The latest federal surface transportation law – the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) – has a focus on establishing a performance-based approach to managing the federal transportation program. The legislation integrates performance management into many federal transportation programs and contains several specified performance elements.

**The role of TxFAC in developing measures**

The Texas Freight Advisory Committee can play an important role in supporting the development of freight performance measures for the Texas Freight Mobility Plan. In particular, it is critical that the performance measures are clear and meaningful to the agency and industry alike. It is also important that the process to develop the measures is transparent and reflects input from a variety of industry perspective. Some specific ways that TxFAC can contribute include:

- Give input on measure evaluation criteria
- Define how industry views system performance
- React to the value and meaningfulness of proposed measures

Generally, performance measurement can serve one of the following three functions in the development and implementation of a transportation plan:

**ACCOUNTABILITY**
Communicating, tracking and reporting performance

**PLANNING**
Quantifying today’s performance and analyzing future strategies

**DECISION MAKING**
Integrating measures into budgeting and project selection processes
How measures will be developed for the Texas Freight Mobility Plan

Candidate performance measures will be identified and input will be sought from decision-makers and stakeholders like the TxFAC. The measures will then be adjusted as the goals and objectives for the Mobility Plan are identified. The final measures will be selected using the following considerations:

- **Existing work** – The measures should build from existing TxDOT and other partners’ efforts
- **Resource implications** – The data and analysis tools needed for the measure should be readily available
- **Decision-making value** – The measure should be useful and informative in the decision making processes
- **Communication value** – The measure should be easily communicated to the public, lawmakers, and other stakeholders.
- **Causality** - TxDOT should have responsibility or influence over the measure or outcome
- **Requirements** – The measures should comply and align with any state or federal legislative requirements

Possible freight performance measures

Much has been done in the area of freight performance across the country and within other State DOTs. Based on those elements and the best practices of several other states, including Florida, Iowa, Minnesota, Oregon and Washington, the following are some measures worthy of consideration: