

House Vote Expected on Proposed Highway Funding Constitutional Amendment

The Texas House will soon take up the 2015 legislative session's single most important piece of transportation funding legislation.

The House Transportation Committee, chaired by Rep. Joe Pickett, has voted out two identical constitutional amendment resolutions, clearing a path toward the House and Senate reaching a solution to the need for sustainable and long term transportation funding.

The committee approved Pickett's proposed HJR 13 which would allow voters to constitutionally dedicate \$3 billion a year of general sales tax revenues to building non-toll highways and to make payments on previously issued highway project debt. HJR 13 would also dedicate additional 2% of net general sales tax to transportation, generating about \$650 million a year (LBB estimate).

The committee also approved a committee substitute for SJR 5 that erased language passed by the Senate and replaced it in total with the text of CSHJR 13. House versions of CSSJR 5 and CSHJR 13 are now the same.

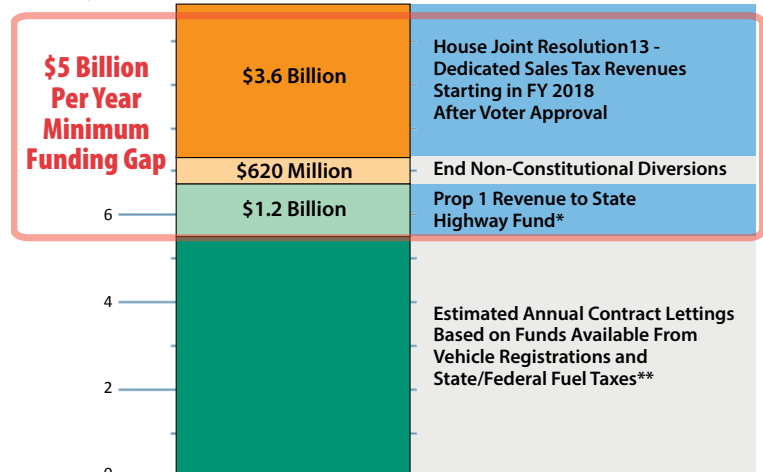
The Senate version, which passed on a 28 to 2 vote, would draw revenue from the state sales tax paid on vehicles with the first \$2.5 billion a year going to the General Fund and the next \$2.5 billion going to the State Highway Fund. Any additional revenue from the vehicle sales tax would be split with highways getting 50%.

The result of the House Transportation Committee action is CSHJR 13/CSSJR 5 legislation that will potentially allow the naming of a House-Senate conference committee to work out a final version.

Reaching that point will require a two-thirds House vote in favor of either CSHJR 13 or CSSJR 5. At least 100 House members will

Billions in
Constant
2014 Dollars
\$11

Annual Contract Lettings Required to Keep Congestion and Pavement Conditions From Deteriorating Further



* The Biennial Revenue Estimate for FY16 & FY17 predicts Proposition 1 revenue of \$1.2 billion per year. Proposition 1 funds are linked directly to oil and natural gas prices making future annual revenue levels uncertain.

have to vote in support, recognizing that they will likely have an opportunity to vote on a conference report when it is completed.

Either Approach Serves Texans Well

Members of the Transportation Advocates of Texas believe either the general sales tax approach or the vehicle sales tax approach will address a critical state need and serve Texans well. We urge House members to vote to approve reliable constitutionally dedicated funding that will keep Texas from falling further behind on congestion, safety, interregional connectivity and deteriorating roadways.



Supporters of Constitutionally Dedicated Highway Funding



The following groups and individuals support a new constitutionally dedicated funding source for Texas highways:

Texas Municipal League	McAllen Chamber of Commerce
Transportation Advocates of Texas	North San Antonio Chamber
Alliance for I-69 Texas	San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
Texas Conference of Urban Counties	South San Antonio Chamber
Move Texas Forward	Houstonians for Responsible Growth
Texas Infrastructure Now	Real Estate Council of Austin
I-14/US 190 Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition	Houston Real Estate Council
Texas Good Roads Association	Port of Beaumont
Texas Transportation Alliance	City of Corpus Christi
Ports-to-Plains Alliance	City of Nacogdoches
Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition	City of San Antonio
Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition	Texas Association of Business
San Antonio Mobility Coalition	Texas Association of Builders
Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership	Texas Association of Manufacturers
Transportation Advocacy Group – Houston	Texas Food and Fuel Association
Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance	Texas Association of REALTORS
Austin Chamber of Commerce	Texas Retailers Association
Bay City Chamber of Commerce	Texas Trucking Association
Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce	Texas Travel Industry Association
Dallas Regional Chamber	Texas Oil & Gas Association
Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce	Southwest Movers Association
Frisco Chamber of Commerce	AGC of Texas Highway, Heavy and Utilities
Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce	American Council of Engineering Companies of Texas
Greater Houston Partnership	Texas Business Leadership Council
Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce	Texas Real Estate Councils of Texas
Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce	Texas Grain Sorghum Producers
Longview Chamber of Commerce	Texas Association of Dairymen
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce	

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