

# The Federal Flyer

## President Signs FY 2003 Omnibus Spending Bill Legislation Sets Baseline For Reauthorization of TEA 21 & AIR 21

Nearly six months since the beginning of federal Fiscal Year 2003, the U.S. Congress finally managed to agree on an omnibus spending bill for the non-defense portions of the budget. **President George W. Bush** brought to an end a long series of continuing resolutions by signing the bill, H.J.R. 2, into law on February 20th.

**Highways, Transit, Aviation Funding Sets the Baseline for Reauthorization.** The FY 2003 omnibus spending bill provides \$31.8 billion in obligation authority for the federal-aid highway program, \$7.2 billion for the nation's transit programs, and \$3.4 billion for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). By funding these programs at these levels, the Congress signaled its support for continued strong investment in the nation's transportation programs. These spending levels will set the baseline for future spending to be established in the reauthorizations of TEA 21 and AIR 21, which are scheduled for congressional consideration this year.

In addition, the omnibus bill provides \$190 million for the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program Grants, \$435 million for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (including \$225 million for Highway Traffic Safety Grants as called for in TEA 21), and \$1.2 billion for the Federal Railroad Administration (including \$1.05 billion for Amtrak). Another key provision of the bill for Texas and the other states along the U.S. border with Mexico is \$47 million in funding for border safety inspection station construction.

**Legislators Boost the Level of Project Earmarks.** As in previous years, members of Congress took the opportunity to target federal transportation funds to specific projects in their districts. More than \$1.42 billion in highway project earmarks are included in the transportation sections of the bill. Despite Texas members obtaining some \$72 million in highway project earmarks, this total represents only 5.04% of the total funds distributed via earmarks. Texas contributes nearly 8.5% of the funds used to support these earmarks, so the state's taxpayers essentially paid for nearly \$50 million of the projects earmarked in other states.



See the following pages for Texas highways, aviation, and transit earmarks in the FY 2003 omnibus spending bill.

**Texas FY 2003 Highway Discretionary Program Earmarks**

Project Description	Program Category	Amount
I-30/I-35 Dallas, Construction of Bridges for Trinity River	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary	\$ 5,000,000
IH 35 perpetual pavement testing, LaSalle County	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary	\$ 1,000,000
IH 35 frontage road & ramp system improvements, Huntsville	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary	\$ 1,000,000
IH 30 in Texarkana from FM 989 in Bowie County to the AR state line (US 71)	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary	\$ 1,000,000
Rehabilitation of IH 20 in Erath, Palo Pinto, and Parker counties	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary	\$ 3,350,000
City of Austin	Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Deployment	\$ 500,000
ADART phase IV implementation, Corpus Christi	ITS Deployment	\$ 500,000
Round Rock/ Williamson County Communications Integration	ITS Deployment	\$ 500,000
City of El Paso, Ysleta POE dedicated commuter lane	Bridge Discretionary	\$ 300,000
I-30 replacement bridge, Dallas	Bridge Discretionary	\$ 1,750,000
Forest Highway 87 (SH 201), Sabine National Forest, Sabine County, Texas	Federal Lands	\$ 750,000
SR 130 ROW Williamson, Guadalupe, Travis, and Caldwell Counties	National Corridor Planning and Development and Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program (NCPD/CBI)	\$ 10,000,000
Bomber Road, Fort Worth	NCPD/CBI Program	\$ 1,500,000
Donna-Rio Bravo International Border Crossing	NCPD/CBI Program	\$ 750,000
I-35 expansion, Hill County	NCPD/CBI Program	\$ 1,500,000
IH-35 -FM 2484 Amity Road, Shankin Road Overpass, Bell County	NCPD/CBI Program	\$ 2,000,000
SH 158 - US 87 to 4.75 west, Sterling County	NCPD/CBI Program	\$ 850,000
US 87 Relief Route, Lamesa	NCPD/CBI Program	\$ 850,000
West Laredo Multimodal Trade Corridor	NCPD/CBI Program	\$ 3,500,000
Port of Galveston, intermodal improvement program	Ferry Boats & Ferry Terminal Facilities	\$ 250,000
Corpus Christi Ferry Terminal	Transportation Community and System Preservation Pilot Program (TCSP)	\$ 500,000
City of Fort Worth corridor redevelopment program	TCSP	\$ 795,000
Trinity River Visions	TCSP	\$ 500,000
<b>Texas Highway Discretionary Earmarks Total</b>		<b>\$ 38,645,000</b>
<b>Texas Share of Highway Discretionary Earmarks</b>		<b>5.13%</b>
<b>Texas ROR on Highway Discretionary (Share of Contributions = 8.48%)</b>		<b>\$ 0.60</b>

