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VOLUME 33 ISSUE 1 • JAN-FEB

TxDOT live on your radio dial
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TN
TRANSPORTATION NEWS

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Big choices. Big chances.

TxDOT's new executive director Amadeo Saenz talks frankly about the "fork in the road" for Texas transportation

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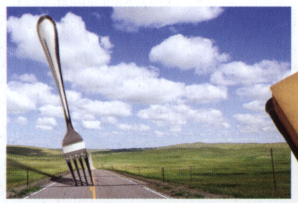

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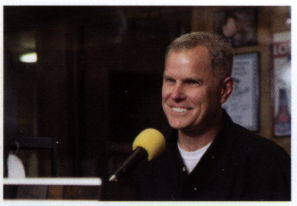

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Randall Dillard
Managing Editor

Editorial Staff
Ann Zeeck, Bill Powell, Ashley Ryan, John Boggess

Photography
Griff Smith, Kevin Stillman

Design
Thompson Marketing

5 THINGS

FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW RIGHT NOW

1. **Texans are talking.** Public outreach for the Trans-Texas Corridor may be the largest public involvement effort in the nation's history. More than 200 public meetings on the TTC have already been held. In the first two months of 2008, there will be 11 Town Hall Meetings and 46 Public Hearings regarding the corridor and I-69/TTC.
2. **Money is tight.** Inflation and a scaling back of government resources are the major reasons TxDOT has a cash flow challenge. In the last five years, highway construction costs in Texas have skyrocketed 62 percent; in the last 10 years, they have jumped 100 percent.
3. **Competition works.** Through a competitive process for the right to build SH 121 in Collin and Denton Counties, more than $3 billion was provided to local officials to pay for other transportation projects. This region of the state will be building new projects while most of the rest will downshift to a maintenance mode.
4. **New leadership means new opportunities.** TxDOT's new administrative structure was developed to better serve the public and the department, support a more effective operation and contribute to overall cost reductions.
5. **We have five things to do every day.** Those are: reduce congestion, enhance safety, expand economic development, improve air quality and increase the value of transportation assets.

Stay informed on transportation issues - check out TxDOT's new Podcast program.

Updates are posted weekly on www.keeptexasmoving.com

SAENZ SAYS

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the new Transportation News, or TN. We've redesigned the publication to convey more information and keep TxDOT employees informed about important transportation issues – locally, statewide and globally. It's our hope that TN will help you speak with confidence about key TxDOT issues.

Our agency is facing many challenges placing us at a critical "fork in the road." As we propose solutions, we'll do our best to explain TxDOT's approach. Each TN will feature an in-depth cover story addressing a current transportation issue and give you "Five Things You Need to Know Now," which will be condensed information on five important and timely news items.

"Over the Fence" will help you answer some of the tough questions we all hear from time to time. My predecessor Mike Behrens thought we should be well-versed in the issues for those over-the-fence conversations we have with our neighbors.

In addition to other TxDOT project features, there will be some lighter columns providing information that you can use at home with your families.

Whether you are reading an article on a major transportation issue or a story about co-workers helping others in their communities, keep in mind that sharing information builds cohesion and camaraderie among all TxDOT employees.

Amadeo Saenz Jr.

Amadeo Saenz Jr., P.E.
Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation

Seeing Eye to Eye

Do-it-yourself projects around the home and yard can create hazards to the eye from chemicals, dust, or flying objects. Just like at work, you should always wear good eye protection whenever you engage in home improvement projects around the house.

We talked to our Occupational Safety Division and they offered the following advice:

1

Good goggles fit snugly to the face around each eye, offering little opportunity for a small object to reach the eye. They also provide good protection from dust, fumes and chemical splashes.

2

Safety glasses, which can be fitted with prescription lenses, look similar to regular eyeglasses but have impact-resistant lenses.

3

Pick a pair with side panels to provide additional protection.

4

Face shields protect the entire face as well as the eyes from frontal impacts; however, they do not offer good protection from the sides. You may want to use them with goggles for maximum protection.

Get Ready for Spring Planting

As stewards of roughly 800,000 acres of state right of way, it's possible that TxDOT maintains the world's largest "garden." Last year, we planted more than 385,641 trees, shrubs and groundcovers on highway landscape projects. These projects are carefully planned and utilize native and naturalized plants that can withstand the extreme Texas temperatures, varying amounts of rainfall and wide range of soil conditions.

Use our best practices at TxDOT to plan your own yard. Consider these basic questions:

How do you intend to use the space?
If you enjoy backyard entertaining, you might extend your patio space or consider a deck and an overhead structure. Do you have play space for young children or pets? Think about how you will use the space before you begin your design.

What is your style?
Define your look early on. If you prefer simple, natural and unstructured spaces, your style may be less formal and could involve curved edges. Do you like structure and symmetry? A more formal design might incorporate planting beds laid out at 90-degree angles.

Which plant materials are best?
Use native and naturalized plant materials whenever possible. They typically need less fertilizing, pruning, irrigation and overall pampering. Call your nearest Texas Agricultural Extension Agent for a list of native plant materials in your area of the state.

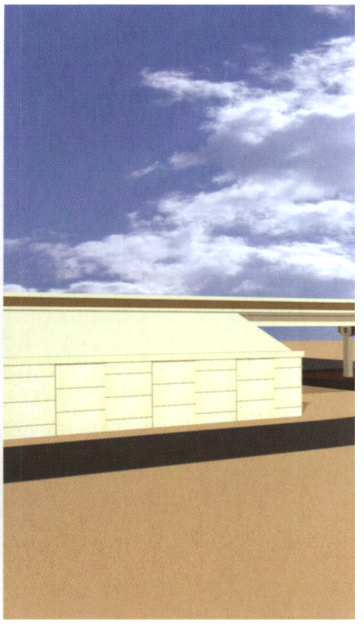
What kind of soil do you have?
Learn more about your soil type before you choose your native plant materials. Clay soils don't drain well; sandy soils don't hold moisture. Adding compost will improve drainage and hold moisture longer so less water will be required.

Should you consider an irrigation system?
Using drought-tolerant natives and reducing your turf area will reduce the need for water. Call your local water utility for tips on using drip irrigation and the proper installation, use and maintenance of an in-ground sprinkler system.

What level of maintenance is required?
Most agree that the perfect landscape is high impact and low maintenance. Consider less turf, plants that require less pruning, and use plenty of mulch in planting beds to discourage weeds.

