



## **The Partnership hosts first Transportation Council of 2015, provides an update on transportation funding in the legislature**

The Partnership held the first 2015 Transportation Council on March 7 in the Partnership board room. Council Host Taylor Landin welcomed Council speaker Scott Haywood, President of Move Texas Forward, a leading statewide transportation advocacy group. Haywood discussed the transportation and mobility challenges facing Texas and provided an overview of the steps already taken by the Texas Legislature this session. With the session now past the midway point, Haywood also provided his analysis of what is expected between now and the end of session.

The State of Texas needs an additional \$5 billion to maintain the current state highway system. This amount does not account for the continued growth in the state that is placing additional strain on our current system. Haywood noted that the Texas Senate has already moved two bills to fund transportation by ending diversions from the state highway fund, allocating portions of the motor vehicle sales tax and including the money made available from the passage of Proposition 1 last November. The House is currently considering a similar approach as well as alternatives. As the session moves forward, Haywood emphasized the need for the business community to continue to engage in transportation conversations in Austin.