

December 2005

The North Central Texas Council of Government's (NCTCOG) Regional Transportation Council (RTC) recently announced funding for its annual Call for Projects.

The RTC allocated approximately \$28 million in federal transportation funds to high growth areas in the eastern region of the state in order to relieve bottlenecks and improve air quality. Of that \$28 million, Collin County received more than \$17 million, which is over 60 percent of the total funding.

Do keep in mind this funding is subject to public hearings and final approval by the RTC.

Overall, 34 projects were submitted and seven were chosen.

Of those seven, three were in Collin County. The projects are described below:

US 75 @ US 380: \$10,700,000 in COG funding

The scope of this project consists of updating the existing interchange to a diamond

interchange with capacity improvements of all the frontage road intersections with

US 380. This also includes the expansion of US 75 at the US 380 intersection from

the current four-lane divided to an eight-lane freeway. This project will also expand existing frontage roads from four to six lanes.

This is a \$32 million project. COG's recommendation will cover one-third of the cost. The Texas Department of Transportation will cover one-third of the cost

with Collin County and McKinney splitting the remaining one-third. If approved,

this project will begin engineering in 2006 with construction beginning in late 2007.

US 75 @ Bethany Road Interchange: \$785,576 in COG funding

The scope of this project is the reversal of the two ramps on the west side of US 75

between Bethany Road and Chase Oaks Boulevard. This project would reverse the southbound ramps on US 75 across Bethany. This would assist with the traffic flow

for the Allen Commercial District, which was recently approved for the area. Overall, this is a \$2.3 million project with COG covering one-third of the cost with the state and local governments sharing the remaining two-thirds. If approved, this project will begin engineering in 2006 with construction beginning in 2007.

Bush Turnpike @ US 75: \$5,600,000 in COG funding

This project will widen the direct connect ramps from the Bush Turnpike to northbound

US 75 and from southbound US 75 to Bush while widening the railroad bridge and the

Plano Parkway bridge. There will also be the construction of an auxiliary lane on

northbound US 75 to the Park Boulevard exit ramp.

This is a \$16,800,000 project with COG paying for one-third and the city of Plano

and the North Texas Tollway Authority sharing in the remaining two-thirds. If approved,

this project will begin engineering in 2006 with construction in 2008.

While these projects are recommended, they will not be officially approved until

after public hearings in both Dallas and Garland.

Both public hearings will be held on December 13, at 10.30am at the Dallas City Hall

and at 6.30pm at the Garland City Hall.

Collin County will be attending these meetings to make sure these projects remain funded.

Also thanks to our local members of the RTC, Commissioner Jack Hatchell

and

Mayor Bill Whitfield for their hard work on attaining this funding.