



# 2004 Bond Program - Projects Update

May 1, 2007

## Programming & Funding

ITS is actively seeking and securing additional funding and funding agreements for the 2004 Bond Program Projects.

### **Hickory Hill @ IH 30**

The Hickory Hill project funded under the Freeway Interchange and Bottleneck Program funds the grade separated interchange at IH 30 as well as the extension of Hickory Hill to the future interchange. In an effort to expedite this project, the extension of Hickory Hill has been separated from the interchange project and defederalized. The required local match for the interchange and extension project will be redirected to the extension of Hickory Hill. Engineering for the Hickory Hill Extension is underway.

The Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Rockwall County and Royse City was executed on November 27, 2006, establishing funding and responsibilities for the extension of Hickory Hill to IH 30 as a local project. A request for modifications to the TIP for the IH 30 at Hickory Hill Interchange Project (removing the extension of Hickory Hill) was submitted by NCTCOG. The LPAFA for the grade separated interchange has been approved by TxDOT District staff and is ready for Rockwall County Commissioners Court processing and execution.

## **IH 30 Preliminary Schematic**

The preliminary conceptual layout was developed based on input from the CWPC. It was presented to TxDOT for their comments. Preliminary review included discussion of ramp and interchange locations and resulted in general consensus from TxDOT. Specific ramp locations and configurations within the Cities of Fate and Royse City were revisited as per the cities' request. The conceptual layout has been developed to greater detail as requested by TxDOT. A final conceptual layout was submitted to TxDOT at the beginning of May for their final review. The purpose of the conceptual layout is to provide a planning document for the entire corridor in Rockwall County, including proposed new location interchanges and to facilitate approval from FHWA for Interstate Access Justification (IAJ).

## **Outer Loop Route Study**

The Outer Loop Route Study has been completed. Following receipt of public comments the alignments were revisited. The County considered the final alignment with regard to the comments received and made modifications where possible. The Cities of Fate and Royse City worked together to jointly determine the preferred alignment between their cities. The Preferred Alignment Alternative was approved by the Commissioner's Court and is shown on the Rockwall County Website.



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### **SH 205 Bypass Interchange**

The preparation of formal schematic, environmental documentation and right-of-way map for the new location interchange at the intersection of proposed SH 205 Bypass and IH 30 in Rockwall County (TxDOT CSJ 0009-12-073) was formally signed into agreement on May 22, 2006 between Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation and Rockwall County. All documents will be prepared in conformance with TxDOT Dallas District requirements. Currently, the schematic is being revised to address the final comments from TxDOT. The environmental document and Interstate Access Justification (IAJ) document are in progress and should be complete by the end of May. TxDOT will be completing the construction plans through an existing evergreen contract with a Dallas area firm by July 2007.

### **Rockwall County IH 30 Corridor Interchange Aesthetic Enhancements**

The Rockwall County Interchange Aesthetic Enhancement project proposes infrastructure and landscaping enhancements at interchanges (existing and proposed) on IH 30 from Lake Ray Hubbard to the Rockwall/Hunt county line.

A nomination for the State Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP) was submitted to the TxDOT Division staff in Austin. While final STEP project awards were slated to be awarded in early 2007, budget cuts at the federal level have had an impact upon the STEP program. The Texas Transportation Commission has been tasked with identifying over \$500,000,000 in funding to be cut under this federal mandate. The STEP program has been put on "hold" at this time. It is currently anticipated that no projects submitted in the 2006 call will be awarded funding.

ITS has discussed alternatives with TxDOT landscape staff. District staff is creating an unofficial catalog of existing form liners and treatments that can be incorporated into the designs at nominal costs. Upon completion, these will be distributed.

### **Rockwall County Greenway / Trails Master Plan**

In an effort to preserve the environment and to enhance the future desirability of Rockwall County, the County Commissioners were desirous of developing a Countywide Greenway and Trails Master Plan. The plan would link the Parks / Trails / Greenspace plans of Cities with existing plans, help to develop a plan for Cities without a current greenway plan and would provide greenspace preservation and trail continuity for the unincorporated area of the County. NCTCOG had added this planning project to their work program for 2007. Responsibility for this program has been shifted to the Sustainable Development department. ITS has attended the initial "fact finding" meeting with COG staff to outline the general needs of the County.