Suggested Revisions to Platform on Transportation

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Current 2024 platform:
https://texasgop.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-RPT-Platform.pdf

PRESERVE THESE PLANKS: #49, #51, #66, #152, #153, #199, & #200.

Planks #49 to Preserve our Freedom to Travel, #51 to Abolish Toll Roads, #66 Truth in Taxation to prevent diversion of road taxes to anti-car transit, restricted lanes, rail, bike lanes, #152 Opposing Warrantless Surveillance, #153 Protect Geolocation Data, #179 Protect Data Privacy, #199 Preserving Property Rights, #200 No Eminent Domain for Private Toll Roads.

Business, Commerce, Transportation:

Freedom to Travel #49, Abolish Toll Roads #51

NOTE: *Proposing a slight word change to Digital ID below to prevent any adoption of a Digital ID outright, whether voluntary or not. Voluntary programs turn into mandates (as 9 states have demonstrated by turning their voluntary Digital IDs into mandatory compliance).*

49. Freedom to Travel: Lawmakers must take action immediately to protect drivers from government-mandated remote kill switches that are currently scheduled to be in every vehicle starting in 2026, to prevent this unconstitutional surveillance of drivers and the weaponization of this technology against Texas drivers. We oppose climate mandates like Net Zero, Vision Zero, or declarations of a climate emergency that threaten our freedom to travel, impose any sort of state or federal mileage tax, or institute diversity, equity, and inclusion policies on taxpayers and drivers. We oppose anti-car measures that punish those who choose to travel alone in their vehicles. We also oppose ~~**mandates such as**~~ autonomous vehicle technology, digital IDs, digital license plates, or other ~~**mandates**~~ (*insert*) **policies** that restrict, control, or prohibit driving (particularly gas-powered vehicles), shrink auto capacity, or intentionally clog vehicle lanes to force deference to pedestrian, bike, and mass transit options.

51. Toll Roads: We call on the Texas Legislature to abolish existing toll roads, and prohibit future construction, returning responsibility for road construction and maintenance to the appropriate jurisdiction.

Finance:

66. Truth in Taxation: We urge that taxes established for a particular purpose shall not be used for any other purpose. Tax revenue derived from gasoline taxes and all other taxes or fees on our vehicles (including vehicle sales tax) shall only be used for road construction and maintenance, and shall not be diverted to any other use, including mass transit, rail, restrictive lanes, and bicycle paths.

Criminal & Civil Justice:

152. Government Surveillance: We oppose all forms of warrantless government surveillance of United States citizens and businesses.

153. Location and Data Privacy: We call upon the Texas Legislature to protect citizens' current and historic technologically available location data by requiring a warrant based on probable cause or a legally obtained subpoena.

Land Use:

199. Property Rights: Property ownership and free enterprise, the foundation of our collective wealth, must not be abridged or denied by government. We support legislation to protect these bedrock rights.

Areas of concern are: annexation, **eminent domain (including foreign entities)**, property forfeiture, natural resources and conservation easements, extraterritorial jurisdiction seizure for public or private development, nationalization of lands, preservation of our 4th Amendment right to privacy, groundwater and mineral rights.

Property owners shall be notified of their rights regarding condemnation, annexation, or easement, and the condemner **shall be required to petition a court of jurisdiction to show public necessity**. Taking of property shall result in immediate compensation of fair market value to the owner. These issues shall be administered by elected officials accountable to voters. We strongly encourage amendments to the existing Texas laws to further protect the homeowner's property rights against squatters with minimal legal intervention. No state, county, municipality, HOA, or other entity can restrict a landowner or renter from harvesting rainwater on their property or the property they rent.

200. Eminent Domain: The use of eminent domain must exclude the seizure of private property for private economic development or increased tax revenue, in addition to compensation for damages and the value of the taking, and eminent domain laws should be restructured to include negotiated annual payments in perpetuity for the easement across the property that is affected payable from the company or corporation acquiring the easement. **These provisions should also include toll roads and high-speed rail lines.** Landowners who prevail in eminent domain cases disputing

the taking of their property or the property value shall be reimbursed for all attorney's fees, expert witness fees, appraisal fees, and costs.

Proposed additions:

Add Right to Repair - (See resolution)

Add Toll Billing Reform - (See resolution)

Add No CDLs to foreign drivers - (See resolution)

Tweak Freedom not Travel plank to oppose all forms of Digital ID and keep opposition to autonomous vehicles (expand to mention require human driver and perhaps its own plank to list legislative action we ask for like studying national security implications of AVs), make kill switch repeal, stopping road diets, toll billing reform, toll cessation a legislative priority.

Go to www.TexasTURF.org under the 'Grassroots Action Center' tab for the comprehensive list of good/bad transportation/property rights bills every session and to read our legislative wrap-ups since 2007.