

## TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ALL Counties

## MINUTE ORDER

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ALL Districts

The Unified Transportation Program (UTP) of the Texas Department of Transportation (department) is a 10-year program that guides the development and authorizes construction of transportation projects and projects involving aviation, public transportation, and the state's waterways and coastal waters.

The 2010 UTP, which was approved by the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) on April 29, 2010, in Minute Order 112237, established funding levels (also known as obligation limits or letting caps) by category and by district. To more effectively manage available funding levels and optimize construction and maintenance project lettings, the commission adopted Minute Order 112531, dated December 16, 2010, which adjusted the FY 2011, FY 2012, FY 2013 and FY 2014 funding levels in the 2010 UTP.

The commission has adopted rules located in Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 16, governing the planning and development of transportation projects. These rules, which became effective on January 1, 2011, include guidance regarding public involvement related to the adoption of the UTP, including any updates, as well as the allocation of funds through that program.

The department recently identified \$775 million in funding that would be available to advance transportation projects in the current fiscal year. In accordance with the rules, the department conducted open-house style public meetings across the state and held one public hearing in Austin to receive comments on a proposed update to the FY 2011 funding levels in the 2010 UTP. Information regarding the proposed update was made available to the public and posted on the department's website. Written comments were accepted through April 11, 2011.

The proposed allocation of the \$775 million in funding is set forth in Exhibit A. The 2010 UTP was adopted before the effective date of the new rules; therefore, the exhibit reflects the funding categories that were in use at the time of original adoption.

The department recommends the allocation of \$425 million in Category 12 funding to the department's districts and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) operating in transportation management areas. Traditionally, projects funded through Category 12 are selected by the commission. However, in order to provide maximum flexibility in the use of these funds, projects will be selected at the discretion of the district engineers and the MPOs. These projects must be of specific importance to the state and generally promote economic opportunity. The department also recommends an allocation of \$350 million from the Texas Mobility Fund to the Houston District for the portion of State Highway 99, known as the Grand Parkway, that is located in Harris County.

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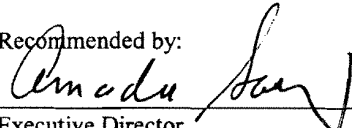
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the proposed funding allocations are approved and the FY 2011 funding allocations in the 2010 UTP are updated as set forth in Exhibit A.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the projects selected by the district engineers and the MPOs are authorized with CONSTRUCT authority without the need for further approval by the commission.

Submitted and reviewed by:

  
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Director, Finance Division

Recommended by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

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Minute Number      Date Passed