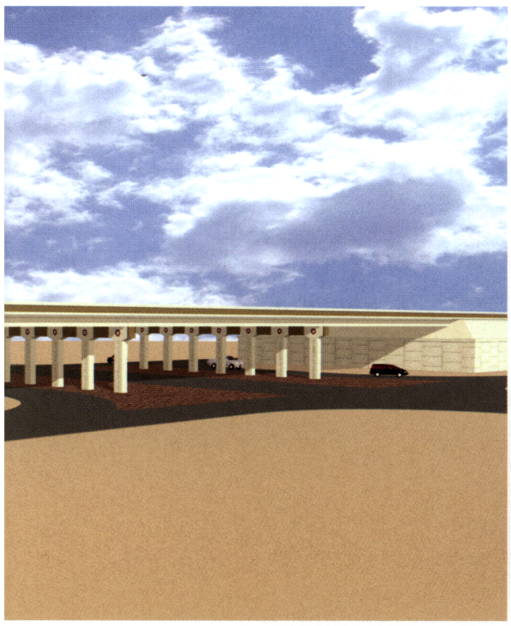
Sketch out some ideas first and begin to prioritize areas of your yard. Don't be overwhelmed by thinking you have to do it all this season. Consider your priority list and tackle one area at a time. Happy gardening! TN

by Barrie Cogburn



El Paso District blazes trail with innovative Spur 601 project

EL PASO SPUR 601
DESIGN TEAM
ABRAMS ■ PASS-THROUGH FINANCE



In many parts of the country, people still think West Texas is about sleepy towns, wide open spaces and laid-back folks who do things the old-fashioned way. It's high time they visit El Paso.

This burgeoning border town is anything but sleepy, suffers from growing traffic congestion and boasts a sizeable contingent of progressive transportation planners who call the city home. With the Spur 601 project, approved in 2006, TxDOT's El Paso District is partnering with local leaders to blaze new trails in innovative project financing.

Thanks to a cooperative effort among TxDOT, the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) and the private sector, a unique "pass-through" financing project to construct Spur 601 is under way. TxDOT has contracted an agreement with a private company - J.D. Abrams, L.P. - to finance, design and build a new, more direct connection between east and northeast El Paso. Construction of the seven-mile project, which joins US 54 to Loop 375 (Purple Heart Memorial Highway), begins this fall at a price tag of $367 million.

"This innovative agreement brings private investment to El Paso to build a badly needed transportation project faster than the state ever could by itself," said Texas Transportation Commissioner Ted Houghton.

Why the urgency? El Paso is home to Fort Bliss, which houses more than 10,000 soldiers and their families. The massive, nationwide base realignment is expected to increase the base population to more than 50,000. El Paso's current transportation infrastructure simply cannot absorb the high traffic impact of the pending base realignment.

TxDOT will contribute $45 million in traditional funding, while the El Paso International Airport will put up another $10 million. Citigroup Financial Services is underwriting the bond issue on behalf of the Camino Real RMA. The required documents have been submitted to the rating agencies and a financial closing is expected by late January 2008. Once finalized, the Spur 601 project will be the first transportation project in the U.S. financed by a pass-through agreement using private sector funding. El Paso District Engineer Chuck Berry added that the project was negotiated as a fixed-cost deliverable.

"We will pay the negotiated price and no more. The private sector will assume all the risks if project costs are higher or if the project isn't delivered on time," he noted.

The new funding tool means the project will be built by 2010 rather than 2020 or later, which was the plan under traditional funding. Because the total funding needed to construct Spur 601 is available up front, the project can be completed in just three years and should coincide with the expected influx of the soldiers and their families.

Over time, the state will reimburse the private company for each vehicle that travels on Spur 601. Importantly, drivers will not pay any toll fees to use the highway. An inventory of the number of vehicles using the highway will be tracked by cameras placed along the road. A maximum and minimum payment will be set to ensure accurate payments are made in times where traffic may be unusually slow or unusually heavy. Not only will the use of pass-through financing facilitate the movement of over 50,000 soldiers and their families, it will also help alleviate the truck traffic congestion El Paso experiences from the airport's Air Cargo Center. The project will further relieve congestion that inner-city streets would experience and ensure that commerce remains free-flowing for the forward-thinking citizens of El Paso. TN

by Ashley Ryan

Highway Airwaves

Cue the music. In 3, 2, 1...

"It's another great Friday at 1420 KGNB New Braunfels and we welcome you to another 'On the Road Again Show' with TxDOT Area Engineer Greg Malatek," booms radio show host and news director David Ferguson. "Welcome Greg. How's it going out there on the roads?" With lively intro banter, the two start another half-hour show about transportation happenings in the New Braunfels area.

For the past five years, Malatek has dedicated the middle part of his Fridays to talking with residents in reach of radio station KGNB's airwaves. Even though he jokes about letting the show fade into a distant memory, he explains how much the show has helped him work hand-in-hand with New Braunfels citizens, especially during the 12-year I-35 construction.

"The I-35 widening was a huge project for TxDOT and this community," Malatek said. "We had to do the work in phases and so we were constantly affecting the flow of traffic somewhere in the area. The radio show helped us keep folks informed about the changes before they happened. That really helped people get around a little better and gave our contractors the ability to get their work done, too."

Malatek said Ferguson approached him about doing the show as part of the radio station's efforts to bring newsmakers into the studio to talk about local issues. The $250 million project definitely qualified as a high-profile development in the heart of New Braunfels. The easy-going engineer is thankful he accepted, even though it was with a little reluctance.

"In the beginning, my voice was cracking and I was scared to death," Malatek remembered. "But it helped us put a voice and face on the agency and that translated into building some trust. I think the fact that I wasn't too slick let people know I was just trying to answer questions and that TxDOT was really listening to what they had to say."

Ferguson agrees. "Greg is very approachable and that comes across on the radio and that's been great for our listeners. I get to harangue him every now and then and everyone knows that a good controversy makes for good radio. But after the show, Greg knows I respect what he and his colleagues are doing for our city."

Perhaps Malatek's focused but unassuming style is derived from his less than glamorous beginning at TxDOT. His father worked at the Highway Department while he was a college student and urged his son to talk to the supervisor at the Gonzales maintenance yard. He got the summer job and began work mowing grass, cleaning restrooms and taking out the trash. He eventually got into some of the engineering work in the Yoakum office.

"That was some pretty tough work back then but I truly enjoyed the people and the work they were doing so TxDOT was always a consideration when I graduated from college," Malatek said. "I was fortunate to land a job at TxDOT and began my career doing special projects in Austin. From there I worked in the research office and then as a design engineer in Amarillo. In 1994, I landed the assistant's job here in New Braunfels and have been here ever since."

In addition to the work going on in Comal County, Malatek has also recently picked up responsibility for Kendall, Guadalupe and Wilson Counties. While he doesn't have

radio shows in those counties, he uses the same communications approach to getting TxDOT's work done there.

"We work as closely with the county judges, city mayors and other community leaders as possible," Malatek noted. "People want to be informed up front and we encourage that type of discussion. In the long run, it helps us do a better job."

Away from the office, Malatek likes to focus on his family. There are Cub Scout meetings, sporting events and Sunday school to attend. For Greg, a jog through historic Landa Park in New Braunfels eases the pressures of overseeing transportation construction and maintenance in four growing counties.

"This job is truly rewarding. It's a proud moment when I get to take my sons out to a construction site or show them something Daddy helped build. I work with a lot of great people and we're helping our communities move forward."

You can hear that pride travel through the radio every Friday at 12:30 as KGNB 1420 welcomes Greg Malatek to another "On the Road Again" show. TN

by John Boggess

OVER THE FENCE

Q **Aren't toll roads just a form of double-taxation?**

A If a roadway completely paid for itself, then someone might be able to make that case. However, we are hard pressed to find a tax-built road in Texas that pays for itself.

