

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 22, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Taking Care of Business – January 21, 2021**

## **New Updates**

### [City Manager's Corner – Good News Item](#)

Congratulations to the Department of Transportation & Office of Government Affairs for winning a \$4M grant from the federal highway department for the S.M. Wright project, a multijurisdictional project in Dallas. Read more about it [here](#). Should you have any questions, please contact Ghassan Khankarli at [ghassan.khankarli@dallascityhall.com](mailto:ghassan.khankarli@dallascityhall.com).

### [Dallas Public Library Extending Hours to Offer Evening Service](#)

Since last June when the library began offering curbside service for materials check out, we have maintained a single shift schedule of Tuesday - Saturday and our public hours of operation have been 10:30am - 5:30pm. Due to an increasing number of requests for evening pick up we will add service two nights a week on Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Effective February 2, 2021, half the library locations will be open on Wednesdays and the other half will be open on Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for *Library to Go curbside service*. The remaining days of the week will maintain the current schedule. For more information, please contact Jo Giudice, Library Director at 214-670-7803.

### [Equity Indicators Symposium](#)

As a reminder, the Office of Equity and Inclusion in partnership with Communities Foundation of Texas will host the 2nd Annual Equity Indicators Symposium - *Building an Equitable and Inclusive Bounce Back*. The virtual symposium will be centered around the Equity Indicators report and consist of three panels: Business Strategies that Promote Equity, Moving Racial Equity Forward in Dallas, and A Blueprint for an Equitable Bounce Back. The event is scheduled to take place tomorrow, January 22, 2021, from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm as part of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week. Please see the attached flyer for registration information. Should you have any questions, please contact Chief of Equity and Inclusion, Liz Cedillo-Pereira.

### [Dallas Area Partnership Board Meeting](#)

The Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness Board, chaired by Councilmember Casey Thomas, II, will meet on Tuesday, January 26, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. Committee Chairs will present their reports at the meeting. Here is the link to the virtual meeting:

<https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall/onstage/g.php?MTID=e640411fe0f5a67fbaff5836af81d82c6>

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### [Soft Opening of the New Vickery Park Branch Library](#)

Dallas Public Library in partnership with Council Member Gates is pleased to announce the opening of the new Vickery Park Branch Library for *Library to Go* curbside services on Tuesday, February 2, 2021. This location was funded in the 2017 Bond initiative and has had incredible community support through donations via the Crystal Charity Ball. The location will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays - Saturdays and from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. The diverse staff speak four languages in reflection of the unique community they will serve. We are excited to be open in this capacity and look forward to hosting a larger celebration when it is safe to do so. Should you require additional information, please contact Jo Giudice, Library Director, 214-670-7803.

### [Connect Dallas Survey](#)

The draft of Connect Dallas, the City of Dallas' Strategic Mobility Plan, is available for review. This signature plan will provide a guide for investments in multimodal transportation in Dallas for the next five (5) years. The draft plan is currently available for review at [www.dallascityhall.com/connectdallas](http://www.dallascityhall.com/connectdallas). Feedback on the plan is critical to ensure we meet the needs of everyone who lives, plays, and works in Dallas. You are encouraged to take the feedback survey linked on the project website ([dallascityhall.com/connectdallas](http://dallascityhall.com/connectdallas)) before it closes on February 5, 2021. Should you have any questions, please contact Ghassan "Gus" Khankarli, Interim Director, Dallas Department of Transportation at [ghassan.khankarli@dallascityhall.com](mailto:ghassan.khankarli@dallascityhall.com).

