

## Meet Your Staff



**Caroline Mays, AICP** is currently serving as the Interim Freight Systems Branch Manager for TxDOT. In this position, Ms. Mays is charged with developing and managing TxDOT's comprehensive and multimodal Freight Planning Program. Most notably, Ms. Mays managed the development of an award winning Regional Freight Mobility Plan for the Atlanta Region prior to moving to Texas. She brings great experience to freight planning in Texas.

## Working for You

The planning process is just beginning; however, TxDOT has been working hard to lay the foundation for a successful Freight Mobility Plan for many months. The first step was the appointment of the Freight Advisory Committee. Now, TxDOT is in the public engagement process reaching out to freight operators and users to get their insight into the challenges and opportunities facing Texas' freight system. More to come...

Check us out at...

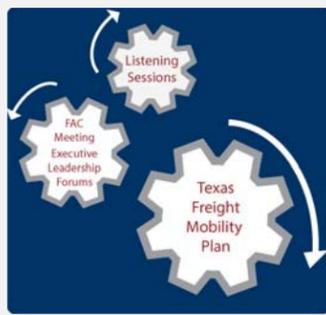
[www.MoveTexasFreight.com](http://www.MoveTexasFreight.com)

## For More Info Contact:

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## Listening Sessions

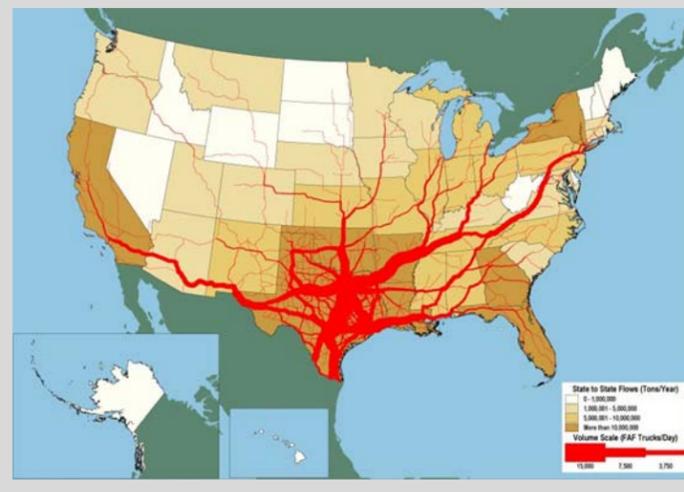
In June 2013, the project began with a series of listening sessions. The goal of these sessions was to hear from freight stakeholders from across the state on how freight moved today and what they saw in the future.



Feedback received during these sessions will feed directly into developing and prioritizing recommendations contained in the Freight Mobility Plan, and will ensure that the Plan addresses the issues most relevant to the freight community. Once this initial input has been compiled and organized, TxDOT will develop a series of Plan goals and strategies to implement.

## Where Are All Those Trucks Going?

Major flows by truck to, from, and within Texas



## NAFTA - Continued Economic Catalyst

In January 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) created the world's largest free trade zone resulting in significant increases in trade between the North American nations. While the act is almost twenty years old, it is still as important as ever. For example, since the height of the recession, trade has grown by over 61 percent.

NAFTA continues to be the catalyst for the Texas economy. In February 2013, over \$39 billion worth of goods traversed the Mexico border with the US. Of that amount, the Texas border crossings accounted for over \$15 billion. California follows in border trade with \$4.8 billion. The majority of cross-border freight moves via truck (64.8%). However, water vessels (15.2%) and rail (13.2%) account for a significant portion of the freight movement. (Source: U.S. DOT Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS))



## Texas Freight Mobility Plan

Texas has maintained strong economic and job growth despite the overall downturn in the national economy, and freight plays a key role in the state's economic vitality. Developing a Freight Mobility Plan that identifies key issues, and strategies to address them, is critical to ensure the freight system continues to provide for the efficient movement of goods across Texas and support a vibrant economy.

### TxDOT's Freight Planning Program Vision



By developing the state's first Freight Mobility Plan, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is creating a multimodal plan that will help the State address its long term freight infrastructure and policy needs.

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# LET'S TALK FREIGHT

## Foxx Sworn In As New Secretary of Transportation



Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation

Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx was sworn in July 2nd as the new U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Foxx was a champion for transportation during his role as Mayor. Under his leadership, Charlotte has undertaken major projects to expand the international airport, extend their light rail network, and build a new downtown streetcar system.

## How to Read a Map...MAP-21



The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), enacted in 2012, required the Secretary of Transportation to encourage each state to develop a comprehensive State Freight Plan. The goals in the National Freight Policy for a freight plan include:

- Improving the contribution of the freight transportation system to economic efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness.
- Reducing congestion on the freight transportation system.
- Improving the safety, security, and resilience of the freight transportation system.
- Improving the state of good repair of the freight transportation system.
- Using advanced technology, performance management, innovation, competition, and accountability in operating and maintaining the freight transportation system.
- Reducing adverse environmental and community impacts of the freight transportation system.

## Did you Know?

The first railroad car was introduced in 1825. The Granite Railroad, of Quincy, MA, built special flatcars to transport granite from the quarry to the riverboats.



## As Big As Texas

Texas has more miles of rail and more railroad employees than any other state. In fact, Texas has 30% more freight rail miles than the next highest state, Illinois. (Source: AAR, U.S. Freight Railroad Industry: Snapshot, 2010)



Texas is served by three major (Class I) railroad companies that directly service the border: Kansas City Southern, Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF). The Kansas City Southern primarily serves north to south traffic and uniquely transverse the Mexican border as it travels south as far as Veracruz and Lázaro Cárdenas.

# LET'S TALK FREIGHT

## The Texas Connection

Texas serves as a major freight hub for North America. Therefore, Texas must fully utilize its multimodal transportation system to move this freight in the most effective manner.

## Ports

Texas ports generate approximately \$135 billion in economic activity. The expansion of the Panama Canal will allow Texas ports become accessible to additional cargo currently coming into California.



## Rail

Rail plays a critical role in moving goods across Texas, according to the Association of American Railroads, as it would require over 20 million additional trucks to move the product handled on the Texas rail network.

## Pipelines

Texas has the most extensive pipeline network in the U.S., with over 360,000 miles of pipelines crossing the state.

## Trucks

Trucks move approximately 60% of Texas freight traffic. As the dominant mode of freight movement in the Texas' freight system, trucks are the most impacted by growth in overall traffic across the state.

## Air

The demand for air freight continues to grow as 'just-in-time' deliveries become an integral part of manufacturing and expectations for rapid service continue to grow.

## Have You Heard?

Texas Transportation Committee Establishes Freight Advisory Committee



Judge Ed Emmett  
TxFAC Chair

*Committee represents diverse industries, perspectives, and both private and public sectors.*

For 10 consecutive years, Texas ranks as the leading exporter in the nation with more than \$251 billion in goods reaching consumers worldwide. Recognizing the important role freight plays in our state, the Texas Transportation Commission recently established its first **Texas Freight Advisory Committee (TxFAC)**. This panel of experts will serve as a forum for agency transportation decisions affecting freight mobility.

The group, led by Harris County Judge Ed Emmett as chair and Cameron County Judge Carlos Cascos as vice-chair, will provide recommendations to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). TxDOT has invited representatives from the airports, agriculture, trucking, manufacturing, government, energy, retail, and rail industries to be a part of the group.

The TxFAC will meet regularly to develop recommendations regarding statewide freight transportation policies and performance measures, advise on the creation of a comprehensive and multimodal statewide freight transportation plan, and provide assistance in identifying freight-related priorities and funding projections.

