

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ALL Counties

MINUTE ORDER

Page 1 of 1

ALL Districts

Transportation Code, §222.034, requires the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) to distribute federal-aid transportation funds to various parts of the state for a funding cycle through the selection of highway projects in a manner consistent with the federal formulas that determine the amount of federal-aid the state of Texas receives, unless the commission issues a minute order or ruling that identifies the variance and provides particular justification for the variance. A distribution under §222.034 does not include deductions made for the state infrastructure bank or other federal-aid funds reallocated by the federal government.

The funding categories and formulas for the distribution of transportation funds were developed through consensus by various metropolitan planning organizations and elected officials. The commission conducted a public hearing and adopted the project selection process for the 2008 Unified Transportation Program (UTP).

Exhibit A contains an individual evaluation of each federal-aid apportionment program, including particular justification for any variance from the federal-aid apportionment formula and the proposed distribution of the transportation funds through the 2008 UTP.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that Exhibit A shall serve as the commission's identification and justification of variances, as required by Transportation Code, Section 222.034.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Recommended by:

Director, Transportation Planning
and Programming Division

Executive Director

Minute Number Date Passed



Justification of the Variance from Federal-aid Apportionment Formulas

Interstate Maintenance (IM) Program funds are allocated to Texas based on the following quantifiable data as compared with the total of the other states:

33-1/3%	Lane miles of Interstate System routes open to traffic
33-1/3%	Vehicle miles traveled on Interstate System routes open to traffic
33-1/3%	State's annual contributions to the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) attributable to commercial vehicles

TxDOT proposes to vary from the federal distribution for the following reasons:

- Individual TxDOT district or regional contributions to the Highway Trust Fund cannot be quantified.
- The federal formula does not account for pavement distress, condition or substandard surface width.
- The federal formula does not account for maintaining an operational Intelligent Transportation System.
- The federal formula does not account for the volume of commercial truck traffic.
- The federal formula does not account for a region's need to build new Interstate or add capacity to the existing Interstate.

TxDOT proposes to use its IM funding in the following category allocated through our Unified Transportation Program:

- Category 1 – Preventive Maintenance and Rehabilitation

National Highway System Program funds are allocated to Texas based on the following quantifiable data as compared with the total of the other states:

25%	Lane miles of principal arterial routes (excluding Interstate System routes)
35%	Vehicle miles traveled on principal arterial routes (excluding Interstate System routes)
30%	Total diesel fuel used on highways
10%	The quotient obtained by dividing the total lane miles on principal arterial highways by the total population

TxDOT proposes to vary from the federal distribution for the following reasons:

- Individual TxDOT district or regional usage of commercial diesel fuel is not quantifiable.
- The federal formula does not account for pavement distress, truck vehicle miles traveled, population, lane miles of on-system roads, fatal and incapacitating crashes, percent of population under the federal poverty level and total vehicle miles traveled (on and off-system).
- The federal formula does not address TxDOT's strategy of system development and preservation.
- The federal formula does not address specific TxDOT district or regional needs such as congestion relief, improved operations and pavement rehabilitation needs.



Justification of the Variance from Federal-aid Apportionment Formulas

TxDOT proposes to use its NHS funding for four specific categories allocated through our Unified Transportation Program:

- Category 1 – Preventive Maintenance and Rehabilitation
- Category 2 – Metropolitan Area (TMA) Corridor Projects
- Category 3 – Urban Area (Non-TMA) Corridor Projects
- Category 4 – Statewide Connectivity Corridor Projects

Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds are allocated to Texas based on the following quantifiable data as compared with the total of the other states:

- 25% Total lane miles of federal-aid highways
- 40% Vehicle miles traveled on federal-aid highways
- 35% Tax payments attributable to highway users paid into the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account)

SAFETEA-LU requires TxDOT to allocate funds in a manner that differs from the federal distribution formula. SAFETEA-LU outlines specific set-asides for safety, transportation enhancements, urbanized areas with populations greater than 200,000 and rural areas. The STP funds remaining, after set-asides are deducted, are flexible.

TxDOT proposes to use its STP funding for seven specific categories allocated through our Unified Transportation Program:

- Category 1 – Preventive Maintenance and Rehabilitation
- Category 6 – Structures Replacement and Rehabilitation
- Category 7 – Metropolitan Mobility and Rehabilitation
- Category 8 – Safety
- Category 9 – Transportation Enhancements
- Category 10 – Supplemental Transportation Projects (federal-aid portion only)
- Category 11 – District Discretionary

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds are allocated to Texas based on the total of all weighted non-attainment and maintenance area populations as compared with the total of the other states. Currently Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston-Galveston, El Paso and Beaumont-Port Arthur are listed as non-attainment areas. TxDOT allocates funds to all qualifying areas by the same formula by which it receives the federal-aid funds.

The Environmental Protection Agency may designate additional non-attainment or maintenance areas in the near future. If this happens, TxDOT will allocate funds to the new areas using the same formula as the existing areas.



Justification of the Variance from Federal-aid Apportionment Formulas

Highway Bridge Program funds are allocated to Texas based on the relative share of the total cost of deficient bridges as compared with the totals of the other states.

TxDOT proposes to vary from the federal distribution for the following reasons:

- The federal allocation formula does not address the selection of the most functionally obsolete and structurally deficient bridges.
- The federal allocation formula does not assure that minimum funding levels required by SAFETEA-LU for off-system bridges are achieved.

TxDOT proposes to use its Highway Bridge Program funding in the following category allocated through our Unified Transportation Program:

- Category 6 – Structures Replacement and Rehabilitation

Equity Bonus funds have been established by SAFETEA-LU to ensure each state receives a minimum amount of apportionment for the federal programs. Texas is to receive a minimum of 11.00 percent of the national total of Equity Bonus. Since no specific federal allocation formula is used, the commission will direct the use of Equity Bonus funds to best supplement any or all 12 TxDOT categories allocated through our Unified Transportation Program:

- Category 1 – Preventive Maintenance and Rehabilitation
- Category 2 – Metropolitan Area (TMA) Corridor Projects
- Category 3 – Urban Area (Non-TMA) Corridor Projects
- Category 4 – Statewide Connectivity Corridor Projects
- Category 5 – Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement
- Category 6 – Structures Replacement and Rehabilitation
- Category 7 – Metropolitan Mobility and Rehabilitation
- Category 8 – Safety
- Category 9 – Transportation Enhancements
- Category 10 – Supplemental Transportation Projects (federal-aid portion only)
- Category 11 – District Discretionary
- Category 12 - Strategic Priority (federal-aid portion only)