

POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE TOPICS

Overweight and Oversize Trucks

- Against a backdrop of the perennial battle between trucks and railroads, this session will see action on several fronts:
- **Special permit corridors** for overweight trucks.
 - The Legislature for several sessions has created individual overweight truck corridors, each with its own permitting system and enabling statute. <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/TN/htm/TN.623.htm>
 - The Legislature is expected to see more such legislation and may visit whether these corridors should be standardized. For more information: <https://tti.tamu.edu/policy/freight/prc-report-potential-metrics-for-designating-and-monitoring-oversizeoverweight-corridors/>
- **Ports.** Lt. Governor Patrick created a special committee on Texas ports. The expansion of the Panama Canal and other events suggest the Legislature may look at ways to improve port activities, both on the land side and the water side.
 - Panama Canal Update: provided as a handout if you are interested.
 - Moving Texas Exports -- Examining the role of transportation in export commodity supply chains: <https://tti.tamu.edu/policy/freight/moving-texas-exports/>
 - Survey of State Funding Practices for Coastal Port Infrastructure: <http://tti.tamu.edu/documents/PRC-15-51-F.pdf>
 - For further information -- TTI Center for Ports and Waterways: <https://tti.tamu.edu/group/multimodal/groups/center-for-ports-waterways/>

Transportation Network Companies (Uber, Lyft....)

- Disruptive tech enters highly regulated field.
- Current law in Texas only addresses insurance (Insurance Code Chapter 1954, Insurance for Transportation Network Company Drivers): <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/IN/htm/IN.1954.htm>

- Issue boils down to whether cities (and, separately airport authorities) can regulate, whether the state should regulate, or whether there should be no regulation.
- For more information: <https://tti.tamu.edu/policy/technology/tnc-legislation/>
- Our analysis of TNC legislation filed so far is coming soon – watch our blog for it. <https://tti.tamu.edu/policy/>

Distracted Driving

- Bills in this category tend to focus on texting while driving.
- In 2011, HB 242 passed both houses <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=82R&Bill=HB242> . Among other things, HB 242 would have prohibited an operator of a motor vehicle from using a handheld wireless communication device to read, write, or send a text-based communication while operating a motor vehicle unless the vehicle is stopped. However, the bill was vetoed by Governor Perry <http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/scanned/vetoes/82/hb242.pdf#navpanes=0> .
- Last session, HB 80 would have made it a misdemeanor offense for a motorist to read, write, or send a text-based communication with a portable wireless communication device, such as a mobile phone, while operating a motor vehicle, except when the vehicle was stopped and outside a travel lane. The bill passed the House but died on the Senate Intent calendar. <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=84R&Bill=HB80>
- Nine bills are already filed on this topic. <https://tti.tamu.edu/policy/85r/>
- TTI Center for Transportation Safety: <https://tti.tamu.edu/group/cts/>

Autonomous Vehicles

- While some states have passed laws, Texas law does not regulate AVs separately from how all vehicles and drivers are regulated.
- The federal government has issued guidance for states considering regulation. <https://www.transportation.gov/AV>
- For information: <https://tti.tamu.edu/policy/technology/revolutionizing-our-roadways/>