The toll revenues collected are used to pay for construction and ongoing maintenance of the tolled highway. The good news is that toll dollars can also be combined with some tax dollars to help fund the maintenance and expansion of non-tolled projects.

Taxes are not optional. Tolls are optional. Those who choose to use a toll road pay for that choice. Motorists who do not want to use a toll road will always have a non-tolled, tax-funded highway to use.

Q **Aren't public-private partnerships a way to guarantee large profits for private road building companies?**

A Public-private partnerships do offer private companies an opportunity to invest in a public transportation project. However, they must be willing to invest hundreds of millions of dollars of their own money to build the project with the thought that drivers will be willing to pay to use the road.

There is no guarantee that a private investor will make money on a privately funded toll road.

Because a private investor is taking that risk and not using public dollars, the company should be allowed to make a reasonable profit on that investment. The State of Texas can regulate the amount of tolls travelers pay on a privately funded road. That limits the profits that a private investor can make.

Q&A

Saenz of the Times

TxDOT's new Executive Director Amadeo Saenz is taking over the leadership position at one of the most important junctures in TxDOT's history. There are serious decisions to be made about the direction of transportation for Texas in the near future. TN sat down with the 29-year TxDOT veteran to get his candid views on what Texas and TxDOT need to do now that we're at that proverbial "fork in the road" regarding transportation choices for Texans.

TN – Congratulations on being named Executive Director at TxDOT. Tell us a little about how you found your way into transportation.

Saenz – Thanks for the kind words. As long as I can remember, I've always been fascinated with transportation. Even growing up on our family farm and ranch in South Texas, I was interested in how the cotton that we grew got from the fields to market. When I went to college, I wanted to study engineering and looked for something flexible in that field because structures, design and even geotechnical work interested me. Civil engineering is where I landed. After school, I applied with TxDOT and was offered a job the day of the interview. It wasn't too long after that I began working in the Pharr District. I was able to work in the various functional areas and really enjoyed absorbing as much knowledge about TxDOT operations as possible.

TN – You've held many high-profile jobs at TxDOT, but becoming executive director must have its own set of challenges. How is your transition going?

Saenz – I feel very good about it and everyone has been supportive. We've been getting our team together and setting out priorities for the year. These next 12 months are key for the organization for a variety of reasons. Before the next legislative session in 2009, we must work through some very complex issues with our legislative leaders and the people of Texas as well. The future of transportation in Texas could very well be dictated in 2008.

TN – So our TN cover with the "fork in the road" is fairly accurate.

Saenz – It's very accurate.

TN – Let's talk about some of those issues. What are the top challenges in front of you and the agency?

Saenz – First, we'll be addressing the sunset provisions in TxDOT's enabling legislation. I'm really looking forward to working with the folks who will be evaluating our organization and I see this as an opportunity to receive some honest, third-party feedback on how we're operating. We'll work very hard to both improve deficiencies and enhance the strengths that are reported. Next, we must deal head-on with our dwindling resources and develop the means to create more stable and predictable funding streams. Inflation, high construction material costs, continued declining federal revenue and deteriorating gas tax dollars all reduce our ability to address regular maintenance and system expansion needs. We must change that negative trend now.

TN – Changing the state and federal governments' allocation of transportation dollars can't happen in one year, can it?

Saenz – You're right. Those are longer-term efforts and we will continue to work on those over time. But there are other financial options out there like private investments, toll funding and even some innovative, time-of-day pricing being looked at in other parts of the country that can help us offset the losses we're seeing in the traditional revenue sources. Our biggest challenge will be to thoroughly address the concerns legislators and the public have regarding these new funding tools.

TN – This past legislative session was tough because there were so many questions about how the new funding options like private investments would operate.

Saenz – Yes. There were stories about foreign companies coming in and taking over Texas roads and uncontrollable toll fees and such. That scared people and rightly so. That's why our communications with legislators and the public throughout the year will be extremely important. We have to quantify our needs, answer the tough questions in detail about new funding opportunities and try to get this state on the road to implementing some solutions. Texas has too much to lose by not addressing its transportation problems. While all that might sound like an impossible task, I'm confident we will get there.

> "We have to quantify our needs, answer the tough questions in detail about new funding opportunities and try to get this state on the road to implementing some solutions."

TN – So how can employees help in this effort?

Saenz – Before I answer that question, let me say a couple of things about TxDOT employees. In my previous roles I was able to get around the state and watch our folks work. I saw them leave their own families to work extreme emergencies. I've seen them handle very complex construction projects and use their own time to help in community projects. And it's all been done in the spirit of public service, so I have a great respect for my fellow employees.

What I need employees to do now is to help us as we go through a budget tightening process. They need to look for more ways to find efficiencies in their jobs. And when they find those efficiencies, tell somebody about it. Some employees have already emailed me with suggestions, and that's great. Next, it will be important for employees to know the big issues. We will do our best to provide information and answer questions, but then the TxDOT story needs to be told to friends and neighbors. In the end, if citizens begin to understand the issues and call for solutions, our legislators will feel more comfortable in letting us implement some new, innovative solutions to our financial problems. This is definitely going to require a team effort. TN

by Randall Dillard, John Boggess

? WHERE AM I?

Travel Division's Anne Cook supplied TN with this photo from the archives, thought to be taken in the 1940's or 1950's, possibly near U.S. 281. Two businesses in the photo provide a clue: C.D. Shamburger Lumber Company and Blankenship Laundry. If you think you know where this picture was taken, contact Anne Cook at acook@dot.state.tx.us or call her at (512) 486-5838.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January, 2008

Date	Event
8–9	Statewide Letting (CST)
15–17	I-69/TTC Town Hall Meetings (Texarkana, Carthage, Lufkin, GPA)
18	SH 286 / SH 358 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (Corpus Christi, CRP)
22–23	I-69/TTC Town Hall Meetings (Hempstead, Huntsville)
23	Transit Operator's Meeting (Austin, PTN)
23	DalTrans Traffic Management Center Grand Opening (Dallas, DAL)
24	I-69/TTC Town Hall Meeting (Rosenberg/Richmond, GPA)
28–29	I-69/TTC Town Hall Meetings (Bellville,Victoria, GPA)
29	Temporary Tag Hearing (Austin, MVD, VTR)
31	Texas Transportation Commission Meeting (Victoria)
	I-69/TTC Town Hall Meeting (Weslaco, GPA)

February, 2008

Date	Event
4–28	Final I-69/TTC Tier One Public Hearings begin (Statewide, TTA)
5–6	I-69/TTC Town Hall Meetings (Laredo, Robstown, GPA)
6	Bridge Presentations Meeting (Austin, BRG)
7–8	Statewide Letting (CST)
12–14	Construction Pavements and Materials Conference (Houston, CST)
20–21	Small Business Briefings (Fort Worth, GPA/BOP)
28	Texas Transportation Commission Meeting (Austin)

March, 2008

Date	Event
1	SH 289 Groundbreaking Event (PAR)
3	Final I-69/TTC Tier One Public Hearings end (Bryan, TTA)
4–5	Statewide Letting (CST)
5–8	WASHTO Subcommittee on Highway Transport (San Antonio, MCD)
25–26	Annual Surveyor's Conference (Austin, ISD)
25–26	Small Business Briefings (Austin, GPA/BOP)
25–27	ROW Administrator Conference (Austin, ROW)
27	District Survey Coord. Meeting/Training Session (Austin, ISD)
27	Texas Transportation Commission Meeting (Austin)

* For more specific information regarding public hearings and meetings, please visit our Web site at: http://www.txdot.gov/about_us/public_hearings_and_meetings/default.htm

Takin' It to the Streets

I-69/TTC Public Outreach Cranks Up

The memorable phone company ad urged people to "reach out and touch someone." That seemed fairly clear and easy to do. TxDOT happens to be in the unenviable position of trying to reach out and touch Texans. And that's not quite as clear or anywhere near as easy.

