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
- Freight
- Congestion
- Public Engagement
- Technology
- 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.

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
Ginger Goodin, P.E.
(512) 407-1114
g-goodin@tamu.edu

Steven Polunsky
(512) 407-1170
s-polunsky@tti.tamu.edu

Research funded through the PRC has secured an additional $4 million in contract research funds for Texas from outside the state.
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
Transportation Policy Research Center
505 E. Huntland Drive
Austin, TX 78752-3717
512-407-1170
tti.tamu.edu/policy
@TTI

SUBSCRIBE TO TRANSPORT TRENDS
https://tti.tamu.edu/policy/subscribe