



City of Dallas

Press Conference

June 1, 2009, 10:00 AM

REMARKS: City of Dallas Councilmember Dave Neumann

Good morning 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 primary concern for all of us speaking to you today.

A large portion of my district including my business is protected by the levees. I assure you that Periodic Inspection Report 9 and the work that has been done during the past two months to create this path forward is a top priority for me on behalf of my constituency and all the citizens of this City.

I have always talked about the Trinity project having five major components: flood control, transportation, recreation, environmental management, and economic development. This project is the largest public works project ever undertaken by the City of Dallas and it spans 20 miles, 10,000 acres and it is a \$2 billion investment in our future.

The Trinity River Audubon Center has opened to a resounding success. Hundreds of citizens visit weekly.

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 July as an ADA Certified trail with a new foot bridge as a new access point to the trail.

We will continue working on the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge and move toward its completion in 2011. The steel is on Texas soil and the next shipment is being fabricated in Italy. The center arch foundation columns are in place for the bridge and history is being made daily as construction continues. Recently, 450 tons of concrete was poured into each of the two foundation columns; they are the foundations for the 400' center arch that will rise above the flood plain and hold the cables for the signature span of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge. This bridge will truly be an important emissary for Dallas as it represents the new future ahead of us.

As soon as the bridge is complete, work will begin on the Continental Avenue Bridge to transform it into a pedestrian friendly destination to be used as one of Dallas' unique recreational venues.

As has been stated today, portions of the Trinity River Corridor Project will experience delays, however, as citizen volunteers, we are mindful of the progress that can still be made by moving forward and focusing on the bridge, the 6,000 acre Great Trinity Forest, the trail system, and a number of other recreational and environmental projects for the Trinity – the project will continue moving forward.

Although these delays are frustrating to our citizens and us as elected leaders – we must stay the course to achieve Flood Protection, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, and Economic Development.

We have risen to all the challenges that have come our way. Through the leadership within the City and by standing with our many agency partners, we are committed to the public safety of the Dallas Levee System and we will continue working to develop the Trinity River Corridor Project to create the vision of a world-class greenway the citizens of Dallas have endorsed and are anxious to see unfold.