

FORT WORTH DISTRICT PARTNERS



Tower 55 Intersection

SH 26 in Grapevine and Colleyville

Work begins in April to widen SH 26 to a six-lane divided roadway with raised medians from SH 114 to Pool Road in Grapevine. The \$12 million project is estimated for completion in summer 2013. The Colleyville portion of SH 26 is currently being considered for pass-through financing.

Safety Projects

Seventeen projects in the Fort Worth District were selected this year for Safety Bond funding. Totalling \$6.2 million for resurfacing and traffic signals, the safety projects will be let to contractors between May and September of this year. For Tarrant County, portions of SH 180, SH 183, SH 199 and U.S. 287 will be resurfaced, which will improve traction and pavement conditions on these aging roadways, and a new traffic signal will be installed on the I-820 frontage road at Marine Creek Parkway.

 txdot.gov • safety bonds

Preventative Maintenance

The Fort Worth District will seal coat 264 centerline miles of highway this summer. Tarrant County highways scheduled for seal coating include FM 156, FM 730, SH 10, SH 199, Spur 341 and U.S. 377 for a total of

22 miles. Seal coats are the best tool and a very cost effective way to extend the life of the pavement. Although costs are established through different variables, it is approximately \$65,000 for seal coating, \$105,000 for hot mix overlay and \$128,000 for microsurfacing per mile. As the name implies, a seal coat “seals” the pavement to provide an optimal surface for approximately 7 to 10 years, which is longer than a hot mix overlay that begins to fade and crack in about five years.

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

With over \$3 billion in construction projects in Tarrant County alone, work zones change daily and drivers must stay focused on the road ahead. April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and TxDOT is reminding Texans to be aware of the dangers associated with distracted driving and to put down their cell phones while driving. In 2009, over 100,000 vehicles in Texas were involved in crashes where distraction was cited. Coinciding with this campaign is National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 4-8. In 2009, nearly 700 people in the U.S. lost their lives in work zones.

ENHANCE our safety

As one of TxDOT's goals, the Fort Worth District and its regional partners have worked to enhance railroad crossing safety from 2000 to 2010:

\$472,000 for railroad signal maintenance

\$1.3 million for 31 railroad replanking projects

\$21.7 million for 142 automated warning devices



PARTNERS *in construction*

AWARDED PROJECTS

	Hwy	Limits	Type of Work	Estimate (millions)	Bid (millions)	Underrun (%)
MARCH	FM 51, FM 920, and FM 2421	At western Weatherford Loop	Traffic signals	\$0.4	\$0.4	-9.0
	Spur 97 (International Pkwy)	At Big Bear Creek	Repair erosion control structures	\$0.5	\$0.3	-45.8
	Old Granbury Rd	At Fall Creek, Hood County	Bridge replacement	\$0.5	\$0.4	-34.3

PROJECTED PROJECTS

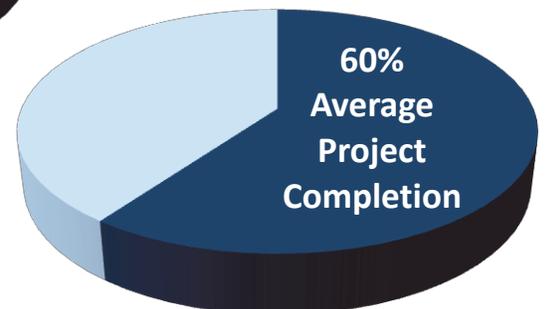
	Hwy	Limits	Type of Work	Estimate (millions)
APRIL	Ayers Ave, Seminary Dr, Gambrell St, Oakland Blvd and Hughes Ave	At BNSF and UP railroads	Railroad crossing improvements	\$0.4
	SH 199	White Settlement Rd to Lancaster Ave	Pavement overlay and repairs	\$0.5
	FM 4	Hood County Line to County Rd 1131 Johnson County	Add shoulders	\$0.8
	US 180	At Cinema Dr in Hudson Oaks	Traffic signal	\$0.1
	Various roadways	Erath County	Pavement overlay and repairs	\$1.8
	FM 917	Joshua to County Rd 616 Johnson County	Pavement overlay and microsurfacing	\$1.2
	FM 51 and SH 171	Various locations, Parker County	Construct centerline rumble strips	\$0.2



