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As one of its goals, TxDOT is working to reduce motor vehicle traffic fatalities in Texas through safety initiatives and education.

Thanks in part to these efforts, Texas has experienced a significant decline in traffic fatalities:

- 21 percent fewer overall traffic deaths since 2003
- 19 percent fewer motorcycle traffic deaths since 2008

**FEDERAL update**

The SAFETEA-LU bill, which expired on Sept. 30, 2009, is currently operating under an extension through March 31, 2012. The extension funds the first six months of FY 2012 under the original bill's apportionment. To keep up with the status of the federal transportation bill, visit these sites regularly.

- transportation.org
- transportation.nationaljournal.com
- trans2group.com
- innobriefs.com

**Look twice for motorcycles – because seeing them is saving them.**

- Do a Double Take: Look twice for motorcyclists at intersections.
- Be Respectful: A motorcycle has all of the rights and privileges of any other vehicle.
- Give Them Space: Don’t follow a motorcycle too closely. A motorcyclist’s riding patterns are different from vehicle patterns.
- Anticipate Next Steps: Obstructions that you do not notice could prove to be deadly for a motorcyclist. Give motorcyclists plenty of space to react.

- bdot.gov ● motorcycle safety

**ENHANCE our Safety**

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**DFW Connector Milestone**

The $1 billion DFW Connector project recently surpassed the halfway mark, with local, state and federal officials celebrating the milestone. The celebration included a ribbon cutting for the substantial completion of the Main Street bridge. The 8.4-mile project is slated for completion in 2014.

- dfwconnector.com

**I-35W**

The public hearing for I-35W from I-820 to SH 114 was held Dec. 15 in Roanoke, with a second hearing for the south segment from I-820 to I-30 expected in summer 2012. The corridor is being environmentally cleared for the ultimate configuration which will include up to eight main lanes, plus four to six managed toll lanes. TxDOT applied for a TIGER III TIFIA loan for a North Tarrant Express project that would rebuild the first 10 miles to double its capacity. If all milestones are reached, this interim project could open by 2017.

**Mission to Modernize**

Based on input from the independent audit firm of Grant Thornton and the Texas Transportation Commission-created Restructure Council, new TxDOT Executive Director Phil Wilson is implementing 37 modernization projects to make TxDOT more accountable, transparent and collaborative with its employees and stakeholders. The Modernization Plan will serve as TxDOT’s road map for the initiative.

- bdot.gov ● modernization

**Moncrief Honored as Road Hand**

Mike Moncrief was recognized in December as a TxDOT Road Hand for his strong support of transportation during his 30 years of public service. As Fort Worth mayor, he was an advocate of public-private partnerships including the North Tarrant Express and the DFW Connector, and his commitment to advance Chisholm Trail Parkway cleared the way for the North Texas Tollway Authority to begin construction.

**Texas Transportation Forum**

The seventh annual Texas Transportation Forum in San Antonio Feb. 15-17 will feature a number of notable speakers and expert panelists discussing a range of issues from the New TxDOT to Solving the Transportation Funding Dilemma. To register, go to:

- texastransportationforum.com
AFTER a groundbreaking in December, construction is under way on the $1.4 billion Chisholm Trail Parkway. The 28-mile toll road will offer a continuous route from Fort Worth to Cleburne. Slated to open in 2014, it is being built in 10 contracts as a partnership between the North Texas Tollway Authority, the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, TxDOT, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Tarrant and Johnson Counties and the cities of Fort Worth, Cleburne, and Burleson.

**AWARDED PROJECTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hwy</th>
<th>Limits</th>
<th>Type of Work</th>
<th>Estimate (millions)</th>
<th>Bid (millions)</th>
<th>Over/ Underrun (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FM 1189</td>
<td>At Rocky Branch, Hood County</td>
<td>Replace culvert</td>
<td>$0.2</td>
<td>$0.1</td>
<td>-9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SH 26</td>
<td>FM 1938 to John McCain Rd</td>
<td>Pavement overlay and repairs</td>
<td>$4.2</td>
<td>$4.2</td>
<td>+1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Stewart St</td>
<td>At Ash Creek, Azle</td>
<td>Replace bridge</td>
<td>$0.8</td>
<td>$0.8</td>
<td>+1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROJECTED PROJECTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hwy</th>
<th>Limits</th>
<th>Type of Work</th>
<th>Estimate (millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US 180</td>
<td>SH 337 to Brazos River Bridge Palo Pinto County</td>
<td>Pavement overlay and repairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>SH 121</td>
<td>At Haltom Rd, Haltom City</td>
<td>Landscaping</td>
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<tr>
<td>FM 2738</td>
<td>FM 917 to US 67, Johnson County</td>
<td>Add shoulders</td>
<td>$2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SH 199</td>
<td>FM 730 to FM 51, Parker County</td>
<td>Pavement overlay and repairs</td>
<td>$9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FM 51</td>
<td>Western Loop to US 180, Parker County</td>
<td>Pavement overlay and repairs</td>
<td>$0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-20</td>
<td>AT FM 5, Parker County</td>
<td>Relocate westbound exit ramp</td>
<td>$2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business 67</td>
<td>US 67 to Pendell St, Johnson County</td>
<td>Pavement overlay and repairs</td>
<td>$1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL CONTRACTS $648 M**

*does not include CDAs, Chisholm Trail or pass-throughs*
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Section 1 (I-30 to Rogers Rd)
I-30 interchange and new lanes
Contractor: Williams Brothers Construction

Section 2 (Rogers Rd to Arborlawn Dr)
New lanes and north gantry
Contractor: Webber

Sections 2B and 2C
Union Pacific rail yard, Hulen Street bridge and Rosedale Street connectors
Contractor: Austin Bridge and Road

Section 3A
Mobility improvements at I-20/SH 183
Contractor: Webber

Section 3B (Arborlawn Dr to Overton Ridge Blvd)
I-20/SH 183 interchange and new lanes
Contractor: Texas Sterling Construction

Section 4 (Overton Ridge Blvd to Altamasa Blvd)
New lanes
Contractor: SEMA Construction

Section 5 (Altamasa Blvd to FM 1187)
New lanes and gantry
Contractor: Texas Sterling Construction

Section 6 (FM 1187 to U.S. 67)
New lanes and south gantry
Contractor: Granite Construction

U.S. 67
Mobility improvements
Contractors: Ed Bell Construction and APAC-Texas

*Construction costs for Sections 1-5 and U.S. 67; design-build cost for Section 6.
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The Federal Highway Administration issued a report last year, Stressing the importance of current and future motorcycle fatalities, the report stated that while there has been a significant decline in traffic fatalities in Texas, there has been an increase in traffic deaths involving motorcycles.

The report highlighted the increase in motorcycle deaths and noted that while there has been a decline in overall traffic deaths, the number of motorcycle deaths has increased. The report noted that while the number of motorcycle fatalities has increased, the number of motorcycle crashes has decreased.

The report also noted that while motorcycle deaths have increased, the number of motorcycle crashes has decreased, indicating that while motorcycle deaths have increased, the number of crashes has decreased.

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