



# The Alliance for I-69 Texas

*Encouraging Cooperation and Seeking Solutions Since 1994*

## State Legislative Program for 2015

### STATEMENT OF CONCERN

Economic expansion and population growth have put tremendous pressure on the state's transportation infrastructure system, while the resources to support the maintenance, improvement and expansion of the system are not keeping pace. This lack of needed investment hurts job creation, increases safety concerns, results in dirtier air, and reduces the quality of life for our citizens.

### LEGISLATIVE GOAL

Alliance for I-69 Texas supports: 1) passage of new, long-term, sustainable funding sources for transportation infrastructure; and 2) the dedication of existing revenue generated from taxes, fees, or receipts related to transportation to the maintenance, improvement and expansion of roads, rail and public transportation.

### 84th SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Legislative solutions to Texas transportation needs could take many forms or approaches. We offer these suggestions as starting points:

**1. Dedicate All State Highway Fund Revenues to Transportation.** As recently proposed by Speaker Straus, end legislative diversions or appropriations from the State Highway Fund (Fund 6) for any purpose other than maintenance, improvement and expansion of transportation infrastructure.

**2. Dedicate Vehicle Sales Tax Revenue for Transportation.** Constitutionally dedicate a portion of the existing Sales and Use tax on new and used motor vehicles to transportation. This tax should be considered a "user fee" for motorists using the state's roads and bridges. This revenue source is predictable, adjusts for inflation, does not rely on a particular type of fuel (i.e. gasoline or natural gas or electric), and is transportation related.

**3. Support Additional Long-Term Dedicated Funding Sources.** There are other responsible and reasonable options available to legislators to provide a long-term, dedicated source or sources of funding for needed transportation projects. These include raising and/or indexing the state's motor fuels tax (last adjusted in 1991), raising and/or indexing the vehicle registration fee, and establishing appropriate road user fees for electric and other alternatively powered vehicles. These measures would help restore and preserve the purchasing power of the State Highway Fund.

**4. Local Funding.** Provide cities and counties with additional local funding options and resources to address transportation needs that are not otherwise met by current funding sources or to offset any new transportation related costs or requirements by state or federal government.

**5. Maritime Port Access.** Texas Maritime Ports are the state's gateways to the world, providing a critical link between the products we grow, manufacture, sell and consume to sustain and grow our economy. Although most ports are political subdivisions of the state, Texas ports have not historically received direct funding from the state for port infrastructure. The state should address the access infrastructure needs of its maritime ports, including the capitalization and/or modernization of the Port Access Account Fund in Chapter 55 of the Texas Transportation Code.

*Adopted: December 11, 2014*

# Alliance 2015 Board of Directors Roster

*In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, and the by-laws of the Alliance for I-69 Texas, the following individual are appointed to the Board of Directors for a term of one year, terminating at the 2015 annual meeting. (\* denotes Executive Committee member)*

<b>Northeast</b>	<b>North Central</b>	<b>West Spur</b>	<b>East Spur</b>
Charles Thomas,* Executive Director Carthage Improvement Corp.	Janiece Longoria* Chairman Port of Houston Authority	Gerry Schwebel* Executive Vice President International Bank of Commerce, Laredo	Julian Alvarez * President & CEO Rio Grande Valley Partnership
Hugh Taylor County Judge Harrison County	Annise Parker Mayor City of Houston	Tano Tijerina County Judge Webb County	David Garza* Commissioner Cameron County
Ed Smith Mayor City of Marshall	Bob Harvey President and CEO Greater Houston Partnership	Pete Saenz Mayor City of Laredo	Ramon Garcia County Judge Hidalgo County
James Carlow * County Judge Bowie County	Jay Knight County Judge Liberty County	Pat Calhoun County Judge Goliad County	Aurelio Guerra County Judge Willacy County
David Anderson Former County Judge Panola County	Doug Pitcock Chairman and CEO Williams Brothers Construction Company, Inc.	David Silva County Judge, Bee County	Alan Johnson Chairman Port of Harlingen Authority
Linda Ryan Thomas Chairman North East Texas RMA		Jennifer Stastny Director of Port Operations Port of Victoria	Tecló Garcia Representative City of McAllen
	<b>Central</b>		
	Billie Jones* Director of Special Programs/ Projects	<b>Coastal Bend</b>	Alex Meade CEO, Mission Economic Development Corp.
<b>East</b>	Wharton Chamber of Commerce	Judy Hawley * Chairman Port of Corpus Christi Authority	Sergio Contreras Director of External Affairs City of Pharr
Wes Suiter* County Judge Angelina County	Jeff Wiley President and CEO Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council	Loyd Neal * County Judge Nueces County	
Sydney Brown Murphy County Judge Polk County	Marvin Holub Mayor, City of East Bernard	Nelda Martinez Mayor City of Corpus Christi	<b>Regional Mobility Authorities</b>
Mike Perry County Judge Nacogdoches County	David Schroeder Executive Director Wharton Economic Development Council	Rudy Madrid County Judge Kleberg County	Pete Sepulveda Executive Director Cameron County RMA
Jim Jeffers City Manager City of Nacogdoches	Vincent Morales Mayor City of Rosenberg	Terry Simpson County Judge San Patricio County	Pilar Rodriguez Executive Director Hidalgo County RMA
Allison Harbison County Judge, Shelby County	Domingo Montalvo Mayor City of Wharton		
Thad Chambers Director Economic Development City of Lufkin			

## Ex-Officio Members of the Board

Louis Bronaugh, Former Mayor, City of Lufkin and Chairman Emeritus, Alliance for I-69 Texas  
Helen R.. Walker, Former County Judge, Victoria County and Former Chairman, Alliance for I-69 Texas  
Robert Eckels, Former County Judge, Harris County, Former Chairman, Alliance for I-69 Texas  
John Thompson, Former County Judge, Polk County, Former Chairman, Alliance for I-69 Texas  
Michael Behrens, Former Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation  
Amadeo Saenz, Former Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation