

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 161

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to highway funding formulas of and project selection by the Texas Department of Transportation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Sections 201.6021 and 201.6022 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.6021. FUNDING FORMULAS FOR HIGHWAY PROJECTS. (a) The commission shall adopt rules creating funding formulas for highway projects. In developing the formulas, the commission shall consider the input of planning organizations, transportation officials, and local government officials.

(b) All funds received by the department for highways, including toll roads and toll road systems, that may be allocated in this state's or the department's discretion shall be allocated according to a formula designed to determine the proportion of funds necessary to address:

(1) rural and statewide connectivity needs; and  
(2) the needs of urban and other heavily populated areas.

(c) The department shall allocate from each category in Subsection (b) amounts derived by formula to each district. The formula must be based on performance measures and include the following criteria:



- (1) center lane miles;
- (2) level of congestion;
- (3) percentage of population below federal poverty  
level;
- (4) population;
- (5) safety; and
- (6) vehicle miles traveled.

Sec. 201.6022. HIGHWAY PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:  
FEASIBILITY AND POPULATION AND USE PROJECTIONS. (a) The department  
shall develop criteria to determine the feasibility of highway  
projects to be included in local transportation improvement plans  
and the statewide transportation improvement plan.

(b) The department shall adopt population and highway  
demand projections for each area for which a metropolitan planning  
organization or the department develops a transportation  
improvement plan. The department and each metropolitan planning  
organization must use the criteria and projections to develop the  
entity's transportation improvement plan.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.