

SENATOR JOHN CARONA
CHAIRMAN

SENATOR KIRK WATSON
VICE-CHAIRMAN



MEMBERS:
SENATOR KIM BRIMER
SENATOR ROBERT NICHOLS
SENATOR RODNEY ELLIS
SENATOR ELIOT SHAPLEIGH
SENATOR JEFF WENTWORTH
SENATOR TOMMY WILLIAMS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND HOMELAND SECURITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2007

SENATE COMMITTEE TO HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC ON TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Austin, Texas - Senator John Carona, Chairman of the Texas Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security, today announced a special hearing to take public testimony on transportation policy.

"We have initiated some sweeping changes in transportation policy over the last four years," said Carona. "The state has aggressively pursued a new toll policy, rapidly expanded the use of public-private partnerships for transportation infrastructure, and accelerated the process of developing the Trans Texas Corridor. In the process, we clearly have not fully heard or taken into consideration the views of the public. Before we go any further, the policy makers need to hear from the people."

The hearing will be held March 1, 2007, in the Extension Auditorium of the State Capitol in Austin. The hearing will begin at 8:30 AM and is expected to go until 6:00 PM. To give as many people as possible the opportunity to testify, each witness will be limited to three minutes of oral testimony. There is no limit on the amount of written testimony a witness may submit.

"Except for a few expert witnesses, the hearing is dedicated to listening to public concerns," said Carona. "Anyone at all who wants to testify can submit a quick witness form in advance of the hearing, or at the hearing."

The committee will hear from Dennis Enright, a principal at the NW Financial Group in Jersey City, New Jersey who is recognized as an expert in public-private transportation partnerships, and will also give the Texas Transportation Commission an opportunity to testify.

Witness forms are available from the committee office at (512) 463-0067, on the committee website at <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/Senate/commit/c640/c640.htm>, by fax via (512) 463-2840 or by email from john.webb_sc@senate.state.tx.us. A reproducible form accompanies this release.

Parking is available in the Capitol Visitors Parking Garage at 1201 San Jacinto located between Trinity and San Jacinto Streets at 12th and 13th streets. Parking is free for the first two hours and \$.75 for each half hour thereafter (maximum daily charge: \$6.00); accessible parking is available with accessible routes to the Capitol. Metered spaces are available throughout the complex.

Members of the committee are Senator Carona (Chair), Senator Kirk Watson (Vice Chair), Senators Kim Brimer, Rodney Ellis, Robert Nichols, Florence Shapiro, Eliot Shapleigh, Jeff Wentworth, and Tommy Williams. The Committee generally considers legislation related to transportation, homeland security, and other issues as assigned by the Lieutenant Governor.

Contact: Steven Polunsky, Committee Director
Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security
(512) 463-0067 fax (512) 463-2840 steven.polunsky_sc@senate.state.tx.us

###

SENATOR JOHN CARONA
CHAIRMAN

SENATOR KIRK WATSON
VICE-CHAIRMAN



MEMBERS:
SENATOR KIM BRIMER
SENATOR RODNEY ELLIS
SENATOR ROBERT NICHOLS
SENATOR FLORENCE SHAPIRO
SENATOR ELIOT SHAPLEIGH
SENATOR JEFF WENTWORTH
SENATOR TOMMY WILLIAMS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Public Hearing Witness Registration Form 8:30 A.M. Thursday, March 1, 2007 State Capitol Extension Auditorium, Austin, Texas

I wish to enter my comments regarding (*check all that apply*):

Toll Policy Public Private Partnerships Trans-Texas Corridor

My testimony is (*check all that apply*): Oral Written

Registering Position, Not Testifying: _____

NAME (please print): _____

REPRESENTING: _____

TITLE: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ EMAIL: _____

I hereby certify that the above statements by me are true and accurate, and that the testimony I give before this body will be true and accurate.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Please limit any oral testimony to three (3) minutes to allow as many people as possible to testify.

You may submit written testimony of any length at any time up to and during the hearing.

Testimony and this form may be submitted at any time prior to or at the hearing using these methods:

By mail: Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee, PO Box 12068, Austin, Texas 78711

By fax: (512) 463-2840

By email: Please include all of the information on the above form. You may put "Attest" in front of your name instead of supplying an electronic signature. Send to john.webb_sc@senate.state.tx.us

Please contact committee staff at (512) 463-0067 with any questions.