\$147 M PROPOSED LETTING



FY 2011 CONSTRUCTION*



TOTAL CONTRACTS \$696 M

**does not include CDAs, SW Parkway or pass-throughs*

After one year, the DFW Connector is nearly 35 percent complete and on target to open to traffic by 2014.

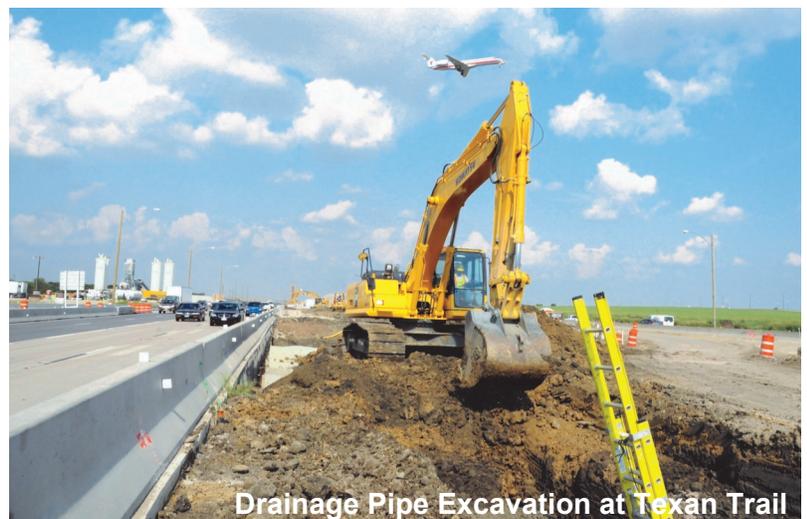
All 54 parcels of right of way have been acquired and the project's design is nearly 100 percent complete. To date, NorthGate has constructed 11,534 linear feet of drilled shafts, set 244 concrete beams, and placed 8,210 cubic yards of concrete on a total of 10 bridges. Since October, 63,000 cubic yards of concrete have been paved, and drainage crews laid nearly 1,000 linear feet of permanent pipe in January alone.

Having totaled over 1.3 million man-hours to date, the project has employed the equivalent of 642 full-time jobs, thanks in part to an investment of \$250 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. During this time, the DFW Connector contracted with 55 disadvantaged business enterprises.

While work has been substantial in the first year of construction, **the contractor expects to spend about \$1 million a day this year**, and new elements of the project will appear almost daily. In January, traffic was switched to new concrete on SH 114/121 eastbound from Main Street to International Parkway, and two north entrance ramps to the D/FW Airport were closed to allow work on the new SH 114 eastbound ramp to SH 121 northbound. Another major traffic switch occurred in March on SH 121 south of SH 114 to allow construction on the new southbound lanes.

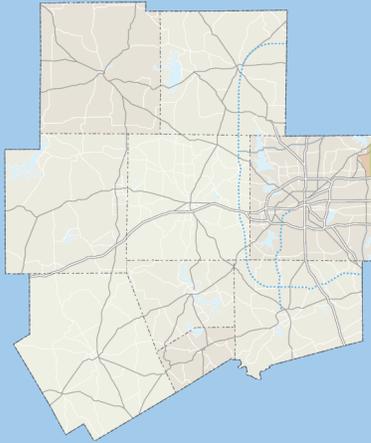
To highlight the project's progress, a public appreciation day was held on April 5 at the Grapevine Convention Center where citizens were invited to meet the project team, view innovative construction features and learn about upcoming work. Outreach to the community continues, with monthly briefings to business owners, and direct outreach as needed, as the project reaches certain milestones.

 dfwconnector.com



PARTNERS

April 2011



Tarrant . Johnson
Parker . Wise . Hood
Erath . Palo Pinto
Jack . Somervell



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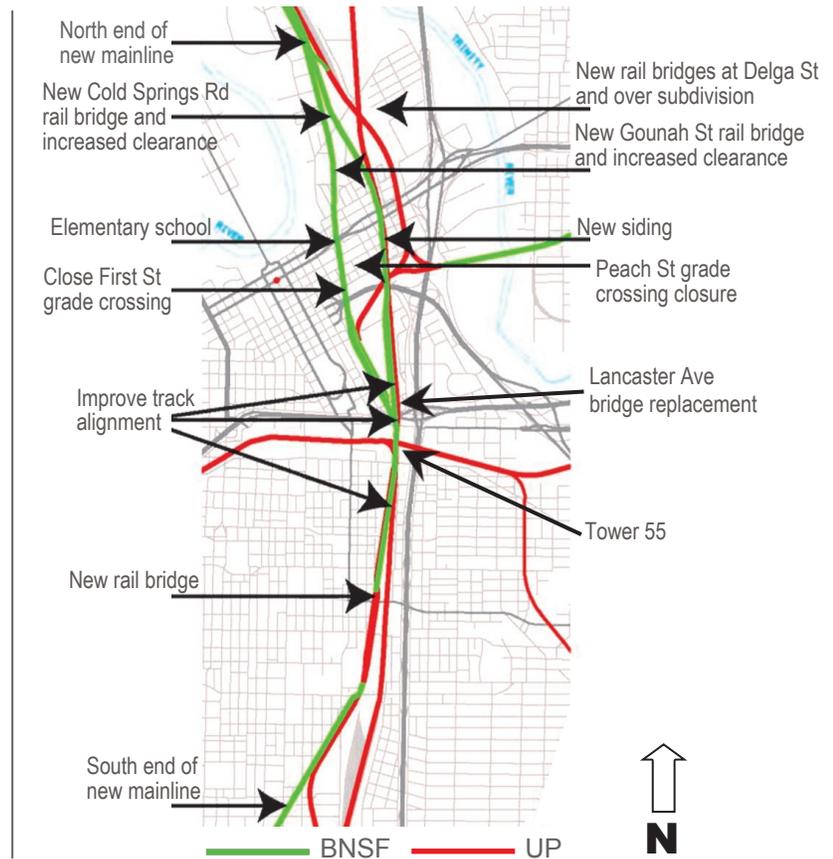
Tower 55 Update

BNSF Railway, Union Pacific Railroad, the city of Fort Worth and TxDOT are working diligently with the Federal Railroad Administration to finalize the \$34 million TIGER II grant award for Tower 55 improvements. The project's environmental clearance and detailed design plans are nearing completion, along with identifying the right of way and utilities. Pending the final agreement, construction on the \$91.2 million project is estimated to begin in fall 2011.

With the expected future growth of freight rail, Tower 55, one of the nation's most congested rail intersections, is in urgent need of increased capacity to accommodate the 11 major freight and passenger rail routes from across North America that merge into this intersection. BNSF estimates \$1.1 billion in public benefits for the first 20 years after completion of the project.

The benefits include:

- *Additional north-south track across intersection, new interlocker, and improved approach trackage and signaling*
- *Underpasses for pedestrians*
- *Reduced freight transportation and operating costs*
- *Improved emergency vehicle access to local neighborhoods*
- *Reduced delays for motorists, pedestrians and passengers*
- *Reduced emissions from idling trains and vehicles at crossings*



 corridorsofcommerce.com

FEDERAL update

The SAFETEA-LU bill, which expired on Sept. 30, 2009, is currently operating under an extension through Sept. 30, 2011. The extension funded FY 2011 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