

- SUBJECT:** Allowing Brazos County to impose a vehicle fee to fund an RMA
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Canales, Y. Davis, Goldman, Krause, Leman, Ortega, Raney, Thierry, E. Thompson
- 0 nays
- 4 absent — Landgraf, Bernal, Hefner, Martinez
- WITNESSES:** For — John Nichols, BCS Chamber of Commerce; Steve Aldrich and Nancy Berry, Brazos County; Karl Mooney, City of College Station; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Karen Rove, AGC of Texas Highway Heavy; Jennifer Rodriguez, Brazos Transit District; Steve Bresnen, El Paso County)
- Against — Don Dixon; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Terri Hall, Texas TURF and Texans for Tollfree Highways; CJ Grisham; Stephanie Ingersoll)
- On — Brian Barth, Texas Department of Transportation; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jeremiah Kuntz, Texas Department of Motor Vehicles)
- BACKGROUND:** Transportation Code sec. 502.402 allows the commissioners court of certain counties, including counties with populations greater than 1.5 million that are coterminous with regional mobility authorities, to impose a fee on vehicles registered in the county. The fee revenue collected must be sent to a regional mobility authority to fund long-term transportation projects in the county.
- DIGEST:** HB 642 would amend Transportation Code sec. 502.402 to allow the commissioners court of a county that had a population of more than 190,000, rather than 1.5 million, and was coterminous with a regional mobility authority to impose an additional fee for a vehicle registered in the county.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 642 would allow Brazos County to address the area's transportation and infrastructure needs with vehicle registration fees. Currently, Brazos County has an application pending with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to establish a regional mobility authority, and this legislation adjusting certain population limits in statute would provide funding for that regional mobility authority.

The Bryan-College Station area faces significant traffic issues, and a regional mobility authority would allow Brazos County to secure a source of local funding to address these issues, rather than having to rely on TxDOT.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

HB 642 would create an unnecessary fee and bureaucracy, as TxDOT's resources should be adequate to address these issues. Vehicle owners in Brazos County should not be burdened with additional fees to help TxDOT build roads that the department should be building.