"About six years ago, state leaders started to actively discuss transportation in the context of reducing congestion, increasing safety, cleaning the air, maintaining the system in place and promoting a healthy Texas economy," said Coby Chase, Government and Public Affairs Director. "In the process of those discussions it became quite clear that we had a mobility crisis and a huge funding shortfall. The proposed solutions to those issues prompted the need for a discussion with the public of the magnitude no one in this state had yet imagined."

To encourage that public dialogue, TxDOT scheduled 11 town hall meetings for January for the I-69/TTC project. These first ever town hall meetings are a direct result of public comment that citizens want more opportunities to ask questions and get answers about transportation issues, including the Trans-Texas Corridor. After the town halls, another 46 public hearings will be held so citizens in that area of the state can learn and talk about this potential transportation solution.

So far, TxDOT has conducted 54 public meetings on the I-35 portion of the Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC). Fourteen thousand Texans took advantage of the opportunity to meet with TxDOT officials. They offered some 6,000 comments.

"The traditional public hearing is just not very satisfying for the public," Chase commented. "You get three minutes to have your say, the official nods and calls the next person on the list. We must engage citizens in a more meaningful way and make sure Texans have their say and the opportunity to shape projects."

For starters, the I-69/TTC meetings will be advertised differently. Instead of using the public notice section of the paper, TxDOT is preparing more eye-catching style of ads to get a person's attention. Those ads will be placed in higher readership sections of local papers.

Studies continue to show that television and radio are prime sources of information for people and the internet continues to gain more viewers each year. Consequently, TxDOT has begun to use those communication avenues for the first time on a public issue of this nature.

"In addition to the public town halls and mass media outreach, we'll also continue to meet with public officials, appear on radio shows around the state and do whatever else is possible to get Texans informed and involved," said Chase. "Hopefully, that will be a lot more rewarding than the public hearings of old. It's definitely a new day for Texas transportation in more ways than one." TN

by John Boggess

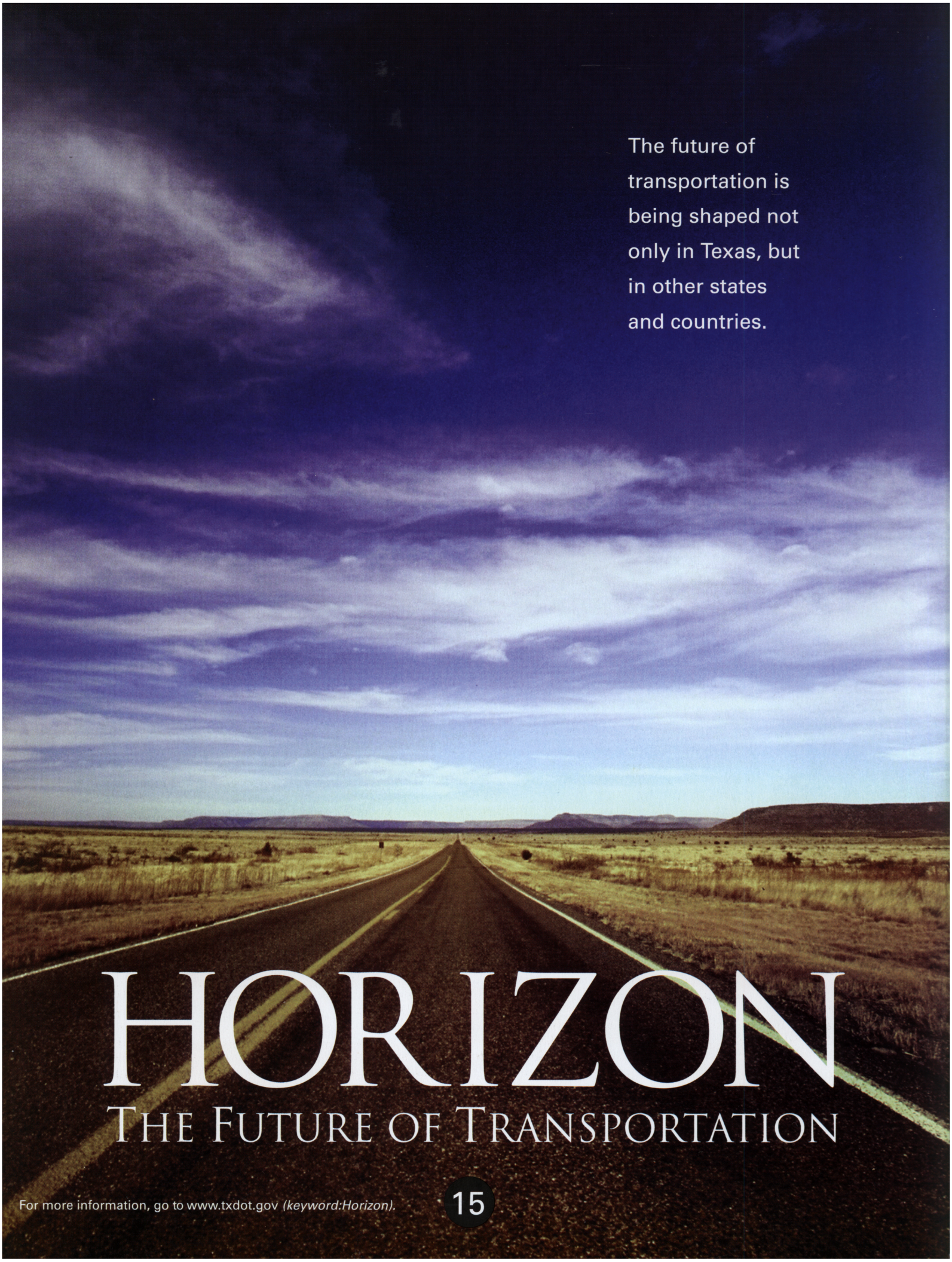
Help Steer the Future

TxDOT's I-69/TTC community involvement calendar.

Town Hall Meetings will be held Jan. 15 - Feb. 5 (See calendar on page 12 and story on page 13). Official public hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement are listed below.