### [TRN | OEQS | AVI - Infraday Texas Virtual Conference](#)

Several City of Dallas executives will present at [Infraday Texas](#), a virtual conference featuring regional infrastructure, transportation, and mobility subject-matter experts from across the state. Ghassan "Gus" Khankarli, interim director, Transportation Department, and Susan Alvarez, assistant director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability, will present "*Strategic Mobility Planning as part of Effective Climate Plans.*" The virtual conference is from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (CT) on Thursday, January 28, 2021, using the Cisco WebEx platform. The conference's theme is the "Future of Infrastructure, Mobility, & Transportation in Texas." Pharr Andrews, a Senior Climate Coordinator in the Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability will serve on a panel entitled: "*Climate Changes Impacts on Infrastructure: Sustainable Infrastructure.*" Persons interested in attending the conference may register here: <https://www.infraday.com/events/2nd-infraday-texas>. Should you have any questions, please contact Ghassan Khankarli at [ghassan.khankarli@dallascityhall.com](mailto:ghassan.khankarli@dallascityhall.com), or Pharr Andrews at [Pharr.Andrews@dallascityhall.com](mailto:Pharr.Andrews@dallascityhall.com).

### [Hunt Institute Recognition](#)

Pharr Andrews, a Senior Climate Coordinator in the Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability, was recently selected to join the [Hunt Institute's Social Enterprise 2021 Cohort](#) to find solutions to addressing energy poverty gaps that are exasperated by the effects of climate change. Energy poverty is when people from low-income households

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spend a disproportionately large amount of their income to heat or cool their homes properly. The hope is to develop actionable solutions so people will experience reductions in utility bills. Andrews’s current work includes coordinating and implementing Dallas’s first Comprehensive and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and her hope is that this cohort project will accelerate one of the more than 95 action items listed in the CECAP. Should you have any questions, please contact Sheila Delgado, Interim Director Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability at [sheila.delgado@dallascityhall.com](mailto:sheila.delgado@dallascityhall.com).

**DFW Directors recognizes Dallas Park and Recreation for excellence**

Congratulations to Dallas Park and Recreation for winning the DFW Directors Association environmental and inclusion awards. The association of North Texas park and recreation directors presented its inclusion award for training developed by ten recreation staff. The training focused on best practices for engaging special needs communities, understanding diverse abilities and family dynamics, and equipping staff to help individuals with ADHD and Autism characteristics.



The department’s national resource and wildlife management programs earned the environmental stewardship award. See the winners here at [https://youtu.be/Ab\\_SlaCSRMA](https://youtu.be/Ab_SlaCSRMA).

**See Dallas Park and Recreation Year in Review**



Dallas Park and Recreation was not immune to the unexpected challenges created by the global pandemic. Yet, with resilience, we responded with creativity, innovation, and technology - and most importantly - teamwork. Use this link to see what Dallas Park and Recreation accomplished in 2020! [https://youtu.be/SuT\\_eq4nsic](https://youtu.be/SuT_eq4nsic)

**New Procurement Opportunities**

The Office of Procurement Services (OPS) is excited to announce the following new contract opportunities. More information can be found on the City’s [electronic bid portal](#):

Opportunity No.	Opportunity Name
CIZ1963	Street Group 12-462, by Department of Public Works
BS21-0001533	Bulk Cement, Bagged Cement and Related Items
BKZ21-00015244	Compensation Study

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BY20-00015319	Metal Beam Guard Rail, Guard Rail Components, & Dome Treated Guardrail Posts
BS21-0001533	Redistricting Consulting and Other Services

We are also pleased to share the latest [Procurement Quarterly](#), listing citywide opportunities for the current quarter (of the fiscal year) and published on the OPS [website](#). Please be advised that once an opportunity is advertised, it is considered an open procurement until the City Council awards the contract. The Code of Ethics prohibits communication between councilmembers and vendors/ suppliers on open procurements. Should you have any questions, please contact Chhunny Chhean, Director of Procurement Services.

### **Look Ahead**

#### [City Council Briefings](#)

February 3, 2021

- Update on City's Panhandling Ordinance
- Recap Coronavirus Relief Fund and Highlight other COVID-Relief Funding

February 17, 2021

- Illegal Dumping & Abatement Strategic Plan
- Update on Bridging the Digital Divide – RDI Initiative
- Dallas Executive Marketing Plan

#### [Media Inquiries](#)

As of January 19, 2021, the City has received media requests from various news outlets regarding the following topics:

- S. Central Expressway
- Renderings of S.M. Wright Project
- CARES Act CRF
- SM Wright Smart City Tech
- S. Lamar renaming vote
- NTSB Issues Recommendations After 2018 Explosion that Killed Girl in Northwest Dallas
- Boy Survives 30 Foot Fall from Zipline at Southwest Dallas Residence
- Firefighter Suffers Minor Injuries After Getting Struck by Motorist

Please see the attached document compiling information provided to media outlets, during the period from January 12 – 19, 2021, for your reference. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff.

