

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**June 4, 2013**

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**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION PROGRAM FOR I-35W
RECONSTRUCTION I-820 TO US 81/287**

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide information on Community Outreach efforts associated with the reconstruction of I-35W from I-820 to north of US 81/287.

This section of I 35W is being reconstructed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to include the addition of 2 managed toll lanes in each direction along with associated ramp and intersection improvements. Construction started in the Spring of 2013 and is scheduled for completion in late 2017.

During this construction period various travel lane closures will occur along arterial cross streets, frontage roads and the main lanes of the freeway. To aid in managing the impact of these lane closures, a Mobility Coordinator has been retained to work with adjacent and area property owners – providing information on upcoming lane closures and identifying operational improvements to reduce congestion and access impacts. As part of this work effort, the Mobility Coordinator has attended meetings with area neighborhood associations/alliances – Far North Fort Worth Alliance, apartment communities adjacent to the corridor, as well as commercial property owners and businesses – BNSF, commercial shopping center, hotels and various individual businesses along Western Center, Sandshell, Fossil Creek, Old Denton, and Frontage Roads. Each week a summary of scheduled lane closures is prepared and distributed to business and neighborhood associations such that this information can be further communicated to individual users. This lane closure information is posted at <http://www.northtarrantexpress.com> and can also be transmitted to individuals through their free subscription email service. The City will send out information on this free email subscription as part of our weekly news update – City News. And will send our periodic reminders during the construction.

As part of this community outreach effort, the weekly lane closure information is sent to neighborhoods associations within the commuter shed area of the corridor and includes the following boundaries: Blue Mound Road, Beach Street, SH 170 and NE 28th Street. To further inform the community this boundary commuter shed area is being expanded to include neighborhood associations within: US 377, Eagle Mountain, and SH 114.

As the project continues, community outreach will continue through meetings with various associations and alliances such that businesses and individuals can more informed and effectively minimize the impacts associated with lanes closures and increased traffic congestion.

In addition to the meetings with neighborhoods, residents and businesses, the City's communications staff is meeting with communications representatives from TxDOT to discuss ways we can collaborate and coordinate messaging. We will also discuss ways to increase outreach to commuters and residents.

If you should have further questions, please contact Douglas Wiersig at 817-397-7801.

**Tom Higgins
City Manager**