



American Planning Association

Texas Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

The American Planning Association's Texas Chapter and its 2,400 members—community leaders, private developers, design professionals, and local officials—work with the private and public sectors in communities throughout Texas. We use our expertise and innovation to shape livable and sustainable Texas communities that reflect the character and values of each local city, town or rural area.

2023 APATX Policy Priorities for Transportation

Based on the experience of our public and private sector members, the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association has identified these three Transportation priorities for the 88th Session of the Texas Legislature.

Safety

Support legislation for a Safe System approach to transportation safety, including prioritization and implementation of solutions that reflect the context of a roadway, transportation corridor, industries, community, or neighborhood.

Support legislation for complete Streets planning efforts and cross-sector partnerships, with participation from diverse and representative public officials, staff, transportation engineering professionals, the private sector, public health officials, policymakers, community leaders, education professionals, and law enforcement, focused on significantly reducing transportation-related deaths and injuries, especially for the most vulnerable users (walkers, bicyclists, motorcycle users, the elderly, and youth).

Support legislation providing more flexibility to set the speed limit without special circumstances.

APA TEXAS SUPPORTS SAFE ROADWAYS
FOR TEXANS THAT ENHANCE LIVABILITY
AND SUSTAINABILITY WITHIN OUR
COMMUNITIES

Transportation Programming and Funding

Support legislation to provide additional funding for local Safety Action Plans and strategies.

Support legislation creating a sustainable funding source that would produce desired investment levels over time to meet the state's long-term multimodal transportation needs.

Support legislation increasing the state tax on motor fuels to address the immediate fiscal, structural, social, and environmental challenges affecting Texas.

Support legislation for public-private partnership (P3) approaches to augment traditional methods of financing and building transportation projects. Transportation projects should, whenever feasible, include private as well as state and local public investment to enhance federal, state, and local resources when the public interest is protected, to decrease relative public infrastructure costs and provide the real cost of transportation to consumers for each mode. P3 approaches should always result in the provision and maintenance of public infrastructure for the public good, and not the privatization of public infrastructure.

Support legislation for the expansion of the Surface Transportation Block Grant-Set Aside program to provide additional funding to TxDOT and metropolitan areas to develop infrastructure and safety improvements for vulnerable road users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorcyclists.

Support legislation to provide financial incentives for completing the implementation of ADA transition plans.

Livability and Sustainable Transportation

Support legislation for the use and adaptation of existing transportation infrastructure to create a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable transportation network that accommodates the needs of all users whenever possible. Therefore, projects (local or regional) should prioritize the use and adaptation of existing infrastructure and consider not only benefit-cost analysis but also the most effective use of local, state, and federal transportation infrastructure budgets and value created to address inequity and safety.

Support legislation requiring the change of the design standard of intersections from level of service (mainly based on vehicular traffic counts) to multimodal level of service.

Support legislation to allow for flexibility within the TxDOT design standards where the design standards are widely accepted and accommodate all users.

Support legislation integrating active transportation facilities into the transportation network in rural, suburban, and exurban communities. These active transportation facilities may include the accommodation of new and popular microtransit options, such as motorized scooters and bike sharing.

Support legislation for adopting a structured, objective, and transparent project development process to guide project management and decision-making efforts efficiently and effectively.

Support legislation to create a complete street guideline that includes accommodations that are suitable for the context the road serves for TxDOT, counties, and local communities.

Support legislation for the funding of a commission to study the feasibility, cost, and benefits of winterization of the Texas Highway Network.

Support legislation to commission a study on how to oversee the deployment of Autonomous Vehicles on the TxDOT system.