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T.C. Broadnax  
City Manager

c: Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Equity Indicators Symposium

## Building an Equitable and Inclusive Bounce Back

Join the City of Dallas and Communities Foundation of Texas in a critical conversation on building an equitable and inclusive economic bounce back.

**Friday, January 22**  
**8:30 a.m. to noon**



The Symposium will consist of three panels:

- Business Strategies that Promote Equity
- Current State of Racial Equity in Dallas
- A Blueprint for an Equity Bounce Back

**This event will be virtual**  
**RSVP at [bit.ly/2021EquitySymposium](https://bit.ly/2021EquitySymposium)**

# Connect Dallas



Dallas' transportation infrastructure is aging, and our needs are growing faster than our resources. A new Strategic Mobility Plan will create a data-driven framework to prioritize transportation investments based on their contribution to City goals.

**Share your input on the draft plan today.  
The public comment period closes February 5, 2021.  
[dallascityhall.com/connectdallas](https://dallascityhall.com/connectdallas)**

# Connect Dallas



La infraestructura de transporte de Dallas está envejeciendo, y nuestras necesidades están creciendo más rápido que nuestros recursos. Un nuevo Plan Estratégico de Movilidad creará un marco basado en datos que dará prioridad a las inversiones en transporte en función de su contribución a los objetivos de la Ciudad.

**Comparta su opinión sobre el proyecto del plan hoy mismo.  
El período de comentarios abierto al público finaliza el 5 de febrero de 2021.  
[dallascityhall.com/connectdallas](https://dallascityhall.com/connectdallas)**

**Communications, Outreach & Marketing**  
Media Requests  
Jan 13 – Jan 19

**Date Submitted:** 1/12/2021

**Topic:** S. Central Expressway

**Inquiry:** Anna Kook, a producer with Al Jazeera requested an in person/socially distanced video interview with Council Member Atkins, and alternatively other city officials in relation to the property on the 9500 block on S. Central Expressway.

The City and CM Atkins respectfully declined the interview at this time and COMs provided several press releases related to the former Blue Star Recycling property Ms. Kook may use for research and quote purposes. They are posted below for easy reference.

Shingle removal begins at 9500 block of S. Central Expressway  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXDALLAS/bulletins/2b192e2>

Council member Tennell Atkins issues statement regarding remediation of property at 9500 block of S. Central Expressway  
<https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2825080/preview>

Council member Tennell Atkins issues statement on property at 9500 block of S. Central Expressway  
<https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2703063/preview>

Council member Tennell Atkins issues statement on 9527 S. Central Expressway  
<https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2680335/preview>

CORRECTION: City of Dallas statement regarding property on 9500 block of S. Central Expressway  
<https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2519539/preview>

Dallas City News Blog Post  
<http://www.dallascitynews.net/city-dallas-creates-dashboards-track-former-blue-star-recycling-cleanup>

**Submitted By:** Nichelle Sullivan (MCC | CAO | OEQS)

**Media Entity:** Anna Kook, Producer, Al Jazeera

**Date Submitted:** 1/15/2021

**Topic:** Renderings of S.M. Wright Project

**Inquiry:** A NCTCOG representative requested photos and renderings of the S.M. Wright Project. The City referred them to <https://www.smwrightproject.com/> a site run by our partners in TxDOT for the requested items.

**Submitted By:** Nichelle Sullivan (Transportation)

**Media Entity:** Victor Henderson, NCTCOG

**Date Submitted:** 1/14/2021

**Topic:** CARES Act CRF

**Inquiry:** Eva Parks, Investigative Producer with NBC 5 placed an ORR and requested an update on the progress as well as listed a series of questions.

