



Keep 35W
Moving North

UPDATE

Quarterly Newsletter for Members of the 35W Coalition

Fall 2006

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Regional Loop Endorsed by State

The 35W Coalition received good news this summer when Governor Rick Perry endorsed adding a loop alignment in the study area for the Trans-Texas Corridor 35 (TTC-35) around the Metroplex.

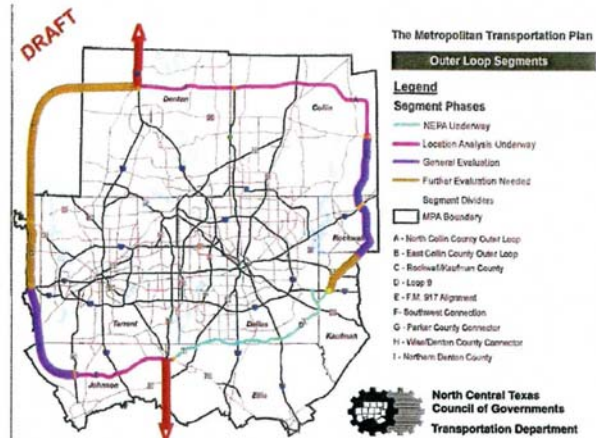
The endorsement was based on recommendations from regional transportation groups such as the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition (TRTC), the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC) and the 35W Coalition.

Oscar Trevino, Chairman of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) updated the 35W Coalition's members on next steps in the process at its quarterly meeting on September 13.

On August 15, the Governor sent a letter to Chairman Ric Williamson of the Texas Transportation Commission directing Williamson to expand the TTC-35 study area to include the route identified by the RTC and other groups.

Regional leaders had asked that the TTC be built close to Metroplex roads, rather than going east of Dallas and bypassing the metro area.

Part of the loop would be situated around Tarrant County, following Johnson County's Farm Road 917 to the south and the Parker County line to the west.



(cont. on pg. 2)

This is a newsletter I wrote and desktop published for a client.

Accomplishments, Needs Reviewed at Sept. 13 Meeting

The 35W Coalition's accomplishments and ongoing needs were reviewed by **Mike Berry**, Coalition Deputy Chairman, at the general meeting on September 13.

The Coalition's accomplishments, Berry said, include:

- Working with other transportation groups to move up the construction date for major I-35W/I-820 improvements from 2015 to 2008.
- Developing, refining and completing proposed Development Guidelines with the input of public and private landowners and businesses.
- Increasing awareness of key I-35W North issues through the media and participation in Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition (TRTC) and other transportation groups.

The Coalition's members are encouraged to:

- Support the work of 35W Coalition by becoming a member and making a financial commitment to help our work continue.
- Continue helping to "get the word out" by attending meetings and putting articles in company or homeowners' associations newsletters to educate more people about the Coalition and its progress.
- Attend future TRTC meetings to show support for and promote the Coalition by wearing your 35W buttons. (Meeting notices are on the Coalition's website.)
- Check the Coalition's website regularly for updates and news (www.35Wcoalition.com).



Sandy Jacobs, Denton County Commissioner, introduces Mike Berry, Coalition Deputy Chairman (left) to Denton County Commissioner-Elect Andy Eades at the Coalition's September 13 general membership meeting.

Agencies Reach Tolling Agreement

The North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) agreed last month on a plan designed to end an impasse over which entity should build toll roads.

The accord allows TxDOT to pursue Comprehensive Development Agreements for SH 121, SH 161, and managed-lane initiatives on Interstate Highway 635/I-35E in Dallas County, and in Tarrant County: the Grapevine Funnel and SH 183, Loop 820 and I-35W. The NTTA will build the eastern extension of the President George Bush Turnpike, Lewisville Lake Bridge and Southwest Parkway.

The NTTA, TxDOT and the Regional Transportation Council will determine how to best build Trinity Parkway in Dallas County and the Johnson County extension of SH 121, also called Chisholm Trail Parkway, based on the method offering the best value.

35W Coalition Press Kit Materials Receive Award of Excellence

The 35W Coalition's press conference media kit received a *Crystal Award of Excellence* in the 2006 Communicator Awards competition.

"State of the Region" Online

The Transportation Department's annual report, *State of the Region*, is available online at www.nctcog.org/trans. The 16-page publication covers topics related to transportation, air quality and regional development.

Regional Loop (cont. from pg. 1)

Currently, Loop 9, in the southeast portion of Dallas County, is undergoing the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process, and its construction may become the first phase of the expanded RTC route for the TTC-35 around the Metroplex.

