



March 16, 2023

The Honorable Paulette Guajardo
and Members of the City Council
City of Corpus Christi
1201 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Re: Corpus Christi RTA Legislative Program

Dear Mayor Guajardo and Council Members,

Enclosed is a copy of the Legislative Program for the 88th Legislature adopted by the Board of Directors of the CCRTA. As a transportation agency established under laws created by the Legislature, the CCRTA has critical interest each legislative session. Changing needs and technology require legislative changes from time to time, and the CCRTA must be careful in examining proposed legislation on other matters which can have consequences for our ridership.

The enclosed Program is broken down into four parts covering Primary Initiatives, Secondary Initiatives, Endorsement Issues and Defensive Measures. In order to provide the continued level of service for the nearly 3 million passenger trips we provide each year, the CCRTA has a vested interest in the legislative process.

We look forward to the opportunity to answer any questions you might have concerning this Program, and we look forward to working with you on matters of mutual interest.

Very truly yours,

Dan S. Leyendecker
Board Chair

CORPUS CHRISTI REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
FOR THE 88TH LEGISLATURE

SECTION 01: PRIMARY INITIATIVES

1. Legislation authorizing an MTA to provide natural gas fueling to municipal, county, and other political subdivisions which are exempt under other provisions of the Texas Tax Code due to emergencies or other exigent circumstances pursuant to interlocal agreements.
2. Protect, preserve, and seek additional appropriations for air quality planning funds (Clean Air Account 151), which benefits Corpus Christi as a near non-attainment community in meeting SIP requirements.
3. Preserve and ensure CCRTA's eligibility for TERP and electric/vehicle infrastructure grant funds.
4. Constructively participate in TxDOT Sunset Review, seeking opportunities to advance positive transit funding & program initiatives.
5. Seek to maximize federal infrastructure and electric vehicle funding for CCRTA and the Coastal Bend.

SECTION 02: SECONDARY INITIATIVES

1. Modifications to the Fare Approval Committee process under 451.061, Transportation Code, in order to follow the procedures established for other transit authorities with principal cities having a population of less than 1,000,000.
2. Increase the criminal penalty for certain offenses committed on the premises of a public transportation system.
3. Exempt from the two-cent local sales tax cap the publicly-imposed transit tax, allowing local communities room for other voter-approved sales taxes to assist in meeting infrastructure or other community needs.
4. Amend the Tax Code to exempt from the gasoline tax, and/or diesel fuel tax, sold to, or delivered into the fuel supply tank of an MTA vehicle for the sole purpose of and engaged exclusively in providing public transportation purposes (similar to school buses), not just in rural areas, and protect against increases in motor fuels tax rates or repeal of alternative fuels exemptions achieved in previous sessions that may adversely impact MTAs.

SECTION 03: ENDORSEMENT ISSUES



1. Provide authority for an urban transit district to expand services as a means to improve services in rural areas served by an MTA.
2. Support efforts to bolster Gulf Coast protection and flood infrastructure capabilities.
3. Support federal infrastructure funding within the Coastal Bend.

SECTION 04: DEFENSIVE MEASURES

1. Preserve the integrity of Chapters 451, 452 of the Transportation Code and general MTA authority.
2. Protect all local and state funding sources for metropolitan and regional public transportation agencies, so that no portion of that funding approved by voters is diverted from public transportation purposes in the area where funding is collected, including:
 - o being subject to a road or street maintenance contribution referendum.
 - o diversion to the state highway fund or restricting the uses of locally-collected revenue for non-transit purposes.
 - o changes to the current sales collection increments.
3. Preserve the MTA appointed governance structure from requiring members to be elected.
4. Preserve the right for political subdivisions, including the MTA's, to utilize their funds for state legislative and regulatory advocacy.
5. Protect against state legislative changes to the governing body of metropolitan rapid transit authorities, including size and make up, unless locally supported.
6. Protect against legislation authorizing the withdrawal by political subdivisions from the territory of a metropolitan rapid transit authority.
7. Preserve the authorization for MTA's to utilize P3, Design-Build and Construction Manager-At Risk to deliver projects, including the use of eminent domain.
8. Preserve an MTA's alternatively fueled vehicles from "road user fee" fairness changes.

The foregoing Legislative Program was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority at its Board meeting on March 1, 2023.

ATTEST: CORPUS CHRISTI REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

By:  By: 
Lynn Allison, Board Secretary Dan Leyendecker, Board Chair