Gov. Perry Gives Remarks at I-69
Legislative Briefing

*Note - Gov. Perry frequently departs from prepared remarks.
Wednesday, February 06, 2013 • Austin, Texas • Speech

We're starting to see the benefits of what's been a long process, and you should all be proud of what you've accomplished so far and enthusiastic about the next steps ahead of us.

I-69 represents a vital component in our thriving, and growing economy, not just in eastern Texas or South Texas but across the entire state.

Everybody knows the formula we have in place to attract business, you might've heard me mention it a time or two.

Texas keeps taxes low, so people can keep more of their own money.

We keep our regulations reasonable, so the red tape is kept to a minimum.

We keep our courts fair, so employers spend more time building their businesses and less time in court dealing with frivolous lawsuits.

And, of course, we work hard to maintain a world-class workforce, ready to fill the needs of any employer seeking to move here.

That's resulted in great economic growth, and a rapidly-expanding population, growing by 1,000 people a day.

In a word, that's called prosperity, and we're grateful for it and eager to maintain the momentum we've generated.

As you all know, however, our success has placed a growing strain on our infrastructure as we deal with a huge increase in traffic and the responsibility of being the nation's top exporter for 10 years in a row.

We'll have to deal with our transportation needs if we want to keep our winning streak going.

The quality of our transportation systems, as well as our power and water supplies, play decisive roles when employers consider expanding or relocating here.

That's why we need to continue investing in infrastructure projects like I-69.

This session we're taking a proactive approach to dealing with the infrastructure needs of our state.

As I outlined in the State of the State address last week, I support a move to utilize $3.7 billion from the Rainy Day Fund for a one-time investment in our state's infrastructure programs.

In addition, we should also end the diversion of State Highway Fund appropriations, which will mean another $1.3 billion every biennium for road maintenance and construction.

This way, we'll be able to support critically-needed transportation systems across Texas along with water projects that will enable us to maintain our
prosperity for the next generation of Texans and beyond.

I-69 is already contributing to that, and by opening up the Rio Grande Valley to interstate access for the first time it will spur new growth in that important region.

By continuing to work together, we can meet the challenges of our infrastructure needs and build a better Texas for everyone.

Once again, thank you for all you've done on this project, and I look forward to seeing more success from your efforts in the months and years to come.

May God bless you and, through you, may He continue to bless the great state of Texas.