

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: The Sunset Review of the Department of Transportation
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 8:02:23 AM

From: Zack Hamburg
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:10 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: The Sunset Review of the Department of Transportation

To whom it may concern,

I write as a concerned taxpayer in Texas about the Sunset Review of the Department of Transportation. Below are two points that the department should strive to improve.

--**TXDOT should consider all modes of transportation.** It is an absolute disgrace that Texas has two of the top ten most populous cities in the United States, but there is no inter-city rail connecting the two. Furthermore, the Amtrak rail service in Texas is so infrequent that it is nearly useless. Other states with populous cities have state-supported rail service--so can Texas. Our cities also lack the dedicated bikeways and pedestrian-friendly streets that they need to become vibrant places to live. Texans want more options for transportation, and it is clear that TXDOT has prioritized highway projects above all else.

--**TXDOT should seek public input for new projects.** TXDOT's allocation process of precious transportation funds is bureaucratic and formulaic, and the prescribed solutions to city congestion so far have been to widen highways and build more overpasses. There needs to be a more democratic and merit-based approach that comes from the bottom up. Let cities and counties choose the solution that is right for them, and help to fund their chosen solution. TXDOT often seems to operate in a vacuum--the department needs to listen to stakeholders and, especially, taxpayers.

Please take these items into account when making your recommendations.

Sincerely,
Zack Hamburg