

DALLAS DISTRICT

PROGRESS

Monthly Report on Dallas District Projects and Topics

COLLIN CO. | DALLAS CO. | DENTON CO. | ELLIS CO. | KAUFMAN CO. | NAVARRO CO. | ROCKWALL CO.

TAKING THE WHEEL OF THE SIMULATOR!

TxDOT OFFERS SIMULATOR TO BOOST DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS

DALLAS — One morning last month a 35-year-old man sat behind the wheel of a pickup truck. A TxDOT employee riding in the passenger seat instructed the driver to take out his cell phone and send a text message, and in a flash, the truck was off the road. The distracted driver overcorrected and slammed into another car and then a guardrail.



Fortunately for all involved, this head-on collision was a virtual one. The road was merely a TV screen. This test was part of a high-tech simulation that TxDOT's Dallas District is now using to spread awareness about the dangers of distracted driving.

This summer, TxDOT began bringing the simulator to schools, festivals and corporate events throughout North Texas to give drivers a safe and first-hand experience of the dangers of texting behind the wheel.

The simulation is intense. Other vehicles on the road stop at random. Virtual people and animals casually stroll into on-coming traffic. At one point, a car up ahead even starts traveling in reverse. And all the while, people are talking to you, giving you directions and playing the role of the world's worst backseat driver.

"Everyone thinks it can't happen to them, and if you take your focus off the road for just a few seconds you'll still be safe," said Robert White, TxDOT traffic safety specialist. "But that's just not the case."

Last year in Texas, more than 90,000 crashes were caused by "distracted driving," which could

mean anything from cellphone usage to fiddling with the radio dial. Those momentary blunders of concentration resulted in more than 18,000 serious injuries and nearly 450 deaths.

In Texas, drivers under 18 are prohibited from using cellphones in the first 12 months of having their licenses. For all drivers, only hands-free cellphones may be used in school zones. And texting while driving has been outlawed in several North Texas cities, including Arlington, Farmers Branch and Grand Prairie.

White, a former state trooper who now tours the state with the TxDOT simulator, stresses that distracted driving means more than just texting behind the wheel.

"People don't really understand that distracted driving is anything that has to do with taking your focus and attention off of the road," White said. "Drivers will put on makeup, or change the radio station or glance down to look at a map, all of which take your focus off of the road—even for a second—and put your life, the lives of your passengers and fellow commuters at risk."



A TxDOT employee takes a spin in the simulator to perfect his driving awareness skills.

TxDOT photo archive

Distracted-driving simulators are nothing new, but TxDOT's version is unlike any of its predecessors. The TxDOT simulator involves an actual vehicle, a pickup truck with a TV screen mounted on the dashboard above the steering wheel, facing the driver. Participants have the option of looking at that TV screen or using special glasses that make the simulation more immersive.

The Dallas office is the only one of TxDOT's 25 district offices to have the teaching tool.

