

2011

SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS

- [July 28th
BAM!!
Bay Tran
Appreciation
Mixer](#)

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

Texas Transportation Commission Awards Funds	1
I-69 Website Launched	2
Delvin Dennis Retires	2
July 28th BAM!! Mixer	3
Members & Associates	4

BAYTRAN

Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2011

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AWARDS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

State Transportation Officials recently awarded close to \$63 million in grants along with approximately 2.9 transportation development credits (TDC) to support public transportation in Texas. The Texas Transportation Commission approved the awards at its meeting on June 30. The money will fund transit projects and services, such as purchasing new vehicles and facilities, expanding existing facilities and services, sustaining preventative maintenance programs, and providing financial support for new and existing job-related transportation programs.

To make the awards the Transportation Commission approved six separate minute orders:

- **\$28.7 million in state funds were awarded to rural and small urban public transportation providers.**
- **\$15 million and 1.1 million TDC will provide transit services to individuals for job training and work, improve access to existing public transportation services for the disabled, and enhance inter-city service connections between cities and rural areas in numerous Texas communities.**
- **\$4.8 million of federal funds and 434,258 TDC funding will support transit projects aimed at serving elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities.**

- **of the overall amount \$7.4 million in rural funding will assist transit agencies with both operating and capital expenses and the growing demand for more service.**

- **\$100,000 for a project that will assist in providing job related transportation in the Galveston County area.**

- **About \$6.9 million in federal planning funds and \$1.4 million in TDC match were allocated state wide to Metropolitan Planning (MPO) Organizations for public transportation planning that will improve transit service in urban areas.**

In continuing commitments to assist transit agencies in obtaining the required local match funds for federal grant awards, the Commission highlighted the award of TDC as an innovative financing option for those areas with limited or no local resources. TDC's are awarded to various transportation agencies to assist with the match of federal funds for capital projects.

Every County in Texas benefits from the services funded from these programs. Eric Gleason, the Texas Public Transportation Division Director noted, "The money will be used throughout the state to improve transit services that bring people to jobs, medical centers, shopping malls and other locations, it's all about assuring that the public has easy access and efficient access to services in their area."

I-69 Website Launched

Area planning groups recently launched a new website to generate citizen feedback for the proposed I-69 corridor that would run from the Mexican border in the Rio Grande Valley to northeast Texas. As planning for the corridor progresses, the site is the first step in a public relations effort initiated by the I-69 Advisory Committee and the five I-69 Segment Committees. The website has links to planning committees, transportation funding information and ways to submit comments. Brochures about the proposed project can be downloaded. You may access the website at: http://www.txdot.gov/drivenbytexas/why_i69.htm

Why Texans Need I-69

Population and traffic growth

Texas grew by 4.3 million people between 2000 and 2010, an increase of 20.6%. The counties along the

I-69 Texas system grew even more, by 23%, and have 8 million residents. Some counties along the I-69 system had population increases over 50% from the 2000 to the 2010 Census. Ports along the Texas Gulf Coast and inland ports on the Texas-Mexico border anticipate a dramatic increase of cargo in the coming years.

Safer travel

Interstates provide greater safety because they have bridges and overpasses at crossroads and entrance and exit ramps. A four-lane divided interstate can reduce severe traffic accidents as compared to the current two- and four-lane roads. Based on 2009 statewide crash rates, interstate highways in Texas experience 20-30 percent fewer crashes than US highways in Texas.

Emergency evacuation routes

The highways along the proposed I-69 are close to or directly serve the Texas Gulf Coast. During hurricane evacuations, an interstate would have more capacity and wider shoulders to accommodate evacuees and emergency personnel. I-69 could shoulder more of the traffic load in a crisis situation.

Economic development

High quality transportation infrastructure and convenient interstate access are a must for today's businesses. One East Texas town, which is along the proposed I-69, lost out on a new manufacturer partly because it lacked interstate highway service. The manufacturer instead chose Tunica, Miss. which is located on a recently-completed section of I-69.

TxDOT Houston District Director, Delvin Dennis, Announces Retirement

After 31 outstanding years of public service, Delvin Dennis, who directs the Houston District for TxDOT, has announced his retirement. He has worked for the Houston District his entire career and was appointed District Engineer in 2008. No sooner had Delvin assumed the post of District Engineer than he was faced with leading his area's response to Hurricane Ike, one of the costliest hurricanes to ever make landfall in the United States. More recently he guided the District as it undertakes the challenges of constructing portions of the Grand Parkway.

The vast array of projects that Delvin Dennis has helped to complete over the past three decades has increased efficiency of the Houston regional highway system and has contributed significantly to the economic vitality of the State of Texas. Delvin's last day will be August 31, 2011. We salute his career and wish him the best!



Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership

BAM!!

Baytran Appreciation Mixer

Honoring our Public Officials

July 28, 2011

4pm-6pm

Cullen's Game Room

11500 Space Center Blvd.

Houston, TX 77058

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Sponsorships & Door Prizes Needed!

Come Mix, Mingle, and Network....

**The Perfect atmosphere to meet with some great
business and professional contacts in and around Houston!
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If you know anyone that would like to be added to our email database please email: Stevie.Jones@gcli.com



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We're on the web!
www.BayTran.Org

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