



Press Conference  
February 24, 2009, 4:00 PM

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4:00 Press Conference begins</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4:00 Mayor Tom Leppert Speaks</li><li>• 4:04 Brigadier General Kendall Cox Speaks</li><li>• 4:08 Councilmember Dave Neumann Speaks</li><li>• 4:12 Mayor Tom Leppert returns to podium to conclude and begin Q&amp;A</li></ul> |

**Speaker: City of Dallas Councilmember David A. Neumann**

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, as a Councilmember and the Chairman of the Trinity River Corridor Project Committee, I want to reiterate that public safety is of prime concern for all of us as we make this announcement today, and we will move forward with that goal in mind.

The devastation of Hurricane Katrina left many lessons behind in its path -- and Dallas along with over 240 other cities is experiencing a new type of aftermath; one that in some ways mirrors the intensity of the commitment and dedication it takes many groups of people to restore a city and improve flood protection measures. We can take heart from the fact that we are not alone, and that we have the opportunity to reach out to some of these cities to find out what progress they are making to mitigate their rating.

Since the 90s, Dallas has been focused on the floodway and what needed to be done to bring it up to 21<sup>st</sup> Century standards. Dallas is in a much better position to accomplish

this and mitigate the “unacceptable” rating of the Dallas’ levee system then most of the 240+ cities on the list because of the work that has been done by other City of Dallas Councils.

We will make determinations and analysis all the deficiencies spelled out by the U. s. Army Corps of Engineers as quickly as we can do so – always being mindful of the paramount goal of the best flood protection and public safety measures for Dallas.

As Mayor Leppert stated, there is more investigation that must be done, and I assure you, that the Committee and I will be working closely with the City Manager, Ms. Suhm; the Corps and all the agency partners involved to bring some of the questions about the work ahead of us to an expedient conclusion.

Additionally, I want to stress the fact that the Trinity River Corridor Project has five major components and they are: floodway improvements, transportation, recreation, environmental management, and economic development. One of the reasons, the City has made a commitment to place the Trinity River Corridor Project in the format of public works projects is due to its desire to provide a benchmark levee system in America.

This project has always been leveraged by the foundation of flood protection – the project builds on this and all the other components revolve around floodway improvements and planning which are in place today either in planning, design, construction, or completion.

In 2008, a wonderful chain of wetlands became functional. It consists of four main cell and two smaller restored cells off of I-45 South. The flood conveyance this will provide is estimated to reduce upstream water levels by as much as one foot in heavy rains. In addition, the area has already proven its viability for wildlife habitat. We will break ground on the Upper Chain of Wetlands later this year.

The Trinity Trail Phase I is in progress and will be complete in 2009 with the second phase under design; Moore Gateway Phase I is well underway and will be finished later this year with Phase II also slotted to begin in 2009. The Texas Buckeye Trail will re-open in April as an ADA Certified trail, and the standing wave project is scheduled to also break ground this year. In addition, the construction on the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge continues to move along at a steady pace.

We are committed to seeing the Trinity River Corridor Project create the vision the citizens have endorsed and are anxious to see.