Development Guidelines Being Finalized for City Councils

After holding four public meetings on proposed development guidelines for I-35W's North Corridor, the 35W Coalition's Development Guidelines Committee is making final preparations to submit the guidelines to the Fort Worth City Council and other city councils along the corridor.

"We got great feedback from people who attended our meetings and those who sent in comments," said **Peter Aberg**, committee chairman. "Our guidelines have been revised where appropriate to reflect these comments."

Changes were made in all four segments: setbacks, lighting, landscaping and signage. The signage guidelines were changed to reflect Fort Worth's new signage ordinance. The revised guidelines are available on the Coalition's website at www.35Wcoalition.com.

"We are asking the city councils to adopt these development guidelines, which will ensure quality development along the corridor and help all of us maintain our investment in this burgeoning area," Aberg added.

Meetings with city councils will begin late this year.

The 35W Coalition Development Guidelines call for a Design Review Board (DRB) to approve all new development. The following Q&A provides more information about how the DRB will operate.

Design Review Board Q&A

Q What is the basic process for presenting my plans to the DRB?

- A**
- 1) Applicant submits proposed setback, landscaping, lighting and signage plans to the appropriate city planning office for monthly review by DRB.
 - 2) To minimize review steps for phased development, the DRB may review all phases of a project at one time.
 - 3) If proposed setback, landscaping, lighting and signage plans are in compliance with development guidelines, the DRB will issue a Certificate of Appropriateness.
 - 4) If a proposed plan is not in compliance, the DRB will afford the applicant the opportunity to amend proposed plans and resubmit to the DRB.
 - 5) If the applicant disagrees with the decision of the DRB, the applicant may appeal to the City Council.

Q How long should the process take from the time I submit my plans to a decision by the DRB?

- A** The process should take 30 to 45 days to receive the DRB decision from the time the applicant submits the proposed setback, landscaping, lighting and signage plans to the city planning office (see below).

Q Will the DRB process slow down the normal progress of my development?

- A** The DRB process should not slow down the normal progress of a development as long as the required information on setbacks, landscaping, lighting and signage plans are included. Additionally, DRB approval for setbacks, landscaping, lighting and signage can be submitted concurrently with other required documents or in advance of the completion of engineering and construction drawings.

Q Who authorizes the operations of the DRB to enforce the guidelines?

- A** The authority for the DRB to enforce the guidelines will derive from a city ordinance (at this point no city within the area proposed by the guidelines has adopted such an ordinance).

Q When will the DRB's authority take effect?

- A** When the development guidelines take effect upon approval by the city councils.



Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition Special joint meeting with Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition, Friday, Nov. 3, 11 a.m. LaQuinta Inn, 825 Watson Rd., Arlington	Next 35W Coalition Meeting Wednesday, Dec.13, 10 a.m. Coca-Cola Bottling Co. 3400 Fossil Creek Blvd., Fort Worth
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Area Transportation Groups: The Three-Legged Stool

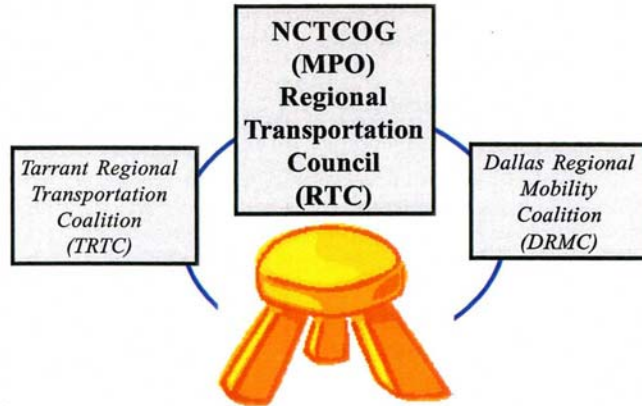
Many transportation groups are working on various local issues. How do they all fit together?

“All our transportation groups are interrelated,” according to Oscar Trevino, new chairman of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). “We’re all part of the three-legged stool.”

The NCTCOG’s Regional Transportation Council (RTC), with 40 representatives from across the Metroplex, serves as the area’s Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Transportation needs for those on the west side work through the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition (TRTC) and those on the east side of the Metroplex are brought forth by the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC). Both advocacy groups bring their recommendations to the RTC.

The 35W Coalition considers the TRTC its connection to bringing major transportation issues to the forefront.



Check www.35WCoalition.com for meeting updates, news coverage and Coalition developments. For more information, please contact Lori Bowling at (817) 224-6068.



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