

# Interagency Transportation Report

## RTC / TxDOT / NTTA / DART / DRMC / DFW Airport

October 2015

### Regional Transportation Council (RTC)

NCTCOG Meetings on I-635 East Project. NCTCOG staff have initiated a public process to develop a consensus on the overall design of I-635 East from US 75 to I-30 so that it can be included in the Mobility 2040 Plan early next year. Two public “orientation” meetings were held in September to establish a baseline of information for state/local decision-makers and interested citizens. Council members Kleinman and McGough have been briefed on the process. The next meeting is scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup> in Garland.

Proposition 1 Funding – Project Selections. State Proposition 1, approved by the voters in November 2014, authorized the use of a portion of state oil and gas tax revenues for traditional highway improvements – not including tollroad or transit uses. The NCTCOG works cooperatively with TxDOT to program these funds for regionally significant projects that are ready to go to construction. The RTC approves project selections.

#### Previously Approved for FY 2015 within the City of Dallas:

- I-35E from I-20 to Loop 12 – full depth repair concrete pavement and overlay main lanes (\$1.16 million)
- Loop 12 from Illinois to I-35E – full depth repair concrete pavement (\$471,000)
- Spur 408 from I-20 to Loop 12 – full depth repair concrete pavement, overlay and pavement markings (\$677,000)

#### Proposed for FY 2016-19 within the City of Dallas:

- I-35E from Mixmaster to DNT Ramps – operational improvements to Lowest Stemmons (\$100 million)
- S.M. Wright Phase 2B – I-45 and SH 310 from Pennsylvania to Good Latimer – reconstruct I-45 and S.M. Wright interchange (\$26 million)
- Northwest Highway at Skillman – reconstruct as a single point interchange (\$15 million)
- Garland Road (SH 78) at Gaston – intersection improvement (\$4.5 million)
- Skillman/Audelia Bridge at I-635 – bridge replacement / interchange improvements (\$61 million)

RTC Workshop on Community Schools and Transportation. On October 8<sup>th</sup> the NCTCOG hosted a workshop for RTC members and representatives from area school districts to kick off an initiative to promote long-term planning for school siting, improve multimodal transportation options for schools, and improve transportation safety near schools through better coordination between agencies. The project will focus on the creation of a “Regional Working Group” to establish a dialogue and develop partnerships among these entities. Council member Wilson attended the workshop.

Freeway Incident Management Executive Level Course. Traffic incidents on freeways and tollways account for more than 50% of the vehicle delay on these facilities. NCTCOG annually offers a two-hour course to educate policy-makers on the importance of effective incident management. The course is intended for elected officials, city managers and executive-level staff. This year’s course was held October 13<sup>th</sup> at the TxDOT Fort Worth District Office so that participants could also tour their traffic management center. Council members Kleinman and Greyson have previously attended this course.

Emergency Assistance to Texoma Area Paratransit System (TAPS). TAPS Public Transit provides public transportation in the areas of Collin County that are not members of DART, including rural areas and the cities of McKinney, Frisco and Allen. TAPS has had some leadership and financial issues that have been under review by NCTCOG and the Federal Transit Administration. The RTC approved a proposal is to provide financial management assistance, and financial assistance in the form of a loan backstop, to help the agency get its house in order. The region has an interest in seeing that public transit services are not interrupted in this rapidly growing area.

### Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Horseshoe Project. The I-30 eastbound signature bridge arch was completed last month and suspension cables are currently being installed. The project is on track to be completed in early 2017.

CityMAP (Dallas City Center Master Assessment Process). CityMAP is holding its first round of public meetings to develop a long-term vision for transportation, urban design and development associated with the major highway corridors around downtown Dallas. The first two meetings were on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The last meeting will be held at the African American Museum (3526 Grand Avenue) on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m.

### North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA)

President George Bush Turnpike (I-35E to SH 78). Construction is continuing on this 26-mile project to add a fourth lane in each direction. The first phase started construction in May 2015 between the Dallas North Tollway and US 75. Construction is primarily in the median areas between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. There should be minimal disruptions for traffic on the existing travel lanes.

TollPerks Reward Program. The NTTA announced a reward program for TollTag account customers. Registered participants earn 100 points for every dollar spent on NTTA toll roads. The points can be redeemed for offers from area merchants. TollTag customers register for the TollPerks program at “[www.tollperks.com](http://www.tollperks.com)”.

### Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

DART Board Selects New Officers. The DART Board elected long-time member Faye Moses-Wilkins as their chair for the coming year. Ms. Wilkins represents Plano and Farmers Branch on the Board. She follows Dallas appointee, Robert Strauss, continuing a long tradition of alternating the chair position between a Dallas and suburban city representative. Dallas attorney, Richard Carrizales, was elected vice chair, and Gary Slagel, who represents Richardson, Addison, Highland Park and University Park, was elected secretary.

Rail-Volution 2015. Transit advocates and urban planners are in North Texas to see how new communities are being built around transit oriented developments along DART's 90 mile light rail lines, and transit facilities in Ft. Worth and Denton. Rail-Volution is the nation's preeminent transit oriented development conference. The four-day event runs Oct. 25-28 at the Hyatt Regency Dallas.

D2 Update. DART staff submitted two Core Capacity projects to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) at the end of September: (1) the second CBD rail line with the City's preferred "Jackson" alignment, and (2) the station platform lengthening program for the Red and Blue lines. DART staff is already coordinating with FTA on a weekly basis. It is anticipated that public and agency project scoping meetings that begin the environmental review process will begin in December or January.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Policy Update. The DART Board approved an update to its TOD Policy that was originally adopted in 1989. The Policy states the goals and strategies DART will use to identify and implement complementary development on or near their transit system. The agency is now working on a procedures manual that will be used to implement the policy. It is hoped that the new policy and procedures will help to more effectively move TOD projects from the concept stage to construction.

### Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC)

DRMC at Transportation Crossroads Conference. The regular DRMC meeting in November is cancelled. Instead, DRMC members will be attending the North Dallas Chamber's one-day Transportation Crossroads Conference at the Hilton Anatole Hotel on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The Keynote speaker will be Mr. Tryon Lewis, Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission.

### Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW)

State of the Airport Event. Dallas Fort Worth International Airport held its first "State of the Airport" event on October 13, 2015. Airport CEO Sean Donohue announced that the airport delivers over \$37 billion in annual economic impact for the North Texas region. The study, conducted by the Perryman Group, also said that DFW supports 228,000 jobs in the area with an associated payroll of \$12.5 billion annually, a significant increase over the figures calculated in a study two years ago.

Donohue outlined his vision for the future of DFW, which includes strategic planning for future expansion, more effectively telling the DFW story to the world and enhancing the customer experience. He pledged that DFW Airport would continue to aggressively market itself globally to bring new airline service from major international destinations and position DFW and the region on the international stage. DFW has already succeeded in attracting airline service to 57 international destinations, with 17 of those arriving in just the past five years.