

# INTERAGENCY TRANSPORTATION REPORT – APRIL 2024

RTC / TxDOT / DART / DRMC / DFW Airport



## **\$80 MILLION RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES GRANT**

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) was **awarded \$80 million for four pedestrian cap projects, three of which are in Dallas.** These projects will help reconnect communities separated by federal and state highways.

### Southern Gateway (Dallas)

Funds the second phase of construction for the park to extend the existing deck to S. Marsalis Ave. The final space will see creation of a festival stage area, a pavilion, multi-use and open green space, interactive water features, and pedestrian connectivity between the Park and the Dallas Zoo.

Southern Gateway Deck Park-  
Phase 2.0



### IH-30 Canyon Project (Dallas)

Interstate Highway 30: Farmers  
Market/Three Fingers



Includes installation of support structures for three pedestrian caps/parks located directly south of the Dallas Farmer's Market and directly north of Old City Park. The construction will be included as part of TxDOT's reconstruction of the IH-30 Canyon.

## Klyde Warren Park (Dallas)

Funds the extension of deck to Akard St. adding 1.7 acres to the existing park. The completed project includes a pavilion, an open-air market/festival area for staging, indoor and outdoor entertainment areas, public green space, and additional transportation access.

## Klyde Warren Park – Phase 2.0



Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program

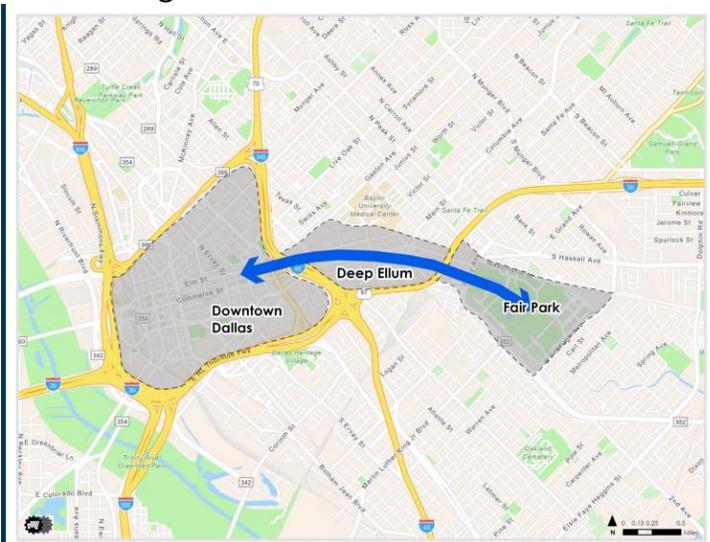
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## SH5 (McKinney)

Funds construction of the Lower 5 Plaza, including a below-bridge pedestrian plaza within the corridor to allow pedestrian access to both sides and reknit the community. The space will provide a safe connection between Historic Downtown McKinney and the East McKinney neighborhoods.

## **FAIR PARK-CBD LINK**

In coordination with TxDOT and the City, the NCTCOG is conducting a **study of multimodal transportation links connecting Downtown Dallas through Deep Ellum to Fair Park**. The study will take into account how these areas are linked considering new designs for IH-30 and IH-345.



There was a kick-off meeting in early February 2023, a public meeting in September 2023, and two public meetings on January 30, 2024 and March 19, 2024.

The Key Principles for the project are to:

- 1) Identify transportation links to connect adjacent communities.
- 2) Develop a multimodal service of independent transportation links.
- 3) Integrate links with new IH-30

interchange locations taking advantage of access and non-access bridge structures.

4) Create routes in strategic corridors to create funding opportunities for multiple objectives.

5) To provide mobility options in strategic locations.

A variety of options are being considered. A link to sign up study updates and to see all the project materials can be found at [Fair Park Links - PublicInput](#).

## **BROADBAND AS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

The State of Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) received \$3.3 billion in federal funding for broadband infrastructure expansion.

NCTCOG is advancing a regional effort to advance broadband access under the premise that broadband access is similar to traditional transportation. While traditional transportation helps connect people to their life activities by travelling from one location to the other, internet access, similarly, helps people connect to their life activities by “travelling” without ever leaving their home.

**A Broadband Roundtable, including City of Dallas staff, was convened in December 2023** to establish what is needed to close gaps for broadband access, especially in underserved areas.

NCTCOG is moving forward with four elements to assist with this effort.

- 1) The NCTCOG will assist the region with the **coordination of data collection and analysis** for the purpose of better reporting broadband availability, affordability, and residential usage rates.
- 2) The NCTCOG will **create a policy committee consisting of elected officials** in the region to provide clear and consistent feedback to the Texas Broadband Development Office.
- 3) The NCTCOG will leverage this policy committee to **form a legislative program** that will help guide the State of Texas legislature on regional needs.
- 4) The NCTCOG will continue with **outreach to broadband practitioners** in the region and **encourage municipalities to appoint broadband technical leads**. Additionally, the NCTCOG will create a strategy for municipal best practices in achieving internet for all residents.

## **TRANSIT 2.0 EFFORTS**

NCTCOG is leading an effort entitled “Regional Transit 2.0”. **The purpose is to develop a more aggressive transit legislative program, increase membership in transportation authorities, collaborate between transportation authority systems, and other efforts to better understand and address long-term transit needs** in DFW.

**The effort is not intended to create a regional rail authority or change the independent authority of each of the three current transit authority’s** boards of directors.

NCTCOG staff is working with transportation authorities and cities in the Dallas-Fort Worth region to increase communication and collaboration among agencies to address expanding transit services to areas with transit needs.

An RFP was issued to study the following items:

- Potential partnership models for public transit in the Metroplex, including operations implications and benefits.

- Potential ways to sustainably fund public transportation in the Metroplex, including member and non-member models and available funding sources at the regional, state, and federal levels.
- Potential ways to better leverage the economic development benefits of public transportation investment to create incentives for people and companies to locate where a variety of transportation modes are available.
- Policy considerations of the various governance and funding proposals.
- Policy barriers or changes.
- Inclusion of opportunity costs (e.g., tradeoffs necessitated by authorized sources and uses of funds).

McKinsey and InfraStrategies have been hired to help advance the study.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

The **next RTC meeting is in-person and is scheduled for May 9, 2024**, at 1:00 PM in the Transportation Council Room at the NCTCOG headquarters (616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011).



## SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION PETE BUTTIGIEG VISIT

**U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg was at the Southern Gateway Park in Dallas on April 4<sup>th</sup>** to announce \$80 million in funding from the Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods Grant Program.

The funding will support construction of highway capping for four projects in North Texas, including three projects in Dallas (Klyde Warren Park, Southern Gateway and a new project connecting the Farmer's Market and Old City Park over the I-30 Canyon). There is also funding for a project in McKinney.



## I-20 FRONTAGE ROAD PROJECT PROGRESS

**Progress continues on the I-20 frontage roads at US-67** and is anticipated to be complete in the spring of 2025.

CS# 2374-04-085 (DALLAS COUNTY)
DALLAS DISTRICT

## I-20 AT US 67 FRONTAGE ROAD PROJECT (WEST OF COCKRELL HILL RD. TO HAMPTON RD.)

| Connecting You With Texas

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**  
This project will construct 0 to 4-lane frontage roads with sidewalks along I-20 just west of Cockrell Hill Road to Hampton Rd. Work also includes additional U-turns and ramps within these limits. These improvements will provide access for adjacent properties and enhance connectivity and mobility through this area. This project also includes construction of a northbound-to-southbound U-turn on US67 at Cockrell Hill Road.

**DURING CONSTRUCTION**  
There will be various lane and ramp closures in the existing I-20 corridor including at the cross-streets. Delays can be expected. Drivers should be alert to slower or stopped traffic and plan ahead for extra travel time in these areas.