See **DRIVING** on Back Page

SEPTEMBER 2014 LET PROJECTS

CSJ NUMBER	HWY	LIMITS	TYPE OF WORK	EST. (M)	BID (M)	(%)	EST. TOTAL COSTS (M)***	CONTRACTOR	
0009-12-072	I-30	At FM 3549	Reconstruct interchange	\$23.10	\$30.19	30.72	\$38.22	Tradeco Infraestructura, Inc.	1
0135-10-053	US 377	At Fish Trap and Moseley Rd.	Traffic signal installation	\$10.43	\$10.70	2.60	\$22.30	Brannan Paving Co., Ltd.	2
0197-02-108	US 175	East of Bexar St. to I-45	Extend US 175; reconstruct interchange w/ SM Wright	\$0.20	\$0.26	28.32	\$0.34	FNH Constr, LLC	3
0596-02-038	FM 66	At Oak Branch	Replace bridge and approaches	\$98.46	\$96.43	-2.06	\$127.54	Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc.	4
0619-05-036	FM 544	FM 2281 to Parker/Dozier Rd.	Reconstruct highway & widen to six lane divided	\$1.76	\$1.80	2.15	\$2.16	Massana Constr. Inc.	5
1315-01-025	FM 1385	US 380 to approx. 2 miles N of FM 428	Provide add'l. paved surface width & replace bridge	\$37.87	\$35.39	-6.55	\$57.23	MCM	6
2512-03-007	FM 2728	SH 34 to I-20	Provide add'l. paved surface width	\$9.11	\$9.06	-0.48	\$11.21	Austin Bridge & Road, LP	7
0095-14-023*	I-20	Various highways in Dallas District	District seal coat program	\$5.35	\$4.29	-19.90	\$5.07	APAC-Texas, Inc.	
SEPTEMBER 2014 TOTAL				\$186.28	\$188.12	0.99	\$264.07		
DISTRICT FY ACCUMULATIVE LETTINGS				\$186.28	\$188.12	0.99			
DALLAS DISTRICT LETTING CAP				\$1,046.87**					

*Unmapped. **District FY 2015 Letting Vol. Cap includes the following: 1) The SH 183 Managed Lanes project for \$513 M.
 ***Est. Total Proj. Costs includes estimated PE, ROW, E&C, Indirect Costs and Potential Change Order Costs at the time of bid.

OCTOBER 2014 PROJECTED LETTING PROJECTS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

CSJ NUMBER	HWY	LIMITS	TYPE OF WORK	EST. (M)	
0581-01-140	SL 12	I-30 to Ferguson Rd.	Landscape development	\$0.34	1
2056-01-048	FM 2551	FM 544 to FM 2514 (Parker Road)	Landscape development	\$0.39	2
TOTAL				\$0.73	

COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS (FROM SEPTEMBER 1 – 30, 2014)

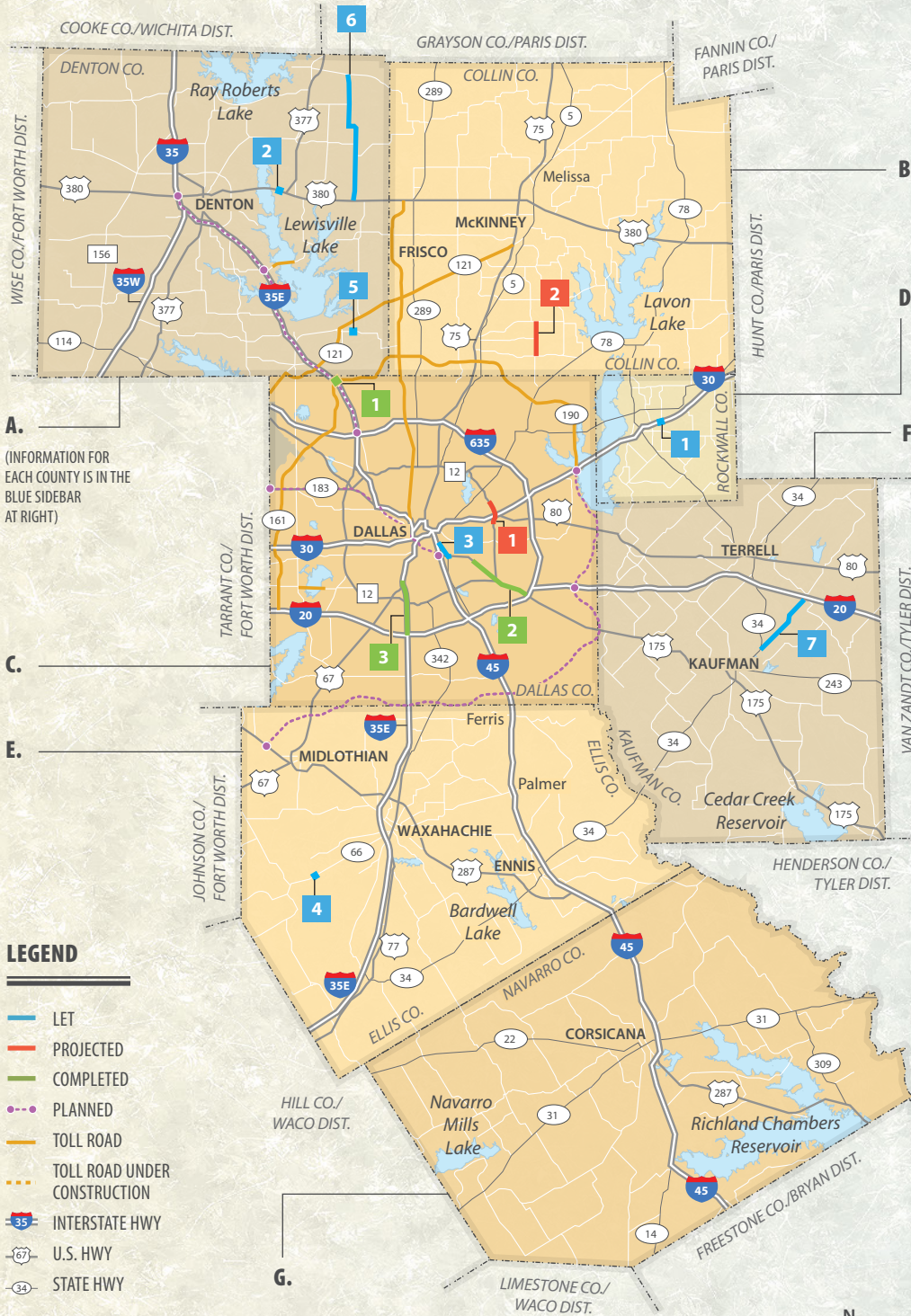
CSJ NUMBER	HWY	LIMITS	TYPE OF WORK	DATE COMPLETED	COST (M)	
0196-03-264	I-35 E	At DNT and PGBT	Update signs on TxDOT facilities with interchanges	9/4/14	\$0.17	1
0197-02-106	US 175	Lake June Rd. to I-20	Full depth repair & overlay	9/17/14	\$2.49	2
0442-02-152	I-35 E	I-20 to US 67	Full depth repair of main lanes	9/26/14	\$1.43	3
0917-20-011*	CR 352	At Tehuacana Creek	Replace bridge	9/22/14	\$0.45	
TOTAL					\$4.54	

*Unmapped. SOURCE: Texas Department of Transportation.

TxDOT graphic

DALLAS DISTRICT PROJECTS MAP

Colored and numbered boxes correspond with the charts on page 2 and show projects that have let in September, are projected to let in October or have recently been completed.

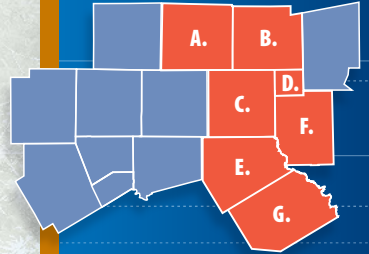


A.
(INFORMATION FOR EACH COUNTY IS IN THE BLUE SIDEBAR AT RIGHT)

LEGEND

- LET
- PROJECTED
- COMPLETED
- PLANNED
- TOLL ROAD
- TOLL ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- INTERSTATE HWY
- U.S. HWY
- STATE HWY

SOURCE: TxDOT research.
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: NCTCOG.



