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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NEW CENSUS DATA SHOWCASES TEXAS GROWTH, UNDERSCORES URGENT NEED FOR TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS**

**DALLAS – December 21, 2010** – Today’s unveiling of 2010 U.S. Census data revealed that Texas’ population grew by over 20 percent over the last decade, with the state adding more than 4 million new residents during that period – more than any other state. This rapid population growth, coupled with increasing traffic congestion and declining revenues from traditional transportation funding sources, underscores the urgent need for state and federal leaders to identify innovative transportation solutions for the future, according to the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC).

“In large part due to migration from other regions of the country, Texas has grown at a remarkable pace in recent years,” said Rob Franke, chair of the DRMC and mayor of Cedar Hill. “Rapid population growth has been a tremendous boost to our economy by providing a deep talent base for innovative businesses. However, if we fail to address our immediate and long-term transportation infrastructure needs, we will pay a tremendous price in the future, in terms of declining quality of life for those residents and a diminished ability to sustain economic development and growth. Ultimately, we could find that the cost of doing nothing will far outstrip the cost of identifying meaningful solutions.”

The DRMC, the leading advocate for transportation policies, funding and solutions on the eastern side of the DFW Metroplex, is working to address the challenges identified by last week’s Bundle report and underscored by the new Census data, including the need for more transportation infrastructure and the development of enhanced funding sources to address future needs, which are anticipated to grow as the Dallas region continues to expand. To view the full 2011 DRMC legislative agenda, which seeks to preserve existing transportation funding sources while also

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supporting innovative approaches to new transportation project financing, please visit the DRMC website: [http://www.dallasmobility.org/legislative\\_agenda.asp](http://www.dallasmobility.org/legislative_agenda.asp),

Other recent reports have validated the urgency of the mobility crisis in Texas, and in North Texas particularly. Bundle, the online money resource, in conjunction with The Street, released a report last week entitled "America's Best and Worst Commutes," which ranked the Dallas area as having the worst metropolitan commute in the entire U.S., out of 90 major cities evaluated. The report's rankings were based on average commute time in minutes, number of commuters during peak hours per 1,000 people, total miles traveled daily, annual hours of delay per commuter during peak hours and spending on gas and auto expenses from July 2009 to June 2010.

According to a report earlier this year from the Census Bureau and CNNMoney.com, the Dallas-Fort Worth region is the fastest-growing major market in the entire country, adding 1.3 million residents during the decade from 2000 to 2009. The region's rapid growth is projected to continue over the coming decades, even while motor fuels tax revenues dwindle and other sources of transportation funding dry up, meaning that the demand-capacity gap in the current North Texas transportation system will continue to grow, absent new solutions.

### **About the DRMC**

The Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC) is an organization of cities, counties and public transportation agencies in a five-county region on the eastern side of the DFW Metroplex that advocates for transportation policy, funding and solutions on a local, state and federal level. The DRMC has four critical objectives:

1. Improve mobility and safety;
2. Improve air quality;
3. Enhance quality of life through reduced commuting and travel times; and
4. Support economic vitality.

The DRMC meets on the first Friday of every month at the headquarters of the North Texas Tollway Authority, 5900 Plano Parkway, Plano. For more information about the DRMC and a full calendar of upcoming transportation meetings and events in North Texas, visit [www.dallasmobility.org](http://www.dallasmobility.org).

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