

Senate Committee on State Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senate State Affairs to Meet on Transportation Issues in Brownsville

The Senate Committee on State Affairs, chaired by Senator Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, has scheduled a meeting in Brownsville to discuss transportation issues. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday, May 26, at the Brownsville Public Library, 2600 Central Blvd.

The 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. The Brownsville hearing will focus specifically on local transportation and border concerns.

"One of the most important and overwhelming problems that Texas will face in the 21st century is transportation," Senator Shapiro said. "We must study this issue now and devise a long term statewide strategy for safer roads, increased mobility and connectivity of goods and services as well as people across this vast state."

Representatives from local Chambers of Commerce, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, local transportation entities, and city and county elected officials will testify before the Committee. Public testimony from the community and surrounding areas will be taken at the hearing.

The Committee has scheduled hearings in all areas of the state to put together a statewide strategy for transportation that will account for the needs of individual communities. The Brownsville hearing is the ninth hearing held by the State Affairs Committee during the interim to discuss transportation-related issues. The Senate Special Committee on Border Affairs also will meet at this time.