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RAYMOND L. TELLES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: CRRMA Board of Directors

FROM: Raymond L. Telles, Executive Director 

RE: Texas House of Representatives – Requests for Information
CRRMA Board Agenda Item No. 5

DATE: September 9, 2020

Board Members,

In preparation for the coming Texas Legislative Session, several committees from the Texas House of Representatives have issued Requests for Information (RFIs), seeking input from the public on various interim charges and associated inquiries. Normally, these committees would hold public hearings to gather input, but during the COVID-19 situation, they have instead opted to use the RFI process. RFIs from the House Appropriations Committee and the House Transportation Committee are attached, for your review.

Interim Charge 4 of the House Appropriations Committee seeks public input regarding funding levels for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, as it relates to repair, maintenance, and upgrade of its facilities. This RFI also seeks an evaluation of which of its facilities are most in need of repair, maintenance, or upgrade. CRRMA Board agenda Item No. 5 seeks authority for the CRRMA to submit a formal response in support of funding for the Wyler Aerial Tramway Project. Subject to Board approval, staff will work with its attorneys and advisors on the submittal of a response to the RFI.

The House Transportation Committee has issued its RFI on various transportation matters. CRRMA Board agenda Item 5 also seeks general authority for the CRRMA to submit a formal response to those matters that are of interest to the CRRMA from this RFI. Subject to Board approval, staff will work with its attorneys and advisors on the submittal of a response to the RFI.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NOTICE OF FORMAL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

COMMITTEE: Appropriations - S/C on Articles VI, VII & VIII
TIME & DATE: N/A
Wednesday, August 5, 2020
PLACE: N/A
CHAIR: Rep. Toni Rose

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and challenges in scheduling public hearings at this time, the House Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Articles 6, 7, and 8 is conducting necessary oversight functions through an information gathering process under Section 301.014, Government Code.

This is notice that the committee is seeking information and input from the public. Submissions received in response to this request will be transmitted to members of the committee and posted on the House website at <https://house.texas.gov/committees/committee/?committee=C014>.

Submission Guidelines

- Submissions must be in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF.
- Submissions are requested to be limited to 5 pages in length.
- Please submit a separate document for each topic to which you are responding.
- Submissions must be submitted via e-mail to Appropriations@house.texas.gov and are requested to include "ART678" in the first part of the Subject for quick identification.
- Please include the following information in the submission email: submitter name, organization or entity (if applicable and an authorized representative), mailing address, email, and telephone number.
- **The deadline for all submissions is Wednesday, September 30.**
- Comments received in response to this Request for Information will be publicly posted on TLO, TLIS, and the House website. When submitting comments, **please remove any personal identifying information, such as your personal phone number, residence address, or e-mail address.**

Topics:

Interim Charge 1: Monitor the agencies and programs under Articles VI, VII, and VIII, and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation and riders passed by the 86th Legislature.

Interim Charge 2: Monitor the status of the operation, maintenance, and structural repairs of low hazard and high hazard dams throughout the state, as well as implementation of funds appropriated to the Texas State

Soil and Water Conservation Board's Flood Control Program during the 86th Legislature. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Agriculture & Livestock)

Interim Charge 3: Monitor the use of additional funds provided to the Texas Department of Transportation in SB 500 for the Transportation Infrastructure Fund. Examine existing fund balances and determine if the funds should be held in a more efficient manner.

Interim Charge 4: Evaluate funding provided to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the repair, maintenance, and upgrade of state park facilities. Determine the facilities that are in most need of repair, maintenance, or upgrade and examine the costs associated with such repairs, maintenance, or upgrades.

In the event it becomes feasible to safely conduct a public meeting, the Committee reserves the right to hold an in-person hearing on these charges.

** REVISION **

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOTICE OF FORMAL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

COMMITTEE: Transportation
Interim Charges 1-5 & Inquiries 1-3

TIME & DATE: N/A
Monday, August 17, 2020

PLACE: N/A

CHAIR: Rep. Terry Canales

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and challenges in scheduling public hearings at this time, the House Committee on Transportation is seeking written submissions from state agencies, interested parties, and the public on the interim charges and inquiries listed below. Submissions received in response to this request will be transmitted to members of the committee and posted on the House website.

Submission Guidelines:

- Submissions must be in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format.
- Please submit a separate document for each interim charge and inquiry to which you are responding.
- Submissions are requested to be limited to six (6) pages in length for each interim charge or inquiry.
- Submissions must be submitted via email to Dylan.Matthews_hc@house.texas.gov.
- Please include "Transportation RFI" and the interim charge and inquiry number(s) to which you are responding in the subject line of the email.
- Please include the following contact information in the body of the email: submitter name, organization or entity (if applicable and an authorized representative), mailing address, and telephone number.
- Please remove any personal identifying information from the document(s), such as your personal phone number, personal address, or personal email address.
- Comments received in response to this Formal Request for Information will be publicly posted on the House website.
- **The deadline for all submissions is Friday, September 18.**

Interim Charge 1: Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

- **Interim Charge 1A:** HB 803 and SB 198, which relate to toll project financial reporting and use payments. Monitor the effectiveness of the tools available to Texas toll project entities for enforcing unpaid tolls while protecting customer rights.
- **Interim Charge 1B:** SB 282 and SB 962, which relate to the funding for the State Highway Fund. Study the current mix of user fee-based funding for the state highway system, including registration fees, tolls, and fuel tax, and determine if current funding generated is sufficient to maintain cost demands. Examine whether current legislative appropriations, including projections for Proposition 1 (severance tax) and Proposition 7 (sales tax) funds, are keeping pace with Texas' highway funding needs to accommodate population and economic development growth. Make recommendations for additional methods of funding or innovative tools that the state could utilize to deliver road infrastructure projects.
- **Interim Charge 1C:** SB 357, which relates to outdoor advertising signs. Monitor the Texas Department of Transportation's implementation of the new statutory requirements set forth in the legislation, including any related rulemaking.

Interim Charge 2: Study the state's transportation and road safety efforts in support of the Texas Transportation Commission's goal of ending traffic deaths in the state by 2050. Identify the most dangerous roads and transportation corridors in the state and determine opportunities to reduce high rates of traffic accidents and fatalities in these areas. Make recommendations to improve policies, funding strategies, program development, and agency coordination to ensure continuous improvements to road safety.

Interim Charge 3: Study the technology and safety aspects of autonomous and semi-autonomous vehicles, including predictive capabilities and the potential for dedicated freeway and surface lanes for public transportation, autonomous vehicles, and semi-autonomous vehicles. Make recommendations for optimizing state policy to prepare for varying vehicle technologies to ensure safety and traffic reliability on Texas roadways.

Interim Charge 4: Study the state's seaport infrastructure and the infrastructure at land ports of entry to facilitate international trade and economic growth. Examine seaport infrastructure and the auxiliary rail and roadway needs connected to each port as well as the port's ability to keep pace with oil and gas production. Make recommendations to maximize

the economic flow of goods and products to and from seaports and study the feasibility and economic impact of dredging and widening Texas ports in order to remain competitive in international trade. Examine the infrastructure at international border ports of entry in Texas and identify transportation-related impediments to international trade that negatively impact the state. Make recommendations to reduce border wait times, facilitate economic growth, and expedite trade. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on International Relations & Economic Development)*

Interim Charge 5: Monitor the State Auditor's review of agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Chair shall seek input and periodic briefings on completed audits for the 2019 and 2020 fiscal years and bring forth pertinent issues for full committee consideration.

The Committee also seeks the following information related to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Inquiry 1: How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected state agencies, interested parties, and the public as it relates to transportation matters?

Inquiry 2: What transportation issues are anticipated to arise in the future as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Inquiry 3: How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the ability of the transportation state agencies to accomplish their mission and to serve the public in an effective and efficient manner?

The Committee seeks responses to one or more of the above charges and inquiries from the following state agencies:

- Texas Department of Transportation
 - Texas Department of Motor Vehicles
 - Texas Department of Public Safety
 - Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
 - Texas A&M Transportation Institute
 - Texas State Auditor's Office
 - Legislative Budget Board
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