Date	City/Town	Hearing Facility	Facility Address
FEB 4	Huntsville	Walker County Fairgrounds	3925 Highway 30 West Huntsville, TX 77340
	Center	Center High School Commons	658 Roughrider Drive Center, TX 75935
	Brownsville	City of Brownsville Event Ctr, Rms. C, D & E	1 Event Center Blvd. - off Paredes Line Rd. Brownsville, TX 78526
FEB 5	Cleveland	Cleveland Civic Center	210 Peach Street Cleveland, TX 77327
	Carthage	Carthage High School Auditorium	1 Bulldog Drive Carthage, TX 75633
	Harlingen	Casa Del Sol	221 East Madison Harlingen, TX 78550
FEB 6	Livingston	Livingston High School	1 Lions Avenue Livingston, TX 77351
	Longview	Longview Maud Cobb Activity Center	100 Grand Blvd. Longview, TX 75604
	McAllen	McAllen Convention Center, Rm 101	700 Convention Center Blvd. McAllen, TX 78501
FEB 7	Trinity	Trinity High School	500 E. Caroline Trinity, TX 75862
	Marshall	Marshall Civic Center	2501 S. East End Boulevard Marshall, TX 75670
	Falfurrias	Sacred Heart Parish Hall	201 W. Blucher Street Falfurrias, TX 78355
FEB 11	Wharton	Wharton High School	#1 Tiger Avenue Wharton, TX 77488
	Diboll	Lottie & Arthur Temple Civic Center	601 Dennis Street Diboll, TX 75941
	George West	George West High School Cafeteria	1010 Houston Street George West, TX 78022
FEB 12	Houston	Arabia Shrine Center	2900 North Braeswood Houston, TX 77025
	Lufkin	Lufkin Pitser Garrison Civic Center	601 N. 2nd Street Lufkin, TX 75901
	Sinton	Sinton High School Auditorium	400 N. Pirate Blvd. Sinton, TX 78387
FEB 13	Lake Jackson	Lake Jackson Civic Center	333 Hwy. 332 East Lake Jackson, TX 77566
	Logansport, LA	Logansport High School Gymnasium	17228 Hwy. 5 Logansport, LA 71409
	Kingsville	King Ranch Museum	405 N. 6th Street Kingsville, TX 78363
FEB 14	Texas City	Doyle Convention Center	2010 5th Avenue Texas City, TX 77590
	Nacogdoches	Fredonia Hotel Convention Center	200 N. Fredonia Street Nacogdoches, TX 75961
	Corpus Christi	Omni Bayfront Hotel, Nueces Ballroom	900 N. Shoreline Blvd. Corpus Christi, TX 78401
FEB 19	Magnolia	Magnolia High School	14250 FM 1488 Magnolia, TX 77353
	Atlanta	City of Atlanta Auditorium (Police Dept)	310 N. Louise Atlanta, TX 75551
	Laredo	Texas A&M International University Student Center Ballroom, 2nd Floor	5201 University Blvd. Laredo, TX 78041
FEB 20	Edna	Edna High School	1303 West Gayle Edna, TX 77957
	Texarkana	Texarkana College, Truman Arnold Ctr	2500 N. Robison Rd. Texarkana, TX 75599
	Freer	Freer Civic Center	608 Carolyn Street Freer, TX 78357
FEB 21	El Campo	El Campo Civic Center	2350 N. Mechanic El Campo, TX 77437
	Jefferson	Jefferson High School Commons	#1 Bulldog Drive Jefferson, TX 75657
	Alice	Alice High School Cafeteria	#1 Coyote Trail Alice, TX 78332
FEB 25	East Bernard	Riverside Hall	14643 Buls Rd. East Bernard, TX 77435
	Rosenberg	Rosenberg Civic & Convention Center	3825 Highway 36 South Rosenberg, TX 77471
	Refugio	Refugio County Community Center	305 Swift Street Refugio, TX 78377
FEB 26	Katy	Katy High School Performing Arts Center	6331 Highway Blvd. Katy, TX 77494
	Sealy	Sealy High School	2372 Championship Drive Sealy, TX 77474
	Beeville	AC Jones High School Cafeteria	1902 N. Adams Street Beeville, TX 78102
FEB 27	Hempstead	Knights of Columbus	22892 Mack Washington Hempstead, TX 77445
	Waller	Waller High School	20950 Fields Store Rd. Waller, TX 77484
	Victoria	Victoria College Fine Arts Auditorium	2200 E. Red River Victoria, TX 77901
FEB 28	Humble	Humble Civic Center	8233 Will Clayton Parkway Humble, TX 77338
	Navasota	Grimes County Expo Center	5220 FM 3455 Navasota, TX 77868
	Goliad	Goliad Memorial Auditorium	925 S. US Highway 183 Goliad, TX 77963
MAR 3	Bryan	Bryan Civic Auditorium	800 S. Coulter Drive Bryan, TX 77803

Open House 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Hearings start at 6:30 p.m.



For more information, go to www.txdot.gov *(keyword:Horizon).*

Indiana

Governor Mitch Daniels describes the state government he inherited as one where dysfunction and inefficiency were rampant. Thus sparked the beginning of Indiana's "Major Moves" plan, a 10-year, statewide transportation plan consisting of 200 new construction and 200 major preservation projects for Indiana highways. Daniels' plan utilized an innovative approach to financing: leasing the 157-mile Indiana Toll Road (ITR) to a private investor. This plan took an undervalued and neglected asset and infused the capital to develop hundreds of other projects to completion. The principal thought behind the plan was that the roadway projects, once finished, could be a tool for economic development. Resistance to the plan was fierce and resulted in "one of the biggest fights the Indiana legislature has ever seen." To gain acceptance of his new approach to jumpstart Indiana's weak infrastructure, Daniels addressed the public's concern regarding investment costs by showing that two-thirds of the tolls paid on the ITR were from out-of-state motorists and that the road itself could be improved and operated by a private firm, using its own money. The result of Daniels' project was the development of several major businesses in Indiana. Since 2005, over 35,000 new jobs were created, and by 2007, amidst a national transportation funding crisis, Indiana was the only state that could claim a fully-funded transportation plan.

Pennsylvania

When Governor Ed Rendell became governor of Pennsylvania in 2003, he inherited a transportation system in crisis – miles of highways in poor condition, hundreds of bridges in disrepair, a neglected transit system and an ongoing funding shortage. Not content with the state's reliance on traditional revenue sources, Rendell blazed a trail for Pennsylvania, making radical changes to address the state's transportation needs. Despite the polarizing public debate on whether to fund transit versus highways and bridges, Rendell decided the time had come to put aside special interests in favor of the common interest. Unlike other states, Pennsylvania had provided significant capital and operating funds for public transit using little local or regional contributions. Counties and local governments had no taxing authority for road and bridge maintenance, thus preventing regional decision-making. Rendell created a bipartisan Transportation Reform and Funding Commission to make recommendations concerning operations, structure, and funding of public transportation, highways and bridges. The panel recommended tax hikes, fee increases, and leasing the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The governor took these to heart and developed a two-pronged approach—exploring a private lease agreement for the Pennsylvania Turnpike and levying a new 6.17 percent gross-profits tax on oil companies that do business in the state. He cut government spending, improved productivity and implemented additional cost-cutting measures. In 2005, he announced an emergency plan for stop-gap funding for transit and found an additional $530 million for roads and bridges from his aggressive cost-cutting actions and leveraging of more federal funds.

