

TxDOT Advances LBJ East Project

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Date: May 30, 2019

AUSTIN – Dallas County residents are one step closer to seeing improvements to one of the state’s most congested areas in the near future thanks to today’s decision by the Texas Transportation Commission to conditionally select Pegasus Link Constructors as the developer for the highly anticipated LBJ East project. TxDOT will now move forward in negotiating contract terms with the selected developer with final award and execution expected later this year.

The \$1.74 billion project will rebuild approximately 11 miles of Interstate 635 from just east of US 75 in North Dallas to Interstate 30 (I-30) in Mesquite. The Texas Transportation Commission has designated the LBJ East project as part of the statewide [Texas Clear Lanes initiative](#), a program to address the most congested areas in the state. Segments of LBJ East currently rank 28th and 30th on the state’s list of 100 most congested roadways.

“This project, along with others we’re building across the state, are part of Governor Abbott’s directive to the Transportation Commission to address choke points in our major metropolitan areas,” said J. Bruce Bugg, Jr., Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission. “It is the reason the Texas Clear Lanes initiative was created to build non-toll roads in order to tackle congestion and help Texans get to where they need to be quicker and safer.”

When complete, LBJ East will be expanded from the current four main lanes in each direction to five main lanes in each direction. The current single tolled managed lane in each direction is grandfathered and will be rebuilt. The I-30 interchange also will be rebuilt and improved. Another important feature of the LBJ East project is the construction of continuous frontage roads throughout the project, which will greatly enhance safety and mobility by improving the flow of traffic during major incidents.

“Our TxDOT team in Dallas is proud to continue progress toward delivering such an important project for the region,” said District Engineer Mo Bur. “This is a great example of how partnerships can help bring much-needed safety and mobility improvements.”

TxDOT also is partnering with the City of Dallas to reconfigure the Skillman/Audelia interchange as part of the project. That interchange will feature aesthetic elements to the bridge over LBJ Freeway. It was designed by the City of Dallas and was selected for funding by the Regional Transportation Council of the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

“The Skillman interchange and the LBJ East project are crucial for our region, the City of Dallas, and our Lake Highlands and Hamilton Park community,” said Dallas City Council Member Adam McGough. “It has been a long and difficult journey, but I am proud of the way our community came together to advocate and the elected officials from other cities who worked together to make this project a reality. So many lives will be impacted for generations as we improve safety, reduce congestion, ensure travel speeds, improve environmental impacts, and improve the quality of life for ALL who live or travel through this area.”

The eastern portion of LBJ Freeway originally opened more than 50 years ago, and it is outdated and insufficient to meet today’s transportation demands. Through the design-build development approach, TxDOT will be able to deliver the LBJ East quicker than under a traditional construction project.

Last year, TxDOT issued requests for qualifications and proposals to find a qualified team interested in designing, constructing and, potentially, maintaining the LBJ East Project. Pegasus Link Constructors was chosen from a group of three responding firms that were most qualified.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2020 with a projected completion date of late 2024.