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## **Local representatives voice support for rail bill**

**BY LESLIE WIMMER**

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Ten Tarrant County House Representatives wrote a letter on May 4 to House Speaker Joe Straus asking for his support for an amendment to the state budget - Senate Bill 1 - for rail improvement funding.

The funding would provide \$91 million per fiscal year toward rail improvement projects across Texas, and would likely include improvements to Fort Worth's Tower 55, the congested rail yard at the intersections of interstates 35-W and 30, said John Egan, spokesman for the Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Association.

A vote on the bill is expected tomorrow, Egan said.

The representatives who signed the bill are Lon Burnam, D-Fort Worth; Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth; Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills; Diane Patrick, R-Arlington; Paula Pierson, D-Arlington; Mark Shelton, R-Fort Worth; Todd Smith, R-Eules; Vicki Truitt, R-Keller; Chris Turner, D-Fort Worth; and Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth.

“Rail is a critical part of our transportation infrastructure and a priority for Texas,” the representatives wrote in the letter.

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