

# Interagency Transportation Report

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

May 2016

### Regional Transportation Council (RTC)

Recent City of Dallas RTC Appointments. Appointments to the RTC are generally made in June of every even-numbered year. Dallas and the Park Cities make up a three-city membership cluster on the RTC. In addition to Council member Taylor Armstrong from University Park, Mayor Rawlings recently added Dallas Council members Adam McGough and Casey Thomas as alternate members. Beginning in May, William Tsao will replace Amir Rupani as one of the City's two citizen representatives on the RTC. Mr. Rupani was recently appointed to the DFW Airport Board.

RTC Environmental Stewardship Program. The RTC approved the creation of an environmental stewardship initiative that will help mitigate impacts associated with highway projects in the region and support the RTC's sustainable development program. The initiative includes \$1.6 million in regional money that will be used to leverage an additional \$1.6 million in private sector funds to support wetland and urban tree programs. The program was announced as part of the Earth Day Texas event.

Executive Level Traffic Incident Management Course. Traffic incidents account for more than fifty percent of the delay experienced by motorists on area highways. NCTCOG has developed a series of Traffic Incident Management courses to develop a common, coordinated response that enhances safety and reduces delay. A two-hour Executive Level course is offered to provide an overview for elected officials and executive staff. Dennis Ware, Director of Street Services, and Auro Majumdar, City Traffic Engineer, are scheduled to attend the next offering of the course this month.

### Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

I-30 / SH 360 Interchange Construction Begins. TxDOT recently broke ground on a \$233 million project to replace the outdated tollroad-style interchange between I-30 and SH 360 with a modern direct connect interchange. It is the largest Proposition 1 funded project in the state and should be completed by 2020. The replacement of the SH 360 interchange leaves the Loop 12 interchange in Dallas as the only remaining interchange from the original Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike. Replacement of the Loop 12 interchange is included in the Mobility 2040 Plan, but is not currently funded.

Northwest Highway Intersection Improvements. TxDOT began a program of intersection improvements on Northwest Highway between I-35E and Central Expressway in early 2015. The projects typically include some combination of additional turn lanes, extension of existing turn lane storage, ADA compliant sidewalks, and/or new traffic signals and street lights. Some of the projects are nearing completion, and all intersections will be done by April 2017. The affected intersections are: Harry Hines, Community, Webb Chapel Extension, Bachman Drive, Lakefield, Marsh/Lemmon, Midway, Inwood, Dallas North Tollway/Douglas, Preston, Pickwick, Thackery, Hillcrest, and Boedecker.

TxDOT Annual “Click It or Ticket” Campaign. Each spring, TxDOT launches several safety programs that are all intended to save lives. The “Click It or Ticket” campaign began in 2002 and has been instrumental in helping Texas achieve a ninety-plus percent seat belt use rate. Other programs are focused on reducing drunk driving, improving driver awareness of motorcycles on the road, and work zone safety.

### North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA)

Construction Status on the President George Bush Turnpike (PGBT) and the Dallas North Tollway (DNT). Construction continues on the PGBT and DNT projects that will add a fourth lane in each direction. The PGBT project is on track to be completed between US 75 and the DNT in late 2016. Construction activity is primarily in the median and occurs between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The DNT project between the PGBT and LBJ Freeway began in March. There will be no construction on the main lanes or ramps between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. during the week to minimize impacts to drivers.

NTTA Welcomes Ellis County to Contiguous County Advisory Committee. Ellis County is the newest member of the NTTA’s Contiguous County Advisory Committee (CCAC). It joins Johnson County on the CCAC which was established in January 2015. The Committee’s charter calls for representation of and input by elected officials and citizens of counties that are not NTTA member counties – Dallas, Collin, Denton and Tarrant – but contain a portion of one of the Authority’s tollroad projects. Ellis County has joined the Committee because it will contain part of the S.H. 360 extension project.

### Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

Bike to Work Challenge. DART is hosting a “Bike to Work Challenge” to help encourage riders to use bicycles as an alternative to driving during the month of May. Participants can win gift cards from Richardson Bike Mart worth up to \$100. DART and NCTCOG have partnered on this program – more information is available at [www.DART.org/bikes](http://www.DART.org/bikes). DART wants to educate the public on how to combine bike trips with public transportation. Rail stations have more than 140 bike lids to store bicycles, and bike racks are available on every bus. Bicycles are also permitted on any DART vehicle, all Trinity Railway Express trains and the Dallas Streetcar.

### Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC)

May Meeting. Texas Transportation Commissioner Vic Vandergriff was the featured speaker at the May 6<sup>th</sup> DRMC meeting.

### Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW)

Qantas Airways Service from DFW to Sydney Increases to Daily. Qantas Airways has increased the frequency of its Airbus A380 service from DFW to Sydney, Australia. The flight between DFW and Sydney had been operating six days per week since the A380, the world’s largest passenger aircraft, began servicing DFW in 2014.

Terminal E, Gates E11 – 17 reopen after renovation. DFW Airport has recently opened a newly renovated section of Terminal E, in time for the upcoming summer travel period. The latest upgrades to Terminal E include renovations to Gates E11 through E17 along with the corresponding airline ticketing hall for Alaska Airlines and Delta Air Lines. The improvements,

part of DFW's Terminal Renewal and Improvement Program (TRIP), also include the baggage claims at E13 and E14 and a security checkpoint at E16 (opening May 15). The completion of phase three of the Terminal E project also coincides with the opening of an adjacent, new 1800-space parking garage that features DFW's Parking Guidance System technology. Phase four of the project begins next month renovating gates E2 through E10, adding more concessions and enhancing an additional section of terminal parking. This final phase of construction is expected to be complete in late 2017.

## High-Speed Rail (HSR)

Status of Three High Speed Rail Projects. Environmental analyses are underway for three high speed rail corridors that could potentially create a Texas HSR network centered on the Dallas-Fort Worth area:

- (1) Dallas to Houston Corridor – Federal Railroad Administration Tier II EIS / Texas Central Partners  
Draft EIS completed in late summer or early fall 2016 / Record of Decision in mid-2017
- (2) DFW Core Express Service between Dallas and Fort Worth – TxDOT Tier II EIS  
Draft EIS completed in late 2016 / Record of Decision in late 2017
- (3) Texas-Oklahoma Passenger Rail Study (TOPRS) from Oklahoma City through Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio to South Texas – TxDOT Tier I EIS  
Draft EIS in summer 2016 / Record of Decision in late 2016

FAST Act Seeks to Advance HSR. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, approved by Congress in December 2015, requires the Secretary of Transportation to issue a request for proposals to develop and operate high speed rail. The law identifies eleven potential corridors, including a "South Central Corridor" which includes the Dallas-Fort Worth high speed rail connection. NCTCOG will schedule an industry forum this summer to encourage private sector participation as a proposer under this program. Proposals must be submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration by August 31<sup>st</sup>.