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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Special Session Wrap-Up

The Texas Legislature convened a special session on Wednesday, July 1, 2009, as called by the Governor to cover the following issues: (1) the Sunset scheduling bill; (2) the authorization and appropriation of Proposition 12 transportation bonds and creation of the Texas Transportation Revolving Fund; and (3) the extension of certain specific comprehensive development agreements (CDA) to build roads.

Rep. Merritt stated, "The Legislature adjourned today resolving two outstanding issues from the regular session. TxDOT and TDI will continue to operate until we meet again and the state will be able to fund much needed transportation projects. I will diligently work with local officials to secure funding to address critical transportation needs in our area like Highway 149."

The House and Senate overwhelmingly passed HB 1, relating to certain sources of revenue for the funding of highways and transportation projects; and SB 2, relating to the governmental entities subject to the sunset review process. Neither chamber passed bills to extend comprehensive development agreements (CDAs).

HB 1 Relating to certain sources of revenue for the funding of highways and transportation projects.

- Authorizes the issuance of Proposition 12 general-obligation bonds
- Establishes the Texas Transportation Revolving Fund.
- Amends the TxDOT budget for 2010-11, to allow the appropriation of \$2 billion in Proposition 12 bond proceeds for highway projects and \$100 million in general revenue for debt service on the bonds.

SB 2 Relating to the governmental entities subject to the sunset review process.

- Changes the Sunset review date for six agencies from 2009 to 2011, including:
 - Equine Research Account Advisory Committee
 - Texas Racing Commission
 - Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation
 - Texas Department of Insurance
 - Office of Public Insurance Counsel
 - Texas Department of Transportation

Rep. Merritt is Chairman of the House Committee on Public Safety and serves on the House Committees on Transportation, Local & Consent Calendars and Redistricting. He represents Gregg County and northern Smith County to include Winona, Lindale and Hideaway Lake.