



Texas Legislative Perspective - 2009

Senator John Carona


Representative Jim Murphy



Traffic Safety Conference Review

16 breakout sessions with experts

- ❑ Freight rail and crossings
- ❑ Teen driving, elder driving, distracted driving
- ❑ Red light cameras
- ❑ Roadway design
- ❑ Occupant safety
- ❑ Motorcycle helmets v 5.1



Addressing problems, not simply identifying them, is our legislative goal

- So we ask ourselves:
 - How should this issue be addressed?
 - Is it our (the State's) role to do so?
 - Is there a clear and compelling public interest?
 - Can we agree on an answer?



The Context for 2009

- ❑ National economic slowdown means a slowdown for Texas
- ❑ Single digit growth forecast in personal income
- ❑ Major issues (education, health care, business tax) will command legislative attention
- ❑ Transportation focus will be more broad than safety

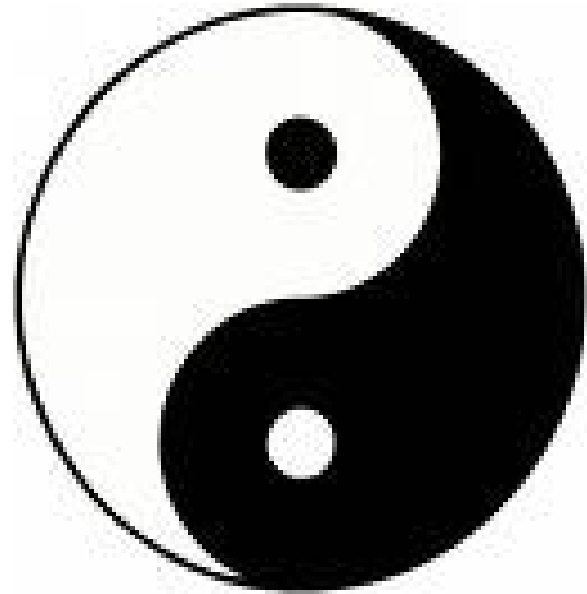


Transportation Issues for the 81st

- ❑ Sunset for TXDOT
- ❑ Funding for highway construction
- ❑ Diversions, fees, and taxes
- ❑ Toll roads and CDAs
- ❑ Federal/state/local responsibilities
- ❑ *Where does safety fit in or “rise above the noise?”*

Legislative Balancing: Austin's Yin and Yang

- Our mission is “finding the center” of consensus on an issue.
- Multiple dynamics come into play in varying degrees.





Push/Pull Dynamics

- Freedom
- Individual
- Cost
- Urban
- This issue
- State control
- Control (regulation)
- Society
- Benefit
- Rural
- Other issues
- Local control



Advancing an Agenda

- ❑ Define your goal/objective
- ❑ Draft a legislative leader
- ❑ Assemble a coalition
- ❑ Communicate your goal, seek feedback and support
- ❑ Engage in a coordinated legislative effort
- ❑ Remember the importance of rule making



Recent Safety Success Stories

- Seat belts for school buses
- Red light cameras
- Cable barriers in highway medians



Question and Answer Session



For More Information

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