

Attention Loop 9 Task Force Members and Interested Parties

A press conference has been called by Governor Rick Perry and Transportation Commission Chair Ric Williamson. They will apparently announce that Loop 9 has a much better chance of getting into construction in 3-5 years, as a result of getting earlier environmental clearance and the current contracts signed by TxDOT for TTC-35.

You are cordially invited to attend on Wednesday, August 30, at 9:30 AM in the DeSoto City Hall Council Chambers, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road.

Since May, the Dallas County Public Works Department has been working diligently with our consultant, Parsons, to complete Phase 2 of the Fatal Flaw Analysis Study (FFAS). We have been fortunate to have TxDOT join us as a partner in completing the FFAS and Draft Environmental Statement (DEIS) by December of this year.

As you recall, after the presentation on initial feasibility, the Task Force instructed us to drop the high speed freight rail component within the corridor and pursue managed lanes for trucks and autos. At the meeting, Michael Morris, NCTCOG Director of Transportation, ensured the Task Force that a high speed freight rail corridor will be addressed within the Tower 55 study currently underway.

Initial feasibility discussions with TxDOT and their willingness to contribute additional resources would help facilitate an accelerated completion of the DEIS and Final EIS processes for Loop 9. We face many decision points that are made in Austin, and having TxDOT & the NCTCOG staff fully engaged at all levels is tremendously good news. This assures a much higher probability of getting environmental clearance for the Loop 9 Corridor, in the form of a Record of Decision (R.O.D.) by the FHWA. Without this partnership, it is highly likely that we would face inevitable delays in processing the DEIS, getting the FEIS completed, and thus getting the R.O.D. This expedited clearance will also make it feasible to assure a much greater probability of funding for construction through the existing contracts that TxDOT has for TTC-35. Loop 9 would qualify in one of two ways, as either a connecting road, or as the main TTC corridor. Again, without the TxDOT partnership to include possibility of TTC-35 funding, we would be back to the scenario that calls for construction funding in the 2030 to 2040 timeframe. The expedited environmental clearance decisions will make the task of protecting ROW for this critical outer loop much more feasible for local elected officials.

The attached Power Point presentation highlights the current status of the FFAS and brings you up to speed. We will discuss this in-depth at the next TF meeting.

Mark your calendar! The next Loop 9 Task Force Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 28 at 2:00 PM at DeSoto City Hall Council Chambers, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. We will be sending more information on this meeting in the coming weeks.



John Wiley Price
Commissioner, District 3
Dallas County

