

The economy and quality of life in Texas depend greatly on the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. For big cities, small towns and the rural areas across this state, the need for reliable transportation has never been greater. Prosperity requires mobility. At the same time, state leaders face a complex array of challenges that include rapid population growth, disruptive technology developments, competing priorities and funding constraints.

Recognizing that effective policy making calls for objective information and insight, the Texas Legislature appropriated funds to support the role of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) as an independent resource to the Legislature, providing analysis of state transportation policies and the economic impact of those policies. The Texas A&M System University Board of Regents subsequently created the Transportation Policy Research Center (PRC) within TTI to carry out this mission.

EXPLORING SOLUTIONS

While infrastructure development remains an essential element of our transportation model, other emerging issues are demanding increased focus as Texas continues to grow. These include: more efficient use of our existing system, more effective use of technology, increased coordination among all transportation modes, and the evolution of a smarter transportation network. TTI researchers are exploring solutions that involve a broad range of interrelated aspects:

- Finance
- Congestion
- Technology
- Freight
- Public Engagement
- Transportation Data

MISSION

The Transportation Policy Research Center works to:

- provide a sustained, objective capability in support of solutions to the state's current, near-term and long-range transportation challenges;
- assist state, national and local decision makers in formulating transportation public policy through research and innovation; and
- serve as an independent resource to the Texas Legislature, providing analysis of the state's transportation policies and the economic impacts of those policies.



Research funded through the PRC has secured an additional \$4 million in contract research funds for Texas from outside the state.



ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Working with Legislative leaders, TTI researchers produce findings responsive to a broad range of needs. The PRC also engages other experts in higher education, the private sector, operating agencies, and other stakeholders to answer questions that inform current policy discussions. For example:

- What strategies can cities use to reduce roadway congestion?
- What do Texans view as their transportation challenges?
- How do ride-hailing company regulations vary across states and cities?
- What does Texas' reliance on exports mean for our transportation network?
- How do we decide where overweight trucks can operate?
- What's the history and status of tolling agencies across the state?
- What are the policy implications of self-driving cars?
- How can we use estimation tools and forecast models to explore transportation investment needs for future years?

PROVIDING INSIGHT

From formal months-long studies to on-call requests and invited testimony, PRC researchers provide insight that brings new knowledge and clear understanding to complex transportation issues. Since 2013, The PRC has:



Produced
53
 reports and
 policy briefs



Provided
 testimony for
14
 Legislative hearings

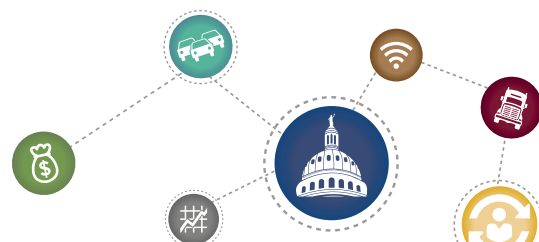


Responded to
176
 on-call requests
 for assistance

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The Transportation Policy Research Center is structured to conduct specific research studies of state interest, bringing together engineering, finance, economic, technology, policy and public engagement experts from within TTI, the broader Texas A&M University System, other institutions of higher education, and the private sector.

SELECTED PRC RESEARCH REPORTS



FINANCE AREA

Alternative Fuel Vehicle Forecasts
Assessing the Cost of Construction Project Delays
Public-Private Investment Models for Roadway Infrastructure
Regional Mobility Authorities in Texas: History and Status
Sources of Funding for Transit in Urban Areas in Texas
Summary and Status of Concession Agreements in Texas
Texas Toll Road Primer
Transportation Reinvestment Zones: Texas Legislative History and Implementation



FREIGHT AREA

Energy Development Impacts on State Roadways
Incentives for Truck Use of SH 130
Moving Texas Exports: Examining the Role of Transportation in Export Commodity Supply Chains

- The Cotton Supply Chain
- The Electronic Instrument Export Supply Chain
- The Liquefied Natural Gas Export Supply Chain
- The Plastic Resin Export Supply Chain
- The Timber, Wood, and Wood Product Supply Chain
- The Vehicle Part Supply Chain

Oil and Gas Energy Developments and Changes in Pavement Conditions in Texas
Potential Impacts of Mexico's Energy Reform on the Texas Transportation System
Preferential Lane Use for Heavy Trucks
Public Use of Rail Right-of-Way in Urban Areas



CONGESTION AREA

Austin State Agency Congestion Footprint
Fix Congestion: Congestion Reduction Strategies
Improving Texas Incident Management Programs
Status of Travel Demand Management Efforts
The Future of Travel Demand Management: Technology and Demographic Shifts and Their Implications for TDM



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AREA

Texas Transportation Poll: A Statewide Survey
Texas Transportation Poll: Sentiment Analysis



TECHNOLOGY AREA

Disruptive Technologies and Transportation
New Approaches to Transportation Management
Revolutionizing Our Roadways Series

- Cybersecurity Considerations for Connected and Automated Vehicle Policy
- Data Privacy Considerations for Automated and Connected Vehicles
- Implications of Automated Vehicle Crash Scenarios
- Liability Considerations for Automated and Connected Vehicles
- Policy Considerations for Automated Vehicle Testing in Texas



DATA AREA

An Overview of Transportation Data

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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