DALLAS DISTRICT TOTALS

VEHICLE REGISTRATION | 3,591,178
*POPULATION ESTIMATE | 4,259,090
LANE MILES | 10,847.34

A. | DENTON COUNTY
VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 559,501
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 683,010
LANE MILES: 1,597.47

B. | COLLIN COUNTY
VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 680,383
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 804,390
LANE MILES: 1,563.69

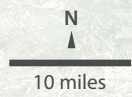
C. | DALLAS COUNTY
VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 1,952,662
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 2,385,990
LANE MILES: 3,440.13

D. | ROCKWALL COUNTY
VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 79,075
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 80,270
LANE MILES: 346.35

E. | ELLIS COUNTY
VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 165,360
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 152,580
LANE MILES: 1,516.77

F. | KAUFMAN COUNTY
VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 103,929
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 104,600
LANE MILES: 1,191.95

G. | NAVARRO COUNTY
VEHICLE REGISTRATION: 50,268
*POPULATION ESTIMATE: 48,250
LANE MILES: 1,190.98



Newly Branded "Midtown Express" Prepares To Start Outreach

DALLAS—After several weeks of study and deliberation, the public information team working on the \$847 million expansion of State Highways 183, 114 and Loop 12 in Fort Worth, Bedford, Euless, Irving and Dallas announced the project's new name – Midtown Express. The name was chosen because of the project's central location, directly linking Dallas and Fort Worth.



The new logo for the Midtown Express project, designed by SouthGate Constructors.

With the new name comes a new look. The project's branding is already taking shape with the unveiling of a new look and logo. The team is currently working on launching a dedicated project website, toll-free information hotline, e-alert system, mobile app, Facebook and Twitter accounts, among many other tools to help the public through construction. These communication tools are scheduled to launch before the end of

this year.

"It's very important we have all the right tools in place to communicate with the public and stakeholders regarding the impacts from large construction projects," said Selma Stockstill, public information manager for SouthGate Constructors, the contractor selected to design and construct the project.

"Our goal is to be proactive, timely, transparent and effective with our messages. We are here to proactively help the public and stakeholders through these next few years of construction."

The Midtown Express, formerly known as the SH 183 Managed Lanes Project, will increase capacity

with the addition of one TExpress (managed toll) Lane in each direction as well as reconstruct portions of mainlanes and frontage roads on SH 183, SH 114 and Loop 12. The TExpress Lanes will feature dynamic tolling designed to keep traffic moving at 50 mph. Construction of the interim improvements will begin in early 2015 and is anticipated to reach completion in 2018. ■

Driving Simulator Tours Region to Help Spread Awareness

Continued from Cover Story

TxDOT partnered with AT&T's "It Can Wait" campaign, which paid \$20,000 to create the video game-like simulator, which is currently touring cities throughout the state, spreading awareness on the very real dangers of driving while distracted. ■

U.S. Drivers
BY THE NUMBERS:

At any given moment during the day, **660,000 U.S. drivers** are using **cellphones** or other **electronic devices**.

One in 4 teens acknowledges **sending at least one text each time** he or she drives.

Sending or reading a text **takes a driver's eyes from the road** for an average of **4.6 seconds**. At **55 mph**, that's the equivalent of driving **the length of a football field** with your **eyes closed**.

SOURCE: www.distraction.gov TxDOT graphic



Mr. R. Reincke OF Trophy Club, Texas:

"Great crash warning this morning (approx. 5:50AM) on 183 eastbound between the river and I35E! 'Crash on I35 south at Inwood, 2 left lanes closed' or something close to that. Fast and accurate. A fire truck was just getting there to block traffic when I went by. Lots of lights but because of the hills/curves you might miss it. Well done!"

SOURCE: Texas Department of Transportation.

TxDOT graphic

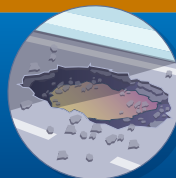
DALLAS DISTRICT | PROGRESS



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
4777 E. Highway 80
Mesquite, TX
75150-6643

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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dalinfo@txdot.gov
www.txdot.gov



REPORT A POTHOLE:

Visit www.txdot.gov/contact-us/formhtml?form=Report_a_Pothole or call 800.452.9292. Progress report can be downloaded at <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/district/dallas/progress.html>