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Contact: Jim Reed 210-422-8157  
Vic Suhm 817-262-7230

**Transportation Advocates of Texas Announces Formation**  
*Coalition of Public and Private Sector Leaders Launches Website and Education Campaign on Funding Shortfall*

Austin, TX – Hundreds of regional transportation representatives, business leaders and chamber representatives, private companies dependent upon safe and reliable roads, contractors who construct our roads, and an assortment of concerned citizens sick and tired of traffic jams have formed a new, statewide transportation organization called the Transportation Advocates of Texas. Today they are publicly launching a new website <http://texastransportation.org> and social media accounts on Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

“We took the initiative to form this organization because of the alarming fact that by 2012 no new funding will be available for additional roads and projects in Texas,” stated TAOt Board Chairman Jim Reed, San Antonio Medical Center Alliance president. “When our entire transportation budget is eaten up by maintenance, and paying off old bonds, then we face a serious transportation crisis in a fast-growing state like Texas.

“While identifying additional funding options will not be easy in this economic climate, the cost of doing nothing is worse,” said Reed. “We are \$8 billion short of our annual transportation needs in Texas, and if nothing is done traffic delays will double in a few short years, thousands of jobs will be lost, and rural towns will suffer due to a lack of safe and reliable connectivity. We look forward to working with legislators towards a funding solution that works for all of Texas.”

The Board of Directors and membership of TAOt is comprised of representatives from every corner of the state and knowledgeable leaders in the transportation field.

The goal of the organization is to work with legislators to secure transportation resources in order to enhance mobility, improve air quality, relieve gridlock, maintain existing infrastructure and energize the Texas economy.

Vic Suhm, TAOt Vice chairman and Executive Director of Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition stated, “There is a substantial cost associated with gridlock. Our air quality, economy, and time with family and friends are all negatively impacted by increasing traffic. We hope that our website will be a tool to provide information and engage Texans in our shared transportation future.”

The website features will educate Texans on the current state of Texas transportation, and ultimately engage and mobilize Texans during the legislative session to help build a better Texas.

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