

**COUNTY JUDGES & COMMISSIONERS  
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
402 WEST 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701  
800-733-0699  
512-482-0701  
512-480-0902 FAX  
[www.cjcat.org](http://www.cjcat.org)**



**OFFICERS:**

*President*  
CHUCK STATLER  
Commissioner, Taylor County  
300 Oak Street, Suite 204  
Abilene, Texas 79602  
(325) 669-6266  
(325) 674-1365 – Fax

*First Vice President*  
BEN ZELLER  
Judge, Victoria County  
101 N. Bridge Street, Room 102  
Victoria, Texas 77901  
(361) 575-4558  
(361) 573-7585 – Fax

*Second Vice President*  
RICK BAILEY  
Commissioner, Johnson County  
3400 FM 1434  
Cleburne, Texas 76033  
(817) 648-1356

*Past President*  
ROBERT JOHNSTON  
Judge, Anderson County  
703 North Mallard Street, Suite 101  
Palestine, Texas 75801  
(903) 723-7406  
(903) 723-7494 – Fax

**EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

*North and East Texas*  
SYDNEY BROWN MURPHY  
Judge, Polk County

*South Texas*  
RUDY MADRID  
Judge, Kleberg County

*West Texas*  
REX FIELDS  
Judge, Eastland County

**GENERAL COUNSEL:**

JAMES P. ALLISON  
Allison, Bass & Magee, L.L.P.  
402 W. 12th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
1-800-733-0699  
(512) 482-0701  
(512) 480-0902 – Fax  
[j.allison@allison-bass.com](mailto:j.allison@allison-bass.com)

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**

*Chairman:*  
DEBBIE G. INGALSBE  
Commissioner, Hays County  
111 E. San Antonio Street, Suite 304  
San Marcos, Texas 78666  
(512) 393-2243  
(512) 393-7718 – Fax

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:**

*Chairman:*  
ROBERT JOHNSTON  
Judge, Anderson County  
703 North Mallard Street, Suite 101  
Palestine, Texas 75801  
(903) 723-7406  
(903) 723-7494 – Fax

**The Texas Transportation Infrastructure Fund  
Grant Program**

The Texas Transportation Infrastructure Fund Grant Program was created by the Legislature to assist counties with road repairs and the expenses related to those repairs primarily due to the increased oil and gas activity across the State. It was determined that all Texas counties were either directly or indirectly impacted by this activity. All counties were deemed eligible to receive funds, according to the formula set by statute. Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 256, Subchapter C and 43 T.A.C., Part 1, Ch. 15, Subchapter Q, are the governing statutes and rules. The grant funds may be used to reimburse the county for 80% of the cost of approved projects or 90% if the county is included on the EDAPT list.

The grant program was initially funded in 2013. In 2019, the legislature appropriated an additional \$250 million for county road repair grants and changed the distribution formula. In March, the Department of Transportation (TxDOT) announced the process and procedures for awarding the funding provided by the Legislature. All applications were due in late May.

As a part of the application process, the counties were required to provide an initial list of projects and priorities. They were specifically asked to request more funding than was originally allotted to them because it was anticipated that some counties would not participate and some counties would not request the full amount. After the deadline for applications, TxDOT re-allocated the unencumbered balance to the counties that applied and announced the awards in late June.

The counties are required to accept the TxDOT form Agreement and pass a Resolution stating certain matters required by TxDOT. These documents were forwarded to Austin to be approved and sent to the counties for signature. Once the county executed the Agreement, TxDOT executes the Agreement and the counties are required to complete a Certification 1 which included an updated project list that reflected the actual funding that they were allotted in the final grant award, not what they had requested.

After that, a Certification 2 is required for each project on the project list. Once the Certification 2 is submitted, TxDOT issues the authority to begin construction and the project can proceed. Expenditures before the construction authority is issued cannot be submitted for reimbursement.

The counties are currently in virtually every stage of the process, from waiting to get their Agreements signed to starting construction activities. Counties should contact their TxDOT CTIF coordinator as soon as possible. The counties have three years to begin projects and five years to complete them.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.txdot.gov/government/funding/county-fund.html>

## COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

1. Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:
  - **HB 803** and **SB 198**, which relate to toll project financial reporting and use payments. Monitor the effectiveness of the tools available to Texas toll project entities for enforcing unpaid tolls while protecting customer rights.
  - **SB 282** and **SB 962**, which relate to the funding for the State Highway Fund. Study the current mix of user fee-based funding for the state highway system, including registration fees, tolls, and fuel tax, and determine if current funding generated is sufficient to maintain cost demands. Examine whether current legislative appropriations, including projections for Proposition 1 (severance tax) and Proposition 7 (sales tax) funds, are keeping pace with Texas' highway funding needs to accommodate population and economic development growth. Make recommendations for additional methods of funding or innovative tools that the state could utilize to deliver road infrastructure projects.
  - **SB 357**, which relates to outdoor advertising signs. Monitor the Texas Department of Transportation's implementation of the new statutory requirements set forth in the legislation, including any related rulemaking.
2. Study the state's transportation and road safety efforts in support of the Texas Transportation Commission's goal of ending traffic deaths in the state by 2050. Identify the most dangerous roads and transportation corridors in the state and determine opportunities to reduce high rates of traffic accidents and fatalities in these areas. Make recommendations to improve policies, funding strategies, program development, and agency coordination to ensure continuous improvements to road safety.
3. Study the technology and safety aspects of autonomous and semi-autonomous vehicles, including predictive capabilities and the potential for dedicated freeway and surface lanes for public transportation, autonomous vehicles, and semi-autonomous vehicles. Make recommendations for optimizing state policy to prepare for varying vehicle technologies to ensure safety and traffic reliability on Texas roadways.
4. Study the state's seaport infrastructure and the infrastructure at land ports of entry to facilitate international trade and economic growth. Examine seaport infrastructure and the auxiliary rail and roadway needs connected to each port as well as the port's ability to keep pace with oil and gas production. Make recommendations to maximize the economic flow of goods and products to and from seaports and study the feasibility and economic impact of dredging and widening Texas ports in order to remain competitive in international trade. Examine the infrastructure at international border ports of entry in Texas and identify transportation-related impediments to international trade that negatively impact the state. Make recommendations to reduce border wait times, facilitate economic growth, and

expedite trade. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on International Relations & Economic Development)*

5. Monitor the State Auditor's review of agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Chair shall seek input and periodic briefings on completed audits for the 2019 and 2020 fiscal years and bring forth pertinent issues for full committee consideration.

## Transportation Committee

- **Safety:** Study the primary causes for traffic-related accidents and fatalities, including fatality rates as a result of intoxicated driving. Make recommendations for effective strategies to improve roadway safety.
- **Project Delivery:** Evaluate major roadway construction projects that have begun since voters approved new funding sources in 2014 and 2015. Make recommendations to ensure on-time project completion and improve cost efficiencies.
- **Texas Department of Transportation Flight Services:** Evaluate the current funding, maintenance procedures, and staffing levels at Texas Department of Transportation's Flight Services. Make recommendations to ensure the safest fleet and most efficient service.
- **Monitoring:** Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Transportation passed by the 86th Legislature, as well as relevant agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction. Specifically, make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, or complete implementation of the following:
  - The Legislature's new funding for the driver's license program as funded in the General Appropriations Act;
  - The Legislature's funding for grants to counties to be used for repair of county roads as funded in the General Appropriations Act;
  - SB 198, relating to payment for the use of a highway toll project;
  - SB 616, as it relates to the analysis of the opportunities and challenges of transferring the driver license program to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles;
  - SB 1915, relating to the board of pilot commissioners for Harris County ports; and
  - SB 2223, as it relates to two-way directional routes.

### **Property Tax Committee**

- **Monitoring:** Monitor the implementation of the following legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Property Tax passed by the 86th Legislature. Specifically, make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, or complete implementation of the following:
  - Senate Bill 2, relating to ad valorem taxation.

## COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

1. Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:
  - **SB 2**, which is the Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act of 2019. Monitor the implementation of the legislation, including a review of the tax rates adopted by taxing units in 2019 and 2020, the appraisal review board survey system, and progress in onboarding the tax rate notices and websites. Make recommendations for modifications as necessary and appropriate.
  - **HB 1525** and **HB 2153**, which relate to the collection of sales and use taxes by marketplaces and out-of-state businesses. Monitor the Comptroller of Public Accounts' rules regulating the collection of sales, use, and franchise tax to ensure compliance by marketplace providers and out-of-state businesses and monitor any revenue increases as a result of implementation of these bills.
  - **HB 4347**, which relates to the use of hotel occupancy, sales, and mixed beverage tax revenue for qualified projects. Examine the effectiveness and efficiency of the hotel projects, qualified hotel projects, and uses of local hotel occupancy tax revenue. Examine the negative fiscal impact to the state resulting from the dedication of the state portion of those taxes.
2. Study and consider possible methods of providing property tax relief, including potential sources of revenue that may be used to reduce or eliminate school district maintenance and operations property tax rates.
3. Study the role of the local option sales and use tax, including: an analysis of the available uses for those taxes, specifically economic development agreements; the statewide distribution of local tax rates; the proportion of the local government budget supported by sales and use taxes; the application of consistent sales sourcing rules; and the impact of shifting from origin to destination sourcing.
4. Evaluate the status of water recycling and reuse efforts in the oil and gas industry in Texas and elsewhere. Evaluate options for tax credits, deductions, or discounts to encourage recycling, treatment, or reuse of produced water from oil and gas production activities. Make recommendations on statutory or regulatory changes needed to promote recycling and reuse strategies for produced water. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Energy Resources)*
5. Review the use of third-party tax collection firms, including law firms and tax specialty firms, by governmental units. Evaluate what methods other states use to collect taxes. Determine

whether the use of those firms is cost-effective for the taxing jurisdiction or if the tax collection efforts should be performed by the taxing units directly.

6. Monitor the State Auditor's review of agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Chair shall seek input and periodic briefings on completed audits for the 2019 and 2020 fiscal years and bring forth pertinent issues for full committee consideration.