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AGENDA

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

WEDNESDAY
February 23, 2011

1:30 P.M. CONVENE MEETING

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion concerning establishment of a policy for the department to share in the revenue of a toll project when the department provides financial assistance from certain funding categories to pay for the costs of a toll facility of a public or private entity
A report was provided to the commission at its August 2010 workshop that discussed scenarios under which financial assistance could be provided in the form of a grant, loan, and as equity, and options for revenue sharing. This item will continue the discussion and will explore the possibility of establishing a department policy of sharing in the revenue of toll projects when the department has provided financial assistance from certain funding categories.
2. Discussion of transportation development credits (TDC) and their potential use toward the non-federal share of eligible projects.
TDC's (formerly known as toll credits) are a mechanism approved by the FHWA that allows states to use their federal obligation authority without the requirement of non-federal matching dollars. This increases the flexibility of the resources available to the department as well as the department's local and regional partners. Credits are earned when the state, a toll authority, or a private entity uses toll revenues to build or improve public highway facilities that serve interstate travel.
3. Discuss the development of a rural component to the 2035 Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP)
The 2035 SLRTP was adopted by the commission on November 18, 2010. The commission also recently adopted new rules for the planning and development of transportation projects. Those rules include an increased focus on public participation in rural areas of the state, including rural planning organizations when established. Metropolitan planning organizations are required to develop long-range transportation plans; however, no equivalent rural long-range plan exists. The development of a rural transportation component to the SLRTP will assist the department in a thorough identification of transportation needs and the prioritization of transportation improvements in rural Texas. Staff will engage the commission in a discussion on developing a rural component to the SLRTP.

4. Discussion of studies being conducted by Texas State University related to the total costs of performing engineering activities in-house as compared to contracting with the private sector for those services
Texas State University is conducting studies of the total costs of performing engineering activities in house as compared to doing such work in the private sector. A joint working group composed of the Consultant Engineer Council and TxDOT representatives is coordinating the study.

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NOTE:

Persons with special needs or disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and require auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact JoLynne Williams at (512) 305-9536 at least three working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.