The city recommended she reach out to the ORR coordinator, referred Ms. Parks to the MRAP dashboard, and shared a link to the latest CARES Act update on the city's website.

She asked follow up questions, to which the city replied:

\$6M was the CRF portion of the Housing Department - other funding was allocated to the program and is addressed in the ORR.

For the mortgage part - the dashboard lists 11% - this is 11% of the CDBG funds as it is the only program that offered mortgage assistance.

The 12.6M and 3236 is all combined funding source and the city program and nonprofit programs all combined.

**Submitted By:** Nichelle Sullivan (Department of Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization )

**Media Entity:** Eva Parks, Producer, NBC 5; Diana Zoga, Reporter, NBC 5

**Date Submitted:** 1/19/2021

**Topic:** SM Wright Smart City Tech

**Inquiry:** Tom Lawrence, a reporter with the Dallas Express asked a series of questions regarding S.M. Wright project & Smart Tech. We shared the following website developed by our partners at TxDOT with him. <https://www.smwrightproject.com/>

**Submitted By:** Nichelle Sullivan (Transportation)

**Media Entity:** Tom Lawrence, Reporter, Dallas Express

**Date Submitted:** 1/13/2021

**Topic:** S. Lamar renaming vote

**Inquiry:** City of Dallas representatives confirmed the Dallas City Council unanimously voted to rename a portion of S. Lamar Street to Botham Jean Blvd.

**Submitted By:** Catherine Cuellar (Sustainable Development & Construction)

**Media Entity:** Gisela Crespo, CNN



CITY OF DALLAS

Dallas Fire-Rescue Department  
Media Requests: January 12 – 18, 2021.

**Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>: Dallas Morning News (Holly Hacker), KRLD Radio (L.P. Phillips) and NBC 5/Telemundo (Patrick Randolph)** - I'm following an NTSB meeting online about the February 2018 Atmos gas explosion that killed Linda Rogers, and the NTSB is discussing DFR's actions and what they found are shortcomings in DFR's policies or response.

I want to be sure I get any comment from y'all today on what NTSB decides.

**City Response** - Dallas Fire-Rescue has worked closely with the National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) during the course of their investigation into the February 2018 fatal house explosion, located at 3534 Espanola Drive in Northwest Dallas, which resulted in the death of a 12 year-old girl. Following today's NTSB public board meeting, the department will take all findings into consideration and continue to work with the agency regarding the incorporation of any recommendations going forward.

**Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>: WFAA 8 (Lourdes Vazquez)** – Can you provide information on a USAR incident at 5400 Cedar Ridge Dr incident# 2021012334?

**City Response** - On Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 2:14 p.m., Dallas Fire-Rescue units were dispatched to a private residence, located on the 5400 block of Cedar Ridge Drive in southwest Dallas, after a boy fell approximately 30 feet from a zip line into a creek below.

The boy was awake and communicating to firefighters when they arrived, but was in need of medical attention for non-life-threatening injuries he sustained. Because he'd fallen into an area that proved difficult to access using conventional means, DFR's USAR team was dispatched.

After securing the patient in a stokes basket, they were able to get him back up the steep terrain, and into the back of a rescue, to be taken to the hospital.

**Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>: There were no media inquiries for the following incident, but it would have made news had anyone inquired –**

At approximately 15:30, a Dallas Fire-Rescue engine responded to a 911 call for a Welfare Check, after passers-by noticed a person sitting unresponsive in a car, at Northpark Boulevard and the Northbound access road to N. Central Expressway.

At some point after firefighters approached the vehicle, the driver, for reasons unknown, drove away. After hitting multiple vehicles, to include the fire engine that was there trying to help, the vehicle struck one of the firefighters.

Remaining firefighters were able to apprehend the driver of the vehicle and hold them until the arrival of police.

The firefighter was taken to a nearby hospital for the evaluation of non-life-threatening injuries and has since been discharged to go home.

The person who hit the firefighter was also taken to a nearby hospital for evaluation of their condition.