



AGC of Texas

Highway, Heavy, Utilities & Industrial Branch

E-BULLETIN

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[March 2010 CD Request Form](#)

February 26, 2010

Texas Completes Obligation of ARRA Transportation Funds

Only a week removed from the one-year anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), TxDOT and Texas Metropolitan Planning Organizations have obligated all of the \$2.25 billion Texas received for highways, bridges, rail and enhancement projects. All ARRA funding must be obligated by March 1, 2010.

For transit, Texas received \$371 million, splitting the funding with \$301 million for urban areas and \$42 million for rural transit providers. Another \$28 million has been made available to cities through a high growth and high density state formula, providing nearly \$50 million for rural transit in total.

Texas and other states were required to apply for portions of the \$1.1 billion ARRA aviation funds made available on a project specific basis to the Federal Aviation Administration. To date, Texas has received funding for six aviation projects totaling \$17 million.

TxDOT also submitted nine applications to High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Grant program (HSIPR), funded by ARRA and the 2009 Appropriations Act. Two projects were awarded for \$11 million. Amtrak's Heartland Flyer, traveling from Oklahoma City to Fort Worth received a \$4 million award and Fort Worth's Trinity Rail Express was awarded \$7 million for service improvement between Fort Worth and Dallas.

Texas received \$7.2 million in discretionary funding for the construction of a new 28-car ferry vessel for TxDOT's Port Aransas Ferry System in Nueces County. The project is in the preliminary development stage.

Through the end of 2009, Texas transportation contractors reported more than 2 million payroll hours for workers working on projects funded with ARRA dollars. This translates to approximately 4,000 full time employees.

Texas submitted approximately 100 projects for funding through ARRA*s Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant program. Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that Texas will receive two TIGER grants benefiting Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex transportation projects. The North Texas Tollway Authority will receive \$20 million to support a direct Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan of approximately \$400 million for the State Highway 161 project in Dallas. The North Central Texas Council of Governments will receive \$23 million to develop a streetcar service in downtown Dallas.

For more information call TxDOT Government & Public Affairs Division, (512) 463-8588.

Speaker Straus Calls for Answers Regarding Highway Funding

In light of the declaration by TxDOT that no new construction projects will be built as of 2012, Texas House Speaker Joe Straus has created the House Select Committee on Transportation Funding.

The committee shall study and make recommendations regarding transportation funding needs for the State. The committee will be divided into two subcommittees to accomplish the major charges of planning and funding. As part of its work, the committee will:

- (1) focus on the need for increased transparency and accountability in transportation planning, development, and implementation;
- (2) review the current funding options being utilized to determine their effectiveness at

meeting future funding demands;
(3) analyze the amount of funding needed to meet future transportation infrastructure and maintenance needs;
(4) assess the dollars per mile spent in construction (considering the state's varying geographic, environmental, and climate conditions) to determine whether our state is making efficient use of current transportation funding resources;
(5) explore innovative approaches to encourage local government entities to participate in the development of critically needed transportation projects; and
(6) consider the feasibility of using alternative funding options at the state and local levels to meet the expected growth and demand for transportation infrastructure, rail relocation, and high speed rail.

The committee is chaired by Larry Phillips of Sherman. Vice Chair is Eddie Rodriguez, and members are Roberto Alonzo, Bill Callegari, Drew Darby, Ryan Guillen, Patricia Harless, Todd Hunter, Edmund Kuempel, Armando "Mando" Martinez, Ruth Jones McClendon, Joe Pickett, Wayne Smith, Senfronia Thompson and Vicki Truitt.

The Subcommittee on Funding consists of Drew Darby, Chair; Patricia Harless, Todd Hunter, Ruth Jones McClendon, Joe Pickett, Eddie Rodriguez, and Vicki Truitt. The Subcommittee on Planning and Accountability is chaired by Ryan Guillen and is made up of members Roberto Alonzo, Bill Callegari, Edmund Kuempel, Armando Martinez, Wayne Smith, and Senfronia Thompson.

The committee shall file a final report in the manner provided by Rule 4, Section 61, House Rules, not later than December 1, 2010.

Parking Lot Fish Fry is Almost Here!

[RSVP](#)

We're all long overdue for some Texas sun, some good food, and a great outdoor party! The AGC of Texas Parking Lot Fish Fry will be held Monday, April 5, beginning at 5:30. We sure hope you can make it! Fax the form, linked above, to Darlene Edge at 512.478.7936, or email her at dedge@agctx.org.

TCEQ Announces Opening of New TERP ARRA Rebate Grant Program

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is pleased to announce the opening of the new Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) ARRA Rebate Grants Program. This special application period uses federal funds provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AARA). A Notice of Rebate Grants (NRG) and final application form are available from the TERP Web site at: www.terpgrants.org

This special program differs from the regular TERP rebate grants in that the replacement on-road vehicles and engines may be powered by diesel, natural gas or propane. Non-road projects may only replace a diesel engine with a diesel engine. Application forms will be received until April 30, 2010 or until all funds have been distributed. Applications are reviewed, processed, and awarded in the order received.

PLEASE NOTE: The ARRA rebate grant application form and rebate tables have been updated from the previously posted draft documents. You must use the final application form and refer to the final rebate tables to determine eligible funding amounts.

Please feel free to contact TCEQ toll-free at 800-919-TERP (8377) or by email at terp@tceq.state.tx.us.

Chapter Scholarship Applications Now Available [Application](#)

The AGC of Texas Scholarship applications for 2010 are now available. The scholarships will be awarded to Texas residents who are employees or dependents of employees of AGC of Texas members who are in good standing with the chapter. The scholarship is intended for undergraduate education at a college, university, or vocational institute. Selection criteria will be based on academic performance, financial need, and anticipated field of study. A strong emphasis will be placed on students who intend to pursue construction and building related degree programs.

ALL MEMBERS are encouraged to distribute the applications to their employees for consideration by eligible applicants. Please contact Jennifer Newton at the chapter office in Austin, 512/478-4691, with any questions or comments.

February Contract Results

Highway Maintenance and Department Building Construction: Of the 22 construction contracts, all were awarded.

Highway and Transportation Enhancement Building Construction: Of the 50 highway non-ARRA projects, all were awarded. Of the 23 ARRA projects, all were awarded.

March and April Letting Estimates PLUS Local Let Info Posted on TxDOT Website

March 9 and 10: \$287.05 million for 79 projects statewide
\$46.54 million for 19 local let projects.

April 6 and 7: \$353.01 million for 60 projects statewide
\$17.65 million for 6 local let projects.

To view the approved schedules, go to <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/business/schedule.htm>. To view more information regarding the locally let projects, click on the appropriate month at the bottom of the page.