

- SUBJECT:** Restricting promotion of toll projects by TxDOT
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Pickett, Callegari, Y. Davis, Guillen, Harper-Brown, T. Smith, W. Smith
- 0 nays
- 4 absent — Phillips, Dunnam, McClendon, Merritt
- WITNESSES:** For — Terri Hall, Texas TURF; Don Dixon; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Norman Garza, Texas Farm Bureau; Justin Keener, Texas Public Policy Foundation)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Amadeo Saenz, Texas Department of Transportation)
- BACKGROUND:** Transportation Code, sec. 228.004 allows the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to engage in marketing, advertising, and other activities to promote the development and use of toll projects, and allows the department to enter into contracts or agreements necessary to procure marketing, advertising, or other promotional services from outside service providers. Through its *Keep Texas Moving* campaign and outreach to advance the Trans-Texas Corridor project, TxDOT has dedicated state resources to market the development of toll roads in the state.
- DIGEST:** HB 2142 would delete provisions allowing TxDOT to promote the development and use of toll projects and would state that marketing, advertising, and other activities aimed at influencing public opinion about toll roads would not be authorized. The bill would allow TxDOT to engage in activities to provide information relating to the status of pending or ongoing toll projects.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2009.

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NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 384 by Carona, passed the Senate 31-0 and has been referred to the House Transportation Committee.

HB 300 by Isett, the TxDOT sunset bill, includes a provision identical to HB 2142.