

Senate Committee on State Affairs

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TEX-21 and Local Communities hold Transportation Summit

"Shapiro commends local community and the Coalition for local-state cooperation as the approach to find real solutions for the Texas transportation system"

IRVING - In an effort to find practical solutions to the transportation issues facing Texas, the TEX-21 Coalition and the City of Irving have brought together parties involved in transportation planning at the Texas 2000 Transportation Summit being held in the metroplex this week.

"I am pleased to see local governments and the TEX-21 Coalition working together to find solutions to our pending transportation crisis," states Senator Florence Shapiro, Chair of the Senate Committee on State Affairs. "We must have a comprehensive, state-wide approach where each of us is working together on a unified basis to create a system that is greater than merely the sum of its parts."

The Senate State Affairs Committee has been charged by Lt. Governor Rick Perry with studying the state's intermodal transportation planning efforts with an emphasis on NAFTA-related trade corridors and their impact on both metropolitan and rural areas of the state. They have held regional hearings to discuss and hear testimony on the problems facing each area of the state.

"Currently, Texas is building roads at forty-percent of our needs, and consequently we are losing economic opportunities for our citizens," Shapiro states. "We simply cannot construct and maintain the transportation assets we so desperately need with the current means of financing our roads. We are committed to exploring and studying the merits of each and every proposal to address this issue."

The Texas 2000 Transportation Summit is the third summit to be held in Irving. This year's summit is being held at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Los Colinas, June 21 -23. Sponsors include TEX-21, which is a grassroots statewide coalition of locally elected officials, the City of Irving, the North Texas Commission, the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, and the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau.