Texas House of Representatives
House Transportation Committee

Chair: Representative Joe Pickett (D-El Paso)
Vice Chair: Representative Larry Phillips (R-Sherman)

Members:

Representative Bill Callegari (R-Houston)
Representative Yvonne Davis (D-Dallas)
Representative Jim Dunnam (D-Waco)
Representative Ryan Guillen (D-San Diego)
Representative Linda Harper-Brown (R- Irving)
Representative Ruth McClendon (D-San Antonio)
Representative Tommy Merritt (R-Longview)
Representative Todd Smith (R-Bedford)
Representative Wayne Smith (R-Baytown)

Background on Committee Members:

Chairman Joe Pickett

Occupation: Real Estate Education
Education:
Legislative Experience: Served in Texas House of Representatives since
Hometown: El Paso
Party: Democrat

Pickett is the current Chairman of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and former Chairman of the Transportation Policy Board. In addition he currently serves on the Texas Transportation Council in Austin whose mission is to serve as a non-partisan and independent forum to research, organize, and promote a new direction for transportation that is based upon transparency, accountability and efficiency in order to improve mobility and restore public faith in the management of our state=s transportation infrastructure.

Representative Pickett started his political career as a City Council member for the City of El Paso, Texas. During his time on City Council, he was appointed to serve on the

Central Appraisal District Board for El Paso County and the Pension Board for the City of El Paso.

Representative Pickett holds a Texas Real Estate Broker's license and has been a real estate educator for more than two decades.

Vice Chair Larry Phillips

Occupation: Attorney
Education: JD, University of Houston - BBA, Baylor University.
Legislative Experience: Served in Texas House of Representatives since 2003.
Hometown: Sherman
Party: Republican
No biography available

Representative Bill Callegari

Occupation: Engineer
Education: Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Engineering from Louisiana State University and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Houston
Legislative Experience: Served in Texas House of Representatives since 2000.
Hometown: Houston
Party: Republican

In 1974 he founded Am-Tex Corporation, a firm which managed water utilities for numerous area municipal and commercial entities in Texas. In 20 years, Mr. Callegari grew the company from the original one-man operation to a strong regional corporation employing numerous people throughout Southeast, Central, and North Texas. He served as the firm's chairman of the board and chief executive officer until selling Am-Tex to the fourth largest utility in the world in 1993. He currently owns WC Engineers, Inc., which provides engineering consulting services for the water/wastewater and environmental industries.

Representative Callegari has received numerous awards and recognition for his conservative voting record from numerous organizations, including the Texas Association of Business, Institute for Justice, Texas for Fiscal Responsibility, Texas

Society of Professional Engineers, Water Environment Association of Texas, National Rifle Association, Texas Association of Realtors, Texas Dental Association, Texas Hospital Association, Texas Eagle Forum, Texas Right to Life, Greater Houston Partnership and the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas.

Representative Yvonne Davis

Occupation: Small Business Owner
Education: B.S. University of Houston
Legislative Experience: Served in Texas House of Representatives since 1993.
Hometown: Houston
Party: Democrat
No biography available

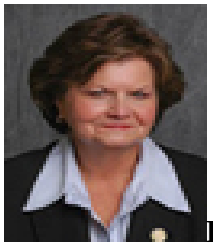
Representative Jim Dunnam

Occupation: Attorney
Education: BBA – Baylor University, JD Baylor School of Law
Legislative Experience: Served in Texas House of Representatives since 1997.
Hometown: Waco
Party: Democrat

Jim has written and passed laws including improving 911 service to rural areas, protecting local drinking water, ensuring smaller class sizes for elementary students, strengthening laws against drunk driving, and cleaning up our troubled charter schools. He served on the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, which is responsible for evaluating and streamlining state agencies. Jim is a member of the Legislative Study Group and the Mexican American Legislative Caucus.

Representative Ryan Guillen

Occupation: Investor
Education: B.S. Texas A&M
Legislative Experience: Served in Texas House of Representatives since
Hometown: San Diego
Party: Democrat
No biography available

 **Representative Linda Harper-Brown**

Occupation: Corporate President
Education: Attended Texas Colleges
Legislative Experience: Served in Texas House of Representatives since 2003.
Hometown: Irving
Party: Republican

Linda was elected by her peers to serve as Treasurer of the House Republican Caucus, and she serves on the Board of Directors for the Texas Conservative Coalition. Linda also continues to support her top priority, education by serving on the Higher Education Coordinating Board Advisory Committee. In 2005, House Speaker Tom Craddick appointed her to a national transportation committee where she has the opportunity to use her immense knowledge of transportation issues to represent state interests in Washington. Linda is a former Irving City Council Member.

Representative Ruth McClendon

Occupation:
Education: B.A. Texas Southern University, MA Webster University
Legislative Experience: Served in Texas House of Representatives since1997.

Hometown: San Antonio
Party: Democrat

During the interim between the 81st and 82nd Legislative Sessions, Representative McClendon will serve on the Joint Criminal Justice Oversight Committee, to which she was appointed by Speaker of the House, Joe Straus, in April, 2009. The Committee is charged with responsibility for conducting an in-depth examination of the state's criminal justice system.

Texas Monthly distinguished her with "Honorable Mention" as one of the Best Legislators of the 81st Session. Capitol Inside named her as one of seven House members of the twelve legislators in the "Top Tier" of Legislators of the 81st Session. Fighting for health care for children and the frail and elderly, creating a climate for businesses to flourish, keeping our neighborhoods safe, enabling counties to implement restorative justice programs, and improving the state's transportation system, including rail relocation are priorities of special emphasis for Representative McClendon.

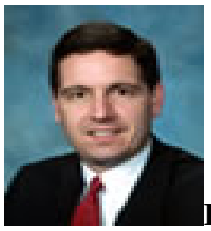
Representative Tommy Merritt

Occupation: CEO Gregg Industrial Insulators Inc.
Education: BBA Texas Christian University
Legislative Experience: Served in Texas House of Representatives since 1997.
Hometown: Longview
Party: Republican

Representative Merritt was elected and served as a director to the Gregg County Appraisal Board from 1986 to 1993. He was appointed to the Sabine River Authority by Governor Clements in 1990 and concluded his term in 1995.

He is a friend of law enforcement and from 1971 to 1974, served the United States Postal Service as a Postal Inspector. In 1984, he traveled with the Council for a Secure America to Israel to gain a better understanding of terrorism and how the Israelis combat it.

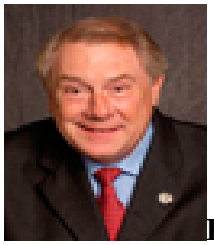
Representative Merritt was selected by President Bush to serve, as the only elected official from Texas on the Bush-Cheney Presidential transition energy advisory team. He has been a member of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission since his 1996 appointment by Governor Bush.

 **Representative Todd Smith**

Occupation: Attorney
Education: B.A. Southern Methodist University, JD University of Texas

Legislative Experience: Served in Texas House of Representatives since
Hometown: Bedford
Party: Republican

After working as an associate and partner at two well-respected law firms in Dallas (Locke, Purnell, Rain, Harrell) and Tarrant Counties and handling hundreds of cases on both sides of the civil trial docket, Mr. Smith formed The Todd Smith Law Firm - a civil litigation practice - in Bedford, Texas, in 1996. He is board certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and in Civil Trial Law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

 **Representative Wayne Smith**

Occupation: Engineer
Education: B.S. Engineering UT Arlington
Legislative Experience: Served in Texas House of Representatives since 2003.
Hometown: Baytown
Party: Republican

Rep. Smith was president of Wayne Smith and Associates, Inc. Consulting prior to becoming a Representative. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer, a registered Public Land Surveyor and remains active in professional activities. He was Construction Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Harris Country - Houston Sports Authority and Directors of Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority and Coastal Water Authority before becoming elected representative. Rep. Smith also served the U.S. Army in the Republic of Vietnam.