



*The Texas Lyceum*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**The Future of Texas' Transportation Infrastructure**  
**Texas Lyceum hosts 23rd Annual Public Conference**  
*Senators Watson and Nichols, Mayor White & Harris County Judge*  
*Emmett plus other noted experts*

(HOUSTON) Texas' transportation infrastructure is aging while the state continues to grow at a record pace and resources are stretched over a long list of competing priorities. Everything from the safety, cost and duration of our daily commutes, to eating fresh foods, and the entire economy is affected by transportation and infrastructure. What is the future outlook for Texas when it comes to reasonably meeting our transportation and infrastructure needs?

That question, among others, will be posed at The Texas Lyceum 23<sup>rd</sup> annual public conference on Wednesday December 3, 2008 at Houston's Reliant Arena. **The event is open to credentialed members of the media who are urged to register online. Tickets are a \$175 for individuals. For more information on the conference and to register go to: [www.texaslyceum.org](http://www.texaslyceum.org).**

“We have seen critical pieces of infrastructure such as the New Orleans levees and the Minneapolis Bridge fail in the last few years with devastating results,” said Lyceum President John Boettiger. “As a Texas leadership organization, we want to understand the situation in Texas. What is the condition of our infrastructure today; what are the priorities for improvements and expansions; and what are the options to fund and build what we need.”

Designed for maximum interaction, using a “fishbowl style” format, panels will be loaded with experts and transportation policy specialists including State Senator Kirk Watson of Austin and State Senator Robert Nichols of Jacksonville. Houston Mayor Bill White and Harris County Judge Ed Emmet will also be speaking.

“We want to thank our outstanding advisory committee who volunteered their time to build this goal-oriented conference,” said Tim Belton, CEO The New Release Inc. and Manny Vela, VP Valley Baptist Health System. “Our conference was postponed because of damage to the venue from Hurricane Ike, so we wish to thank everyone involved for helping us present a first-rate event and accomplish our goal: to foster leadership among our Directors.”

Last summer, the Texas Lyceum, a non-profit, non-partisan statewide leadership group, sponsored an independent poll that asked Texans their thoughts about transportation and infrastructure in the state. Respondents statewide wanted to improve our roads, highways and other forms of public transportation, but they were not willing to pay for it through increased gasoline taxes or new tolls.

This policy conundrum sets the stage for the Lyceum public conference designed by Lyceum Directors and an impressive statewide advisory committee. (See list below) Participants will take part in a series of discussions around topics such as transportation financing, sustainability (planning), delivering infrastructure and how best to move freight safely and efficiently throughout Texas.

### **Fishbowl: Unique format involving all attendees**

Organizers aim to move beyond the traditional conference panel discussions and into active engagement of the audience by applying a "fishbowl" style meeting method led by noted facilitator, Margaret Vaughan Robinson. The goal is to collect public policy priorities for transportation infrastructure across the state that could ultimately lead to solutions in the future. During this interactive, one-day, public conference, attendees will hear from four panels, each addressing distinct policy issues, and participate in an interactive facilitation exercise.

### **Texas Lyceum *Journal***

At the conclusion of the conference, the most urgent priorities as established by these sessions will be assimilated into the *Journal*, the Lyceum’s annual

publication. The *Journal* will also include the results of the 2008 Texas Lyceum Poll as well as papers written by conference participants. The *Journal* is distributed to all members of the Texas Legislature and is available online at [www.texaslyceum.org](http://www.texaslyceum.org).

The conference will result in an audience with a better understanding of the issues as well as objective assessments of the priorities identified by the diverse group attending. As a non-partisan forum, the Texas Lyceum is dedicated to leadership development and exploring consensus approaches to important issues that affect the future of Texas. The 2008 Public Conference is an opportunity for the Lyceum Directors, its alumni and the public to interact with policy makers, policy advocates and each other to actively engage in the discussion.

“We want to thank our outstanding advisory committee who volunteered their time to build this goal-oriented conference,” Belton and Vela continued. “Our conference presenters are also key in helping us present a first-rate event and accomplish our goal: to foster leadership among our Directors.”

### **About The Texas Lyceum**

The Texas Lyceum, a non-profit, non-partisan group, is the premier statewide leadership organization. The Lyceum consists of 96 men and women from throughout the state, who begin their six-year term while under the age of 46, and have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas.

In 2008, the Lyceum conducted the second annual Texas Lyceum Poll, an independent survey of Texan’s attitudes about issues facing the state and the nation, and will hold its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual public conference in Houston on the topic of Transportation Infrastructure in Texas.

The Lyceum has an impressive list of former members who are serving or have served in the public office including: President George W. Bush, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Governor Rick Perry, former Texas Comptroller John Sharp, Texas State Senators Rodney Ellis and Kirk Watson, Houston Mayor Bill White, Texas Supreme Court Justice Don Willett, and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

The Texas Lyceum acts as a catalyst to bring together diverse opinions and expertise to focus on national and state issues, and seeks to emphasize constructive private sector, public sector, and individual responses to the issues.

To accomplish these purposes, the Lyceum conducts periodic public forums, publishes the Lyceum *Journal*, produces The Texas Lyceum Poll, and convenes programs for the Directors to explore and discuss key economic and social issues of the state and nation. For more information visit:

[www.texaslyceum.org](http://www.texaslyceum.org)

THE TEXAS LYCEUM  
23rd Public Conference  
Transportation Infrastructure: Establishing Public Policy Priorities  
December 3, 2008  
Houston, Texas

Wednesday, December 3  
Texas Lyceum's 23rd Public Conference  
Location: Reliant Center, Houston

7:00am Registration Opens

8:00am Opening Remarks

John Boettiger, President of The Texas Lyceum

The Honorable Bill White, Mayor of the City of Houston

The Honorable Ed Emmett, Harris County Judge

Chairman James Edmonds, Port of Houston Authority

8:45 Introductions

Introduce Advisory Board - Paul Hobby, Advisory Board Chairman  
(invited)

Introduce Honorary Host Committee and Sponsors - Manny Vela

Overview of Facilitation Process by Tim Belton

9:00am Topic I – Freight

Topic Chairmen: Duffy Crane, Eric Fox and Geronimo Rodriguez, Jr.

Moderator: Allan Rutter, Cambridge Systematics

Dialogue Participants: Thomas Kornegay, Executive Director, Port of

Houston Authority; Gerald  
Schwebel, Executive Vice President, IBC-Laredo; Mark Whittaker, PepsiCo  
Transportation; Steven  
Polunsky, Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee;  
Marvin Wells, General  
Manager, Port Terminal Rail Association (invited)  
10:00am Breakout Sessions

10:30am Phone/E-mail Break

10:45am Topic II – Sustainability

Topic Chairman: Collin Cox

Moderator: Richard Seline, CEO/Principal, New Economy Strategies, and  
Lyceum alumnus

Dialogue Participants: Dr. Carol Lewis, Texas Southern University; Gwen  
Eklund, Director, Central Region, TRC Companies, Inc.; Phyllis Jarrell,  
Director of Planning, City of Plano; David Crossley, President, Gulf Coast  
Institute; Kirk Watson, Texas State Senator and Lyceum alumnus;  
Joe Krier, President, Texans for Safe and Reliable Transportation and  
Lyceum alumnus (invited)

11:45pm Breakout Sessions

12:15 –1:15pm Box Lunch and break

1:15pm Topic III – Financing Priorities and Options

Topic Chairmen: Melissa Killen and Cynthia Figueroa

Moderator: Bill King, Of Counsel, Bracewell & Giuliani

Dialogue Participants: Scott Polikov, Planner/Principal, Gateway  
Planning; Paul Martin,

Shareholder, Winstead; Joe B. Allen, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson ;  
Maura Goldstein, Partner,

Baker Botts LLP; Lisa Fenner, Vice President, Goldman Sachs

2:15pm Breakout Sessions

2:45pm Phone/E-mail Break

3:00pm Topic IV – Delivering Texas Infrastructure Projects

Topic Chairman: Donze Lopez

Moderator: Steve Stagner, President, Texas Council of Engineering  
Companies

Dialogue Participants: Terry Brechtel, Executive Director, Alamo Regional Mobility Authority; Jim Thompson, Regional Chief Executive, AECOM; State Senator Robert Nichols; Dan Stoppenhagen, Fluor Corporation; Phil Russell, Assistant Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation

4:00pm Breakout Sessions

4:30pm Phone/E-mail Break

4:45pm Review of Transportation Policy Priorities from Breakout Sessions

5:15pm Closing Comments

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