

# The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce 2009 Position Statement

## Transportation

### POSITION

The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce supports initiatives that increase the state's investment in transportation infrastructure, adequately addressing identified transportation needs. We encourage the state legislature to take the following actions:

- **Local Option Transportation Tax**  
The chamber supports the legislative policy positions adopted by the NCTCOG's Regional Transportation Council and those adopted by the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition, supporting a metropolitan region's ability to call public referendums to consider transportation taxes and fees for regional transportation investment.
- **Stop Diversions**  
The current biennial legislative diversion of transportation resources to other uses exceeds \$1.5 billion and increases each biennium. Diversions of transportation funds must cease in order to provide adequate funding to maintain and expand Texas' transportation infrastructure;
- **Index the Motor Fuels Tax**  
The chamber feels that the motor fuel tax should be tied to the consumer price index, which would enable the revenue that funds transportation to grow with inflation;
- **Texas Mobility Fund**  
The Texas Mobility Fund provides the state with a creative mechanism to substantially leverage transportation dollars. It is estimated that for every \$100 million allocated annually for the fund, about \$1 billion in bonding authority is created. The Fort Worth Chamber urges the Legislature to identify additional revenue sources during the 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislature and direct those funds to the Texas Mobility Fund;
- **Rail Relocation Fund**  
The Fort Worth Chamber supports the appropriation of \$200 million for the Rail Relocation Fund. The 79<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passed legislation to create the Rail Relocation Fund, however the program was not funded. The Fort Worth Chamber is committed to working with the Texas Legislature and the Texas Transportation Commission on a feasible funding solution for financing the relocation of freight rail lines and facilities that would facilitate both public and private benefits.

### BACKGROUND

Mobility and a quality surface transportation system are critical to the economic vitality of Fort Worth and the quality of life of Fort Worth citizens.

Aging transportation infrastructure, population and job growth, and increasing travel demands require an increased level of investment in order to maintain mobility and a quality surface transportation system for Fort Worth.

There is a growing sense of urgency for Texas to raise the level of priority it places on transportation.

Adopted by the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2008.

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Ben Loughry  
Chairman of the Board

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William J. Thornton  
President & CEO