London

In 2000, when Kenneth Livingstone became London's first-ever directly elected mayor, the city was in the midst of a transportation crisis. Like many American cities, London's traffic was severely congested, which threatened its economic prosperity and its citizens' quality of life. Projected estimates show London's population will grow to more than 8 million people in less than a decade, due largely to its booming economy. However, Mayor Livingstone realized that transportation demand was outstripping the city's growth. In response, he made transportation and congestion major platform issues, stressing the importance of easing congestion by persuading people to use public transportation. To reduce the number of vehicles on the road, Livingston proposed making those who created the congestion pay for using the roadways. His 10-year plan was to create partnerships between London's transportation agencies, the public and the business community. Integral to his plan were essential priorities: reducing congestion, improving bus routes and services, providing better pedestrian security, increasing traffic enforcement, increasing journey time reliability for drivers, reforming street maintenance and raising revenue. Within three months, London's rush-hour traffic had been cut by nearly 20 percent, and rush-hour bus speeds had increased by 15 percent. TN

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Abilene:
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Amarillo:
30 Frank Montoya
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05 Kevin D. Ireland; Melvin E. Jobe

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30 Oliver W. Sparks
10 Dwayne K. Johnson; Gary D. Messer

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15 James P. Deleon; David W. Klipple
05 Randy A. Kalka; David R. Pruitt

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05 Samuel A. Marks

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30 Jimmy D. Field
20 Gary D. Underwood
15 Merlin T. Harrington
05 Donald I. Epperson Jr.

Bryan:
05 William S. Stuart

Childress:
15 George A. Cother; Ricky M. Diggs; Maximillian Gerhardt; Delbert R. Glover

Corpus Christi:
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25 Braulio C. Carvajal, Jr.
15 Joel F. Longoria
05 Ricardo S. Aguilar; Armando Gonzales; Jimmy M. Owens; Jose R. Trevino; Michael D. Woods

Dallas:
30 Terry L. Franks
25 Gary L. Stegall
15 Christopher P. Briggs; Thomas T. Dellinger; Rudy Medallin
10 Sandra R. Williams
05 Walter V. Caraig; Derick L. Davis; Rashidah Dyer; Jerry D. Garland; Monty R. Hilliard

El Paso:
25 Hector R. Granado; Joseph W. Hudy; Johnny C. Vasquez;
20 Mary M. Brown
10 Noemi L. Horn
05 Rachel R. Barraza

Ft. Worth:
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10 Kevin L. Bryson; James H. Colwell, Jr.; Christopher E. Medley
05 John B. Nolt, Jr.

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30 Howard W. Chopp
25 Michael J. Christley; Willie Goff; Michael J. Montalbano, Jr.; Scott E. Scholz; Lynn E. Whittington;
20 Robert S. Bissett Jr.; William R. Brudnick; Marc Allen Coppock; David E. Fink; Michael Hobbs; Charles A. Neuman; Lucio F. Ortiz
15 Viera A. Spakovsky; Alan J. Wang
05 Stephen V. Lowery; Guadalupe J. Reyna

Laredo:
30 Eduardo Garcia
05 Yolanda Machuca; Jose A. Saldana

Lubbock:
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15 Carl Smiley
05 Cody S. White

Lufkin:
25 Robert W. Hutto
15 Leonard Mcgowen, Jr.
10 Billy W. Jones

Odessa:
20 Gonzalo Guzman Jr.
15 Lennerd Byrd; Javier Lozano; Rhonda G. Thane
05 Martin Arredondo, Jr.

Pharr:
30 Rafaela A. Madrigal; Alfredo Robledo
20 Alfredo Abrego; Emilio V. Duenez; Mario Guerra; Stephen P. Walker

San Angelo:
30 Armando S. Dominguez
20 Ricky R. Moore
10 Norma K. Butt

San Antonio:
25 Cathy T. Floyd; Schelly S. Radcliff
20 Glen R. Biermann; Abelardo S. Casas; Claude L. Cosgrove
10 Jack E. Dugas; Keith H. Hutzler
05 Mark A. Jung; William J. King

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25 Arnold Gonzales; Eugene M. Oates
20 Terry D. Williams
05 John N. Curtis; Leslie R. Drinkwine

Waco:
30 Ronald R. Houston
20 John F. Obr
15 Ervin L. Middlebrook Jr.; Donna G. Mills; Leslie W. Thompson

Wichita Falls:
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15 Jerry L. Fairchild; Eliazar G. Salinas
10 Steven L. Sluder

Yoakum:
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Divisions and Offices:

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15 Mary A. Griss

Audit:
05 Kent T. Leipold

Bridge:
20 Jon T. Ries; Leon D. Wegele; Lloyd M. Wolf

Construction:
15 Cheryl A. Caldwell

Environmental:
10 Douglass J. Mack

General Services:
35 Douglas M. Peeples
05 Weaver T. Jackson; Kathryn C. Pew

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05 William J. Koch, III.

Motor Vehicle:
20 Brett G. Bray; Janice M. Maynard
05 Annette S. Trevino

Occupational Safety:
10 Lola S. Byrne

Public Transportation:
15 Mary N. Bennett

Traffic Operations:
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20 Victor G. Hernandez
15 George W. Petrek, III.

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05 Leslie R. Lee; Stella V. Santos

Districts:

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40 Victor S. Mitchell
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10 Stacy A. Gilmore; Anthony W. Paidle
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10 Abigail B. Bell

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10 Carlos Neveu Jr.
05 Donald E. Wingard

Childress:
30 James L. Ford
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20 Hilario Chapa III.
05 Lydia F. Rodriguez

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10 A T M M. Chowdhury; Michael A. Pete; Trinidad Sanchez, Jr.
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10 Tanya L. Fitzgerald; Sheryl E. Hood
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25 Wesley D. Naumann; Thomas B. Tucker; Scott R. Valentine
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15 Paulette M. Cotrone; Maria Dazdja Pasku; David W. Moore; Tapas K. Tarafder;
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05 Douglas E. Bruno; Rafael A. Contreras; Kevin W. Hall; Wanda J. Meador; Timothy V. Monroe

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10 Guillermo A. Dougherty, Jr.; Fransisco Jauregui
05 Manuel Viana, Jr.

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15 Charles E. Hall; Thomas E. Ivey
10 Carolyn S. Edge

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15 Joel S. Griner; Alexander Strambler, Jr.
10 Federico Avila; Cijifredo T. Zuniga
05 Richard A. Gutierrez; Richard L. Walters

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20 Ray R. Crabtree
15 Corinna W. Clark; Bill D. McBride; Laura E. McCoin; Billy M. Meador
10 Shari L. Coker; Michael C. Reeves
05 George E. Erwin; Oscar L. Thomas

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20 Donato Solis
05 Ramon Beltran, Jr.; Yara M. Corbitt; Andres A. Espinoza; Jose Hernandez

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05 Herlinda S. Bilbrey

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10 Bentley R. Jarrett

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10 David L. Nutt
05 Russell D. Flournoy

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10 Jesse L. Fleming, Jr.

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25 Justin C. Wostarek
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35 Nancy S. Handrick
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05 William W. Raine

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15 Jerry D. Thompson
10 Christopher W. Burford

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45 Larry Buttler
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05 Anna L. Hovenden

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05 James G. Jones

Travel:
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25 Carolyn F. Converson; Debbie S. Nelson
10 Mark J. Krupa

Audit:
05 Roger L. Stacy

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Abilene:
30 Raul Rodriguez
15 Jerry D. Jeffries
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10 Rose M. Beck; Rose E. Morris; Brad H. Phipps
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05 Kevin L. Crim

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10 Felix C. Lopez
05 Delma E. Cave; Roel J. Olmos; Jose V. Sosa

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25 Mark A. Eder; John E. Marley
20 Richard A. Cortez
15 Jimmy D. Bertoldo; John D. Brewer; Joanna Jones; Bruce W. Nolley; Ide E. Udabor; Jacqueline M. Weeks
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15 Ramon J. Rodriguez
10 Alejandro S. Gonzales; Lilia I. Pena; Fidel Quiroz
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25 Jimmy D. Gilbert; Michael W. Killough
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10 Kevin S. McCuistion; Ronnie Rivas

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20 William H. Hodges
10 Jimmie A. Johnson

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05 Griselda C. Armendariz

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20 Juan M. Barrientos
10 Michael G. Quintanilla; Agustin Ramirez
05 Juan J. Salinas

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05 Gilbert L. Gomez

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25 Julia M. Brown; Jeff F. Caron; Daniel S. Silva
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15 Debra S. Guzman;
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15 Lavonza A. Barkouskie
10 Gregory S. Mills; Fransisca Villarreal

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05 Julie A. Pruitt

Yoakum:
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05 Keith A. Dornak

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05 Oliver F. Salgado

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10 Eduardo Arredondo; Graham W. Eudey
05 Jaqueline Gomez; Tzuoh-Hwaliu; Zhiming Si

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Finance:
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General Services:
25 Harry M. Bird
20 Karen L. Dennis; Monty L. Harris
05 William White

Human Resources:
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05 Monica M. Spiller

Information Systems:
10 Dwight D. Adams
05 Richard Dominguez

Maintenance:
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05 Earl W. McGlothlin; Stacey D. Worsham

Traffic Operations:
10 Tonnaga J. Marcyes

Transportation Planning & Programming:
35 Deborah A. Hansen
05 Lori A. Morel

Travel:
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05 Lois M. Rodriguez

Vehicle Title & Registration:
30 Janis G. Eddleman
15 Sara C. Bodden; Vivian C. Howard; Yolanda A. Johnson
10 John W. Carney; Maria C. Flores
05 Jeanna L. Gordon

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05 Melissa A. Saucedo

International Relations:
05 Leticia T. Von Rossum

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Abilene:
35 Bernice M. Turentine
30 Jimmy D. Smith
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10 Jesse Camacho; Jerry M. Conner
5 Gerald L. Brown; Jason E. Miller

Amarillo:
25 Robert D. Hollingsworth; Michael L. Stavenhagen
05 Danny N. Cummins; Ronnie M. Hathaway, Jr.; Blair E. Johnson

Atlanta:
20 Lonzo D. Griffin
15 John H. Hudson
05 Bernice L. Lockett

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15 John N. Hurt; Terry D. Schulze
10 Rosalinda Gamez
05 Charles E. Kern

Beaumont:
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05 Danny O. Brack; James W. Thames

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10 Allen W. Fletcher; Bradley W. Neely; Gail L. Weeks

Bryan:
20 Jerry Ritter
15 Jose C. Chavez; Ricky L. King
10 James M. Martin, Jr.
05 William L. Ray; Casey R. Story; Jason L. Tomek

Childress:
25 Bettie W. Valenzuela
10 Randy R. Arnn; Charles R. Flemmons; Thomas H. Holcomb
05 Billy J. Downing; Steven K. Jones; Mendi L. Taylor

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05 Guadalupe Arredondo; Erasmo S. Cuellar; Bobby L. Lewis; Joe Tellez

Dallas:
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15 Roy L. Bradford; Robert L. Graham
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05 Jae H. Baag; John T. Chandler; Richard A. Chaney; Ricky L. Lacy; Lorenzo R. Martinez; Mary V. Sanders; Rusty L. Vess

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25 James Bell
20 Alfredo A. Cavarrubias
15 Rafael M. Delgado; Roberto Frausto; Ismael Hernandez; Andres J. Pacheco
10 Edward R. Goebel; Alfredo P. Sanchez
05 Andrew M. Beauchamp

Ft. Worth:
40 Hulen L. Humphreies
30 David L. Webb
25 Ronald J. Robinson
20 Douglas M. Elston
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05 Sharon L. Murphy; Deborah A. Redd

Houston:
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20 Raul F. Bartholomew; Gary D. Lyke; Eliza C. Paul; Jeff A. Volk; Jack C. Weinberg
10 Grant Chim; Yu Lin Fan; Ricardo O. Goodwin; Pamela M. Martinez
05 John F. Cato; Blake L. Labay; Cynthia Lee; Jobina J. Lockett; Wallace Magana; Michael J. Maresh; Andrin K. McDowell

Laredo:
20 Patricia Garcia Morales; Rosa E. Trevino
10 Pablo Resendez
05 Luis Maltos; Japheth Suarez

Lubbock:
30 Alphia H. Cox; Bobby G. Stewart, Jr.
20 Federico Gonzales
15 Andrew Chavez; Freddy Perez
10 Pete Aguilar Jr; Linda S. King; Francis Romanofski; Kelley W. Stewart
05 Raul Sassenhagen, Jr.; George J. Villarreal

Lufkin:
20 David R. Collmorgen; Paul D. Montgomery; Jimmy G. Parham
15 Rodolfo Gonzalez
05 Jacky K. Hill; Shannon Q. Ramos

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25 Manuel A. Muniz, Jr.
15 Ector G. Almendarez; Kathryn C. Evans; Guadalupe A. Villegas
10 Robert Ornelas; Shannon M. Simpson
05 Jack P. MaGee; Ray Valverde

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20 Bernie L. Holder
10 Vickie L. Coplin; Daniel C. Jacks
05 Justin W. Ferguson; Daniel G. Taylor

Pharr:
25 Jose R. Solis
20 Jamie Cruz
15 Alfred Alaniz, Jr.; Jose N. Pena; Miguel J. Rodarte
10 Jennie M. Pedraza
05 Michele Cavazos; Juan C. Marfil; Nidia Ramirez

San Angelo:
10 Branon C. Mann
05 Fransisco J. Mendez

San Antonio:
25 Jesse Hayes, Jr.; John J. Paniagua
20 Samuel Mendoza; Jerome D. Pavliska
15 Hossein A. Behimehr; Lee J. Segura
10 Jeffrey W. Cole; Rudy E. Reyna; Michael L. Williams
05 Jose L. Martinez; Candyce D. Selby

Tyler:
25 Kevin R. Kennemer; Bobby J. Williams
05 Wyatt B. Adair; Michael K. Allen; Clarence M. Berry; Thomas M. Lathem

Waco:
35 Richard A. Smith
25 Charles E. Lyles; Marvin R. Pankonien
10 David O. Herrell
05 Carlos A. De La Rosa; Donnie R. Morales

Wichita Falls:
15 Ronney L. Stone
05 Molli M. Choate

Yoakum:
10 Kenneth W. Kocurek

Divisions and Offices:

Administration:
30 Amadeo Saenz, Jr.

Business Opportunity Program:
15 Berdell A. Collins

Construction:
30 Randolph B. Beck
15 Jana H. French

Design:
20 Sandra L. Wallace
10 Shelby L. Delgado

Divisions and Offices:
continued

Finance:
15 Susanna P. Vredenburgh
10 William E. Swindal, Jr.

General Services:
25 Donald W. Ekvall
15 Georges L. Barrera; L.C. Smith;
10 Margaret M. Gaither
05 Pat M. Vardell, IV.

Human Resources:
15 Norman O. Carter, Jr.; Marilyn J. Dell

Information Systems:
25 Richard M. Lelle
15 Cynthia J. Bradford

Maintenance:
05 Marshall Long; James R. Ormsby

Motor Vehicle:
15 Jennifer K. Clark

Public Transportation:
15 Ginnie R. Mayle

Traffic Operations:
20 Shelli D. Belser
15 Georgene A. Black

Transportation Planning & Programming:
15 Richard L. Camp

Travel:
25 Cynthia M. Kosel
10 Cheryl M. Granger
05 Raquel Sanchez

Vehicle Title & Registration:
30 Frankie C. Shilow
20 Jimmy A. Goolsby
10 Leann J. Lapp; Hedy C. Lee
05 Idalia O. Illa-Lopez; Karen M. Poff

Research & Technology Implementation:
20 Charmaine Richardson

Retiree Report

SEPTEMBER 2007

Districts:

Amarillo:
30 Philip T. Stevens
29 Wilkes A. Stevens

Austin:
28 Russ K. Stateham

Bryan:
10 Lee E. Newsome
25 Paul J. Oliver

Houston:
22 Mary D. Harris
20 Johnny W. Powell

Lubbock:
27 Thomas E. Martin, II

San Antonio District:
29 Robert A. Bohlen

Tyler:
21 Phyllis S. Neill

Yoakum:
33 Cynthia R. Meza

Divisions and Offices:

Government & Public Affairs:
17 Kerry B. Neely
06 Michael L. Cox

Maintenance:
25 Aurora V. Zavala

Traffic Operations:
19 Bruce G. Hallock

Transportation Planning & Programming:
20 Marcus P. Riker

Vehicle Titles & Registration:
29 Barbara B. Bates

Retiree Report

OCTOBER 2007

Districts:

Atlanta:
25 Joe D. Gage

Austin:
24 Antonio Orta
13 Jim D. Sheppard

Beaumont:
37 William F. Leopard
21 William R. Graves

Bryan:
21 Roberto P. Estraca
13 Charles W. Gross

Corpus Christi:
30 Jorge A. Salinas

Dallas:
25 Stacy E. Kimberlin
19 William D. Grooms

El Paso:
39 Carlos V. Chavez

Houston:
25 Stanley G. Kinerd

Lubbock:
28 William H. Brandon

Odessa:
27 William E. Brown

San Antonio:
30 John W. Davis
29 Thomas L. Bohl

Tyler:
28 Clifford R. Mouser
13 Michael E. Stone

Waco:
33 James M. Gregory

Divisions and Offices:

Finance:
29 Sylvia A. Antle

General Services:
04 Teresa Lucero

Vehicle Titles & Registration:
35 William H. Dobson
10 Martha A. Weeks

Districts:

Brownwood:
David G. Delgado
Engineering Tech IV
TxDOT service time: 14 yrs. 09 mo.
09/28/07

Yoakum:
Anton J. Sassin
Maintenance Tech
TxDOT service time: 28 yrs. 5 mo.
Retired: 2/29/84
9/20/07

Melvin E. Bayless
Supervisor Gonzales Maint. Section
Retired: 09/30/78
09/27/07

Bryan:
Russell Wade
Design/Planning Section
Retired: 08/31/84
10/07

Corpus Christi:
Tommy H. Bell
Design Engineer
36 years of service
Retired 8/31/95
10/12/07

John William "Bill" Johnson
Right of Way Appraiser
TxDOT service time: 20 yrs.
Retired 5/31/81
10/7/07

El Paso:
Maria Veronica Chavez
Engineering Specialist V
TxDOT service time: 14yrs. 06 mo.
10/03/07

Betty C. Best
Information Specialist
TxDOT service time: 36yrs.
Retired: 09/30/93
10/29/07
(Little known fact, she served on committee that selected the TxDOT logo we use today.)

Lufkin:
Joe B. Shannon
Engineering Tech
Last Hire Date: 2/1/78
TxDOT service time: 22 yrs. 3 mo.
Retired: 11/29/84
10/6/07

San Antonio:
Carlos H. Macias
Engineering Tech II
TxDOT service time: 10 yrs. 7 mo.
10/31/07

Dennis M. Vackar
Safety Officer III
TxDOT service time: 29 yrs. 2 mo.
10/26/07

Divisions and Offices:

Wharton Maintenance Section or Wharton Area Office
Alfons Kaluza
Retired: 10/31/82
10/15/2007

Districts:

Dallas:
David L. Breshears
Engineering Tech II
TxDOT Service Time: 12 yrs. 9 mo.
11/07/07

Fort Worth:
Glenn Richards
Maintenance Tech
Retired: 1987
11/02/07

Houston:
Timothy V. Monroe
Engineering Tech II
TxDOT Service Time: 5 yrs. 1 mo.
Hire Date: 10/14/02
11/28/07

Paris District:
C. Stanton Ramsey
Engineering Specialist
Retired: 09/30/93
11/20/07

Yoakum:
Harold E. Harris
Fayette Area Engineer's Office
TxDOT Service Time: 16 yrs. 5 mo.
Retired: 05/29/87
11/04/07

David R. Frank
Colorado County Maintenance
TxDOT Service Time: 21 yrs. 4 mo.
11/13/2007

TxDOT COMMUNITY CONNECTION

1

Marjorie Bentz, office technician for the Dallas District's Navarro County Maintenance office, and her daughters Rebecca, Jessica and Christina were presented with the Area 12's 2006 Family of the Year award for their involvement with Special Olympics. Dave Bentz – husband, father and head coach – recently passed away unexpectedly. He was named 2007 Coach of the Year (posthumously).

2

Crystal King, security administrator for the San Antonio District's Information Systems Office, was awarded the district's 2006 Irene C. Ugarte Humanitarian Award. She worked tirelessly during the Katrina disaster helping evacuees. King also acts as Santa Claus for a lady with Down syndrome who lost both parents.

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http://crossroads/org/pio/TNews/tnol.htm

We hope you enjoy the new edition of TN.
In the future TxDOT will be looking at new ways to get information to employees.