in Metroplex Transportation Advocacy*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NEWLY APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION FUNDING TO SPEAK AT APRIL 2 DRMC MEETING**

**DALLAS – March 24, 2010** – State Representative Larry Phillips, recently appointed by House Speaker Joe Straus as chair of the House Select Committee on Transportation Funding, will speak at the upcoming Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC) monthly meeting. The meeting will be held on Friday, April 2, 11 a.m., at the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) offices at 5900 Plano Parkway in Plano.

Phillips was named by the House Speaker to lead the committee's efforts, which include exploring innovative approaches to transportation infrastructure, examining the feasibility of alternative funding options, as well as addressing transparency and accountability in the state's transportation system. In addition to his leadership of this interim committee, Rep. Phillips is the vice chair of the House Committee on Transportation.

"We are excited to have Chairman Phillips at our meeting and eager to hear his thoughts on transportation funding," said Rob Franke, DRMC co-chair and mayor of Cedar Hill. "The DRMC looks forward to working closely with the special interim committee on the development of funding proposals for the next legislative session. We believe this will open the much needed discussion on mobility solutions to sustain our region's growth and economic development."

The Dallas-Fort Worth region is the fourth largest metropolitan area in the country and the fifth most congested. According to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the region's population is expected to reach 8.5 million by 2030. With this continued growth, by 2030, Dallas-Fort Worth drivers can anticipate spending collectively more than 1.6 million hours in traffic delay at an annual congestion cost of \$6.5 billion. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will have no funding for new transportation projects starting in 2012, and many critical North Texas transportation projects will be shelved, absent funding solutions.

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**State Rep. Larry Phillips to Speak at DRMC Meeting**  
**Page Two**

DRMC members – elected officials at the city and county level as well as transportation agency representatives – are committed to the continued exploration of, and support for, solutions to the region’s mobility needs. Phillips’ presentation at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will further the dialogue between lawmakers and regional leaders on finding a funding solution that is sustainable and flexible. The special interim committee will submit recommendations to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature, which convenes in January 2011.

**About the DRMC**

The Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC) is an organization of cities, counties and public transportation agencies in a five-county region on the eastern side of the DFW Metroplex that advocates for transportation policy, funding and solutions on a local, state and federal level. The DRMC has four critical objectives:

1. Improve mobility and safety;
2. Improve air quality;
3. Enhance quality of life through reduced commuting and travel times; and
4. Support economic vitality.

The DRMC meets on the first Friday of every month at the headquarters of the North Texas Tollway Authority, 5900 Plano Parkway, Plano. For more information about the DRMC and a full calendar of upcoming transportation meetings and events in North Texas, visit [www.dallasmobility.org](http://www.dallasmobility.org).

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