

# Environmental Status

---

Sandy Wesch, PE, AICP  
Program Engineer  
North Central Texas Council of Governments



# Local Environment Document

---

Based on the design of a new location facility, a local environmental document has been prepared for the construction of a two-lane eastbound frontage road and early acquisition of right-of-way for the ultimate design of the Collin County Outer Loop from the future Dallas North Tollway (DNT) to SH 289 (Preston Road) including the future interchanges



# Local Environment Document

---

- Discusses the Social, Economic and Environmental Effects of the Project
- Sections of the Document:
  - Need for the Project
  - Purpose of the Project
  - Alternatives
  - Environmental Resources, Effects and Mitigation
- Available on-line at:

