

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE VEHICLE FLEET

AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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OBJECTIVE

In addition to providing passenger cars for staff and trucks for transporting supplies, TDCJ is responsible for transporting more than 2,000 offenders daily from county jails and between prison units. This brief analyzes the current condition and usage of the different types of vehicles that comprise TDCJ's vehicle fleet.

KEY FACTS

- ◆ TDCJ has 2,200 vehicles in its fleet.
- ◆ As of June 2012, 54.3 percent of TDCJ vehicles had been driven more than 150,000 miles.
- ◆ By the end of FY 2015, it is estimated that 73.6 percent of TDCJ vehicles will have exceeded 150,000 miles.
- ◆ At any given time, approximately 40 of TDCJ's 120 buses used in offender transportation are undergoing repairs.

TDCJ averages 5.2 bus breakdowns each week while transporting offenders between units, requiring a bus in each region to be kept in reserve to replace broken down buses. Local law enforcement must be called out to monitor offenders while waiting for replacement buses.

There are 2,200 vehicles in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) vehicle fleet. The fleet is composed primarily of passenger cars (28.7 percent) and cargo and passenger vans (23.3 percent). Fig. 1 shows the distribution of the vehicle fleet and average mileage for each vehicle type.

**FIG. 1
TDCJ AVERAGE MILEAGE BY VEHICLE TYPE
AS OF JUNE 2012**

VEHICLE TYPE	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	PERCENTAGE OF FLEET*	AVERAGE CURRENT MILEAGE
Large Trucks	262	11.9%	259,594
Buses (29 Passenger and Over)	165	7.5	256,279
Minivans	52	2.4	207,331
Light Trucks	256	11.6	187,908
Cargo and Passenger Vans	512	23.3	165,418
Passenger Cars	632	28.7	159,113
Light Duty Trucks	232	10.5	141,000
Other Trucks/SUVs	69	3.1	110,462
Buses (16–28 Passengers)	20	0.9	65,869
Total	2,200	99.9%	181,189

* May not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.
SOURCE: Legislative Budget Board.

MILEAGE OF VEHICLE FLEET

TDCJ has 111 units throughout Texas. The offender transportation fleet is necessary for transport of offenders between units and to medical treatment centers. TDCJ also picks up incoming offenders from county jails across the state. Of the 2,200 vehicles in the fleet, 54.3 percent of the vehicles have exceeded 150,000 miles. The Legislative Budget Board estimates that by the end of fiscal year 2015, more than 70 percent of TDCJ vehicles will meet or exceed 150,000 miles.

TDCJ transports 2,000 offenders per day (roughly equivalent to a prison unit). Of the total TDCJ bus fleet, 120 buses are dedicated to offender transportation with approximately 40 of the 120 buses undergoing repairs at any time. The advanced age of the vehicle fleet leads to frequent breakdowns with TDCJ averaging 5.2 bus breakdowns while transferring offenders between units. The frequent need for repairs requires that TDCJ keep one bus in each of the

six regions in reserve to replace buses that break down while in service. In addition, local law enforcement must be deployed to help manage the offenders on the non-functioning buses until the reserve buses arrive. Fig. 2 shows the average number of weekly breakdowns for the transport buses from fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2012, with the highest average number of weekly breakdowns occurring in fiscal year 2012.

**FIG. 2
AVERAGE NUMBER BREAKDOWNS OF PRISON TRANSPORT BUSES PER WEEK,
FISCAL YEAR 2010–12**

	2010	2011	2012
Average Breakdowns per Week	4.4	3.6	5.2

NOTE: The FY 2012 number is from September 2011 through June 2012.
SOURCE: Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Although the number of miles a vehicle can travel before needing to be replaced varies depending on the condition, type, and purpose of the vehicle, in Fig. 3 150,000 miles is used as a point of reference to compare the mileage of vehicles in TDCJ's fleet. As of June 2012, 87% of TDCJ minivans and 72% of light trucks had exceeded 150,000 miles. Large buses (29 passengers or over) had the highest average mileage at 1,941 miles per month, with the highest single month showing an average of 7,815 miles.

**FIG. 3
NUMBER OF VEHICLES ABOVE AND BELOW 150,000 MILES
AS OF JUNE 2012**

VEHICLE TYPE	VEHICLES AT OR ABOVE 150,000 MILES	VEHICLES BELOW 150,000 MILES	PERCENTAGE AT OR ABOVE 150,000 MILES	AVERAGE MILES DRIVEN PER MONTH	HIGHEST MILES DRIVEN PER MONTH
Large Trucks	155	107	59.0%	1,849	5,674
Buses (29 Passenger and Over)	91	74	55.0%	1,941	7,815
Minivans	45	7	87.0%	1,388	2,877
Light Trucks	184	72	72.0%	1,010	2,569
Cargo and Passenger Vans	304	208	59.0%	1,736	5,420
Passenger Cars	299	333	47.0%	1,539	3,752
Light-Duty Trucks	103	129	44.0%	1,527	4,306
Buses (16–28 Passengers)	1	19	5.0%	1,140	7,192
Other Trucks/SUVs	18	51	26.0%	892	1,282

SOURCE: Legislative Budget Board.

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