

November 2007

You have been hearing that the county bond election is pork and how Collin County should support the pass through financing proposal instead. Under pass through financing, the locals build the state highways and are reimbursed by the state for a percentage of those costs.

What the other side does not understand is that with the passage of this bond election we can still participate in the state's pass through financing program.

Our bonds would be partnering with cities for expanding thoroughfares which we all drive daily. The projects range from widening Custer Road to the expansions of Virginia Parkway and El Dorado Boulevard leading to the recently completed Dallas North Tollway. These are not "bridges to nowhere" but major thoroughfares that tie our cities together.

Overall, this bond includes 113 projects by partnering with 19 of our cities. We can also fund pass through financing and address our major highways with the revenue we will be receiving from the SH 121 tollway project. By utilizing both our bonds and our SH 121 revenues we can address both our major highways and the principal thoroughfares that lead to those highways. If the bond does not pass cities will still need to address their six-lane thoroughfares. Cities will either need to increase your taxes or they will be looking to the revenues from SH 121 to fund those projects. That would mean less funding for our highways and less for the pass through financing program. Over the next few days and on November 6, Collin County voters have an opportunity to address many of the major transportation projects which are on the Collin County Thoroughfare Plan--both six-lane thoroughfares and major highways. We can address those in a comprehensive balanced manner with both the bond program and the SH 121 revenues.

These two programs have to work together. One without the other reduces the amount, type and number of projects that can be funded. Remember it is bond money for six-lane thoroughfares and 121 revenues for pass through financing and major highways.

Passage of this bond election will bring about the most effective use of all our transportation dollars and will not result in a tax rate increase.