BAYTRAN

Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership

Texas 90th Legislative Session Legislative Agenda

Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership's (BayTran) region represents a significant share of the regional economy and a meaningful portion of the Texas economy. The Bay Area Houston region includes rapidly growing residential communities, the country's largest petrochemical complexes, heavy industrial facilities, and multiple ports. The transportation infrastructure in our region is critical to moving people safely, supporting efficient freight movement, and serving as evacuation routes for our coastal communities during emergencies.

BayTran is the advocate for increased mobility and efficient freight movement. BayTran supports policies that increase investment in transportation and support infrastructure, which is key to continued economic growth in the State of Texas.

Texas has the second-largest economy of any U.S. state and would be ranked as the eighth-largest economy in the world if it were a country.

Transportation Infrastructure

• **Freight Infrastructure –** Increase funding for freight transportation infrastructure, including rail, and preserve and grow Legislative Rider funding for port connectivity.

- o BayTran supports prioritization and funding for SH 225 redevelopment, IH 610 Ship Channel Bridge replacement, and Pelican Island Bridge replacement.

• **Port Infrastructure –** Increase funding for port transportation infrastructure needs, including channel improvements, to accommodate continued tonnage growth in exports and imports worldwide.

- o BayTran supports investment in infrastructure that improves mobility and maintains the region's competitive edge with an eye on future growth.

• **Grand Parkway –** Completion of segments A, B and C, and further expansion of the Grand Parkway is vital to connecting major freight corridors, port facilities, and to serve as a hurricane evacuation route for coastal communities.

• **Rural to Urban Connectivity -** Implement Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies in planning that will improve connectivity and reduce congestion.

Drainage Infrastructure

• **Coastal Texas Project –** BayTran supports continued funding for design and construction of the storm surge protection system in the upper Texas Gulf Coast to protect the environment, industries, the national economy, and vulnerable communities within the region.

• **Lower Clear Creek & Dickinson Bayou Study -** Support local partnerships to assess interior drainage benefits of the Clear Creek & Dickinson Bayou watershed components of the Coastal Texas Project.

- o Support any legislative efforts to ensure partnership agreements can be executed by GCPD and GLO for the Coastal Texas Project.

Keep existing funding tools:

• **Rail Relocation Fund -** Continued allocation of funding for Texas Railroad Relocation and Improvement Fund each biennium.

• **Toll Roads –** Toll roads are an important funding mechanism in high growth regions, the ability to utilize a toll road could make a difference in keeping up with growth vs. falling behind. BayTran strongly opposes legislation restricting the use of this important tool.

• **No Diversions –** BayTran opposes diversions of funds from transportation dedicated resources to non-transportation uses.

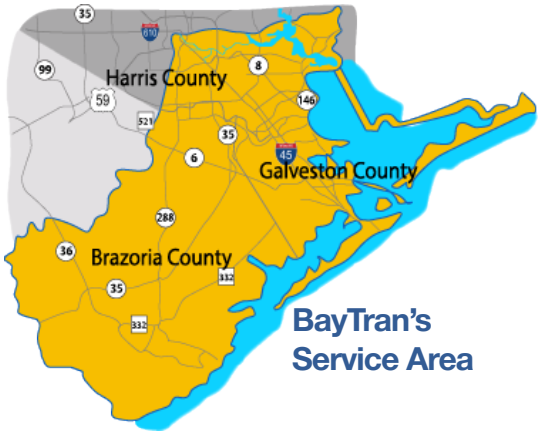
• **Rail Grade Separation Program –** Provide additional funding.

Review of potential sources for new revenue:

• **Hybrid Vehicle Equity Fee –** Establish a fee to ensure that hybrid vehicle owners contribute a fair share of the cost to fund Texas roadways.

• **Funding Increases**

- o through Propositions 1 & 7 and the motor vehicle sales and use tax.
- o increase or index the motor fuel tax.



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