**Texas FY 2003 Surface Transportation Project Earmarks (Section 330)**

<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Analysis of new bridge to relieve congestion at US 175 in Kaufman County, Texas	\$ 600,000
Brownsville Railroad Relocation, Texas	\$ 2,000,000
Feasibility Study, Granbury, Hood County, Texas	\$ 650,000
Harlingen Railroad Relocation Project, Texas	\$ 200,000
Houston, Texas Mainstreet Corridor Revitalization Project	\$ 1,000,000
Hunt County, Texas	\$ 1,000,000
"I" Road, from FM 496 to US 281, Hidalgo County, Texas	\$ 1,250,000
I-35, Comal County, Texas	\$ 500,000
I-35 East / I-635 Interchange	\$ 1,000,000
I-35E Widening, Dallas and Ellis Counties	\$ 3,000,000
I-59 & FM 2919, Isleib	\$ 3,000,000
I-69 Construction, Texas	\$ 2,500,000
I-69 Corridors 18 and 20, Texas	\$ 4,000,000
Improved access to Dyess AFB	\$ 850,000
Mission Trails Project Packages 4 & 5, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas	\$ 750,000
New Luke Road Trade Corridor Access Project, Texas	\$ 250,000
New Road through former Kelly Air Force Base, Texas	\$ 850,000
Ports to Plains corridor development management plan, Texas	\$ 2,000,000
SH 6 at Waco, South Bosque River Bridge, McLennan County	\$ 4,000,000
SH 24 across Delta County, Texas	\$ 750,000
Tank Destroyer Boulevard, Fort Hood	\$ 2,000,000
Widening & rehab of FM 2500, Polk County	\$ 850,000
<b>Texas Project Total</b>	<b>\$ 33,000,000</b>
<b>Texas Share of Total</b>	<b>4.89%</b>
<b>Texas Rate of Return on Section 330 Projects</b>	<b>\$ 0.58</b>

**Texas FY 2003 Aviation Project Earmarks**

<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Addison Field	Terminal Air Traffic Control Facilities	\$ 5,700,000
Corpus Christi	Terminal Air Traffic Control Facilities	\$ 700,000
Beaumont	Terminal Air Traffic Control Facilities	\$ 1,000,000
Robert Gray AFB	Instrument Landing System	\$ 1,400,000
Abilene Airport - Various Improvements	Airport Discretionary Grants	\$ 2,000,000
Denton Municipal Airport - Improvements	Airport Discretionary Grants	\$ 2,000,000
Del Rio International Airport - Land acquisition for runway extension & improvements	Airport Discretionary Grants	\$ 2,000,000
Draughton-Miller Regional Airport - Extend runway; improve parallel taxiway; install vault; upgrade lighting	Airport Discretionary Grants	\$ 2,000,000
Fort Worth Alliance Airport - Extension of 2 runways	Airport Discretionary Grants	\$ 3,000,000
Gainesville Municipal Airport - Extend runway & parallel taxiway	Airport Discretionary Grants	\$ 1,000,000
San Antonio International Airport - Various improvements	Airport Discretionary Grants	\$ 1,700,000
Valley International Airport - Acquire ROW; reconstruct road	Airport Discretionary Grants	\$ 550,000
<b>Total Texas Airport Earmarks</b>		<b>\$ 23,050,000</b>

**Texas FY 2003 Transit Project Earmarks**

<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Austin Bus	\$ 5,000,000
Beaumont Buses	\$ 100,000
Brownsville Buses	\$ 100,000
El Paso Bus	\$ 1,500,000
Galveston Buses	\$ 1,000,000
San Antonio Transit Bus System Modernization	\$ 1,500,000
Abilene buses & bus facilities, Citylink	\$ 600,000
Corpus Christi RTA buses & bus facilities	\$ 500,000
Fort Worth Transportation Authority	\$ 3,000,000
Houston Advanced Transit Program	\$ 2,000,000
Laredo, administration, operations, and maintenance facility	\$ 1,750,000
Lubbock buses	\$ 150,000
Odessa and Midland, alternatively fueled buses	\$ 1,000,000
Texas Tech University park-and-ride buses	\$ 1,850,000
Waco Transit maintenance & administration facility, buses	\$ 1,900,000
Woodlands District park-and-rides	\$ 1,200,000
<b>Bus Program Projects - Texas Total</b>	<b>\$ 23,150,000</b>
DART's Suburban Areas Extention	\$ 60,000,000
Houston Advanced Metro Transit Plan	\$ 11,000,000
<b>New Starts Program Projects - Texas Total</b>	<b>\$ 71,000,000</b>
Abilene (Citylink)	\$ 100,000
Austin Capital Metro	\$ 2,500,000
Corpus Christi	\$ 1,225,000
El Paso	\$ 250,000
Galveston	\$ 600,000
Lubbock (Citibus)	\$ 230,000
San Antonio	\$ 1,088,000
East Texas Just Transportation Alliance (Tyler)	\$ 200,000
<b>Job Access Reverse Commute Program Projects - Texas Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,193,000</b>
<b>Texas Total</b>	<b>\$ 100,343,000</b>

The *Federal Flyer* is a publication of the TxDOT Legislative Affairs Office. It is intended to provide up-to-date information on major legislative activities in the 108th Congress for the management of the Texas Department of Transportation, state leaders, and others interested in Texas transportation issues. This report will also feature key activities in the national transportation community. Sources include news services and staff reports.

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