**PROJECT DETAILS**  
Limits: West of Cockrell Hill Rd to Hampton Rd.  
CS#: 2374-04-085  
Total Length: 2.86 miles  
Contractor: Austin Bridge & Road Services, LP

**PROJECT STATUS**  
Project Let: December 2021  
Construction Start: April 2023  
Estimated Completion: Early 2025

ESTIMATED COSTS	
Estimated Construction Cost	\$91 M
<b>Estimated Total Cost*</b>	<b>\$91 M</b>

\*Subject to change      \*TxDOT graphic

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**DETAIL**

## I-345 PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD IN MARCH

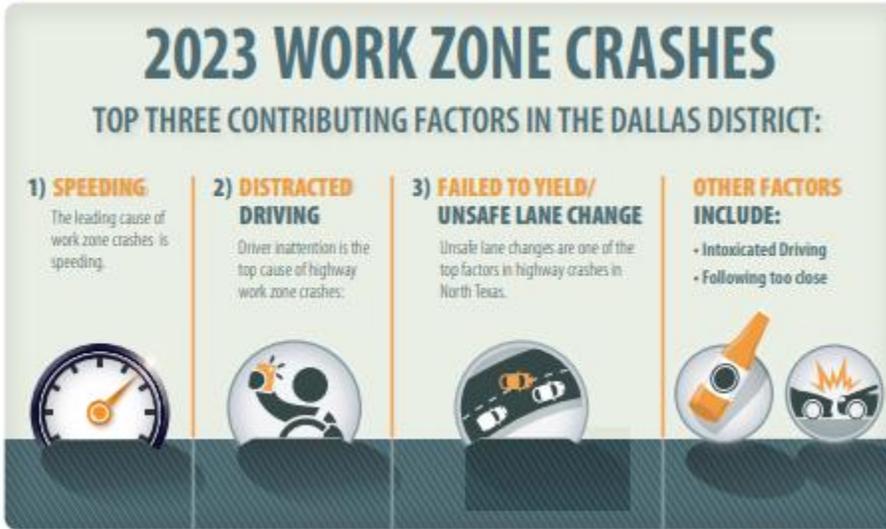
TxDOT held two public meetings on the IH-345 project in March. Attendees were able to see the plans for the hybrid-option including new proposed bridges, north and southbound exits, as well as a simulation video showing the proposed project. Project materials can be seen at this website: [Virtual Public Meeting for I-345 Connects | Keep It Moving Dallas](#)



## WORKZONE AWARENESS WEEK IS APRIL 15-19

- In 2023, work zones in Texas had:
- More than **26,000 crashes** in work zones
  - **190 fatalities** and 803 serious injuries.
  - **Speeding, driving inattention and unsafe lane changes** were among the leading causes of work zone crashes.





In TxDOT’s Dallas District the top three contributing factors, speeding, distracted driving, and failure to yield, accounted for 75% of all work zone crashes.

Simple actions from drivers can be the difference between a safe drive or a crash in a work zone:

- Don’t tailgate
- Watch out for road crews
- Allow extra time
- Slow down
- Pay attention



**DART BOARD TO BE BRIEFED ON NEW STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The DART Board will be briefed on new Strategic Plan goals and objectives and updated vision and mission statements for the agency. The briefing was scheduled for March but was delayed and is tentatively planned for May.

**The proposed new vision statement is:** “Your first-in-mind mobility partner.”

**The proposed new mission statement is:** “We create best-in-class mobility experiences that help people and communities connect and flourish.”

**The proposed new strategic goals are:**

- 1) **Empowered Agency:** Build a nimble organization that can act quickly and effectively by streamlining processes and empowering employees.
- 2) **Culture of Contribution:** Create a culture that aligns roles and responsibilities with the DART vision, deepens organizational trust, and encourages growth.
- 3) **Quality Service:** Deliver a quality customer experience defined by strong rider advocacy and built on professional pride and continuous improvement.

- 4) **Seamless Mobility:** *Integrate mobility options to create a seamless travel experience defined by frequency and reliability that positions DART as first in mind.*
- 5) **Fantastic Spaces:** *Create fantastic spaces that add value to our communities, enhance the rider experience and foster a sustainable and thriving region.*
- 6) **Strategic Relationships:** *Position DART as collaborative leader and recognized regional economic and mobility asset.*

## REALTIME FEED TO GOOGLE AND TRANSIT APPS

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) has expanded the use of real-time data so customers can track bus and train locations, delays, and service changes as they happen. This new initiative means **customers will now be able to access key information on Google Maps, the Transit app, and various other apps.**

## UPCOMING MEETING

The next DART Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024**, at the DART Headquarters Building, 1401 Pacific Avenue in Dallas.



## SPEAKERS

The Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC) has monthly speakers who share their experience and perspective on politics, legislative priorities, and other items of interest at the State Legislature.

In February, the DRMC welcomed State Senator Robert Nichols; in March, Drew Campbell, DRMC Executive Director, led the discussion; and, in April, Scott Braddock, Editor of [The Quorum Report](#), an online political site reporting on Texas politics, provided his perspective.

Mr. Campbell discussed efforts at the State Legislature to advance legalized gambling in Texas. He reported that he **anticipates a lot of discussion in the State's 2025 Legislative Session about prospects of where a casino resort development might land in the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex** and potential ramifications. He also communicated that there are still major obstacles to getting gambling approved at the Texas Legislature.

In April, Mr. Campbell reported on the March primary elections, stating that this primary election was historic for a number of reasons. A record nine Republican incumbents fell during the primary election and another eight Republicans and

one Democrat were forced into runoffs. **Prior to this year, only a single Democrat and no Republican incumbents had lost re-election bids in a March primary in the past two election cycles.**

**Leading reasons for Republican losses were votes to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton and voting to remove school choice provisions from an education bill.** The Governor spent \$6 million trying to defeat those who removed the school choice provisions.

**In April, Scott Braddock, provided his perspective on the State's primary elections.** He stated that while these were not the most contentious elections he's seen in his many years following the Legislature, they were, perhaps, the most dishonest. He too discussed the Governor's retribution on legislators who did not support his school voucher efforts.

## UPCOMING MEETING

The next DRMC Board meeting is scheduled at **11:00 AM on Friday, May 3, 2024**, at the NTA headquarters in Plano (5900 West Plano Parkway, Plano, Texas 75093).



## PARKING RATES INCREASING

Starting May 1<sup>st</sup> prices to park in garages at the DFW Airport will increase by at least \$2.

- Daily **terminal rates** will increase from \$27 to \$32
- Drivers **passing through** the airport will pay \$9 rather than \$6
- **Express covered** rates will increase from \$18 to \$21 daily
- **Express uncovered** rates will increase from \$15 to \$18
- **Remote parking** will cost \$14 – up from the current \$12 rate and,
- **Valet** rates will increase from \$40 to \$45.

## 2023 ESG REPORT PUBLISHED

The Airport published its 2023 Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Report in April. Some of the 2023 highlighted accomplishments include:

- Breaking ground on the electric Central Utility Plant (eCUP) which will be fueled primarily by electricity purchased from 100% renewable sources
- An 81% reduction in annual CO2 emissions from a 2010 baseline
- Recognition as Best Sustainability Initiative in Airports

DFW Airport's goal is to reach net-zero carbon by 2030 – twenty years ahead of the industry goal. The whole report can be seen at this link: [DFW International Airport 2023 ESG Report](#).

### **DFW AND LOVE FIELD NAMED BEST AIRPORTS IN NORTH AMERICA**

**DFW Airport was named the best large airport in North America** in 2023 for customer service by Airports Council International (ACI) World.

The Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award is based on third-party customer survey responses and is the premier airport customer experience measurement and benchmarking program. To be considered for the award, airports must participate in the ASQ survey every month of the award year and surveys cover more than 30 performance indicators across key elements of the passenger's airport experience.

**Dallas' Love Field Airport won the best airport with 15 to 25 million passengers** in North America in 2023.

### **UPCOMING MEETING**

**The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024** For more information, please visit [www.dfwairport.com/board](http://www.dfwairport.com/board).