

Approval of DART's Legislative Agenda for the 87th Session of the Texas Legislature

Committee of the Whole
November 10, 2020

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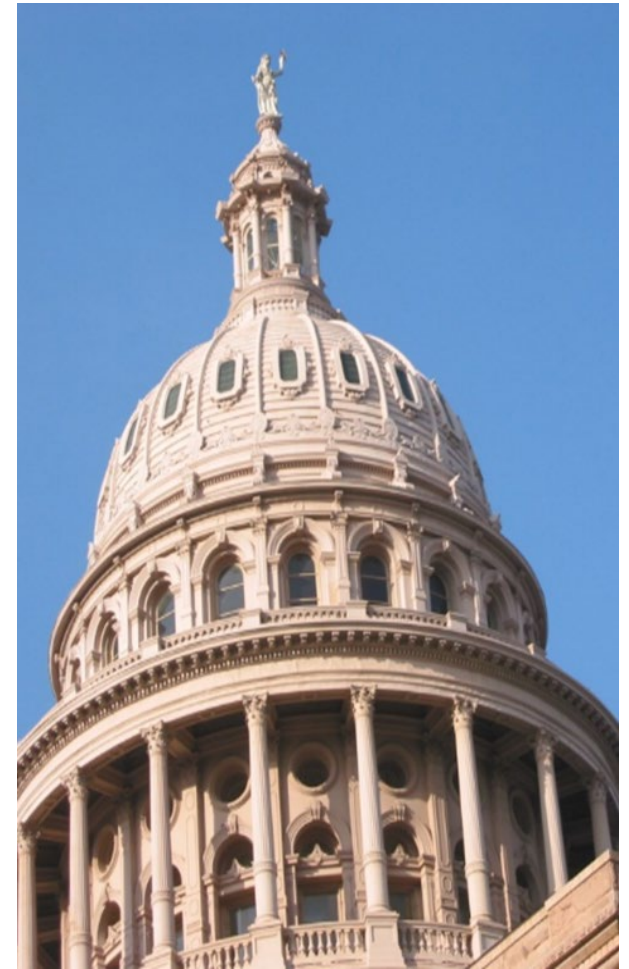


DART State Legislative Agenda Development

- Call for Potential Issues July/Aug.
- Vetting of Issues Internally and with Board Sept./Oct.
- Final Determination of DART's Priorities for the 87th Session Nov. 10

Key Dates – 87th Texas Legislature

- **November 9, 2020** – Pre-filing of Bills Begins
- **January 12, 2021** – 87th Texas Legislature Convenes
- **March 12, 2021** – Bill Filing Deadline
- **May 31, 2021** – Last Day of 87th Session, Adjourn Sine Die



DART State Delegation Update

- **Nov. 3 General Election** - Two changes to DART's 32-member State Legislative Delegation:
 - **House District 100 – Rep.-Elect Jasmine Crockett**
 - Succeeds Rep. Lorraine Birabil (D-Dallas)
 - **House District 10 – Rep.-Elect Jake Ellzey**
 - Succeeds Rep. John Wray (R-Waxahachie), who is retiring
- **Dec. 19 – Special Election Run-off for Senate District 30:** Fill unexpired term of Sen. Pat Fallon (R-Prosper), who was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (C.D. 4) on Nov. 3: Rep. Drew Springer (R-Muenster) or Shelley Luther of Pilot Point
- **State Senate Delegation Party Affiliation:** Remains 6 Republicans and 2 Democrats
- **State House Delegation Party Affiliation:** Remains 13 Democrats and 11 Republicans

Potential DART State Legislative Agenda Items – 87th Session

- Amend DART’s enabling legislation, Chapter 452 of the Texas Transportation Code, to add travel time, travel date, and trip origin and destination locations (address or latitude and longitudinal data, demographic information of the person scheduling the trip) to the list of personally identifiable confidential items protected from disclosure under Chapter 552, Texas Government Code
- Amend Chapter 452 of the Texas Transportation Code to authorize the DART Board to extend and continue an emergency service change beyond the currently authorized 180 days due to an emergency disaster declaration issued by federal, state, county or service area municipality

Potential DART State Legislative Agenda Items – 87th Session

- Amend Chapter 452 of the Texas Transportation Code to streamline the public hearing process to make it more efficient and less time-consuming to implement service changes by DART
- Seek and support legislative opportunities to amend the “walking quorum” prohibition passed during the 86th Legislature (S.B. 1640) to add clarifying language to give governmental officials clearer guidance in Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Texas Open Meetings Act) on what actions are prohibited and what actions are allowed in engaging in individual communications in small groups fewer than a quorum

Feedback from State Delegation on Proposed DART Legislative Agenda Items

- **GoPass Customer Data Privacy** – This issue is the most doable and should attract bipartisan traction and support
- **Extension of Emergency Service Change During Government-Declared Disasters** – Willing to consider, provided it has appropriate safeguards. Would need to show how it is specifically needed (in this session)
- **Service Change Notice and Hearing Process** – This issue was seen as somewhat troublesome and confusing, difficult to explain and probably needs more work. Would want to know there was strong board consensus on an issue involving transparency
- **Walking Quorum** – This is not an issue that DART should get out in front on. Last session, S.B. 1640 had strong bipartisan sponsorship and passed with overwhelming support in each house (Senate vote was 30-1 and House vote 145-1, and no one from cities or counties testified against the bill in either house)

Potential DART State Legislative Agenda Items – 87th Session

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Actively Pursue:

- Amend DART’s enabling legislation, Chapter 452 of the Texas Transportation Code, to add travel time, travel date, and trip origin and destination locations (address or latitude and longitudinal data, demographic information of the person scheduling the trip) to the list of personally identifiable confidential items protected from disclosure under Chapter 552, Texas Government Code

Work with Others to:

- Seek and support legislative opportunities, if presented, to amend the “walking quorum” prohibition passed during the 86th Legislature (S.B. 1640) to add clarifying language to give governmental officials clearer guidance in Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Texas Open Meetings Act) on what actions are prohibited and what actions are allowed in engaging in individual communications in small groups fewer than a quorum

Potential DART State Legislative Agenda Items – 87th Session

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Actively Monitor:

- Legislation filed relating to online sales tax collection, taxation of electric vehicles and any legislation impacting DART's primary funding source, the dedicated, voter-approved one-cent transit sales tax. Also, monitor any legislation filed impacting DART's business operations or possible future expansion

A photograph of a city street with a blue and yellow bus in the center. The bus has a sign that says "8-6-30" and "MAY 2015". There are tall buildings on either side of the street. A yellow box is superimposed over the bus, containing the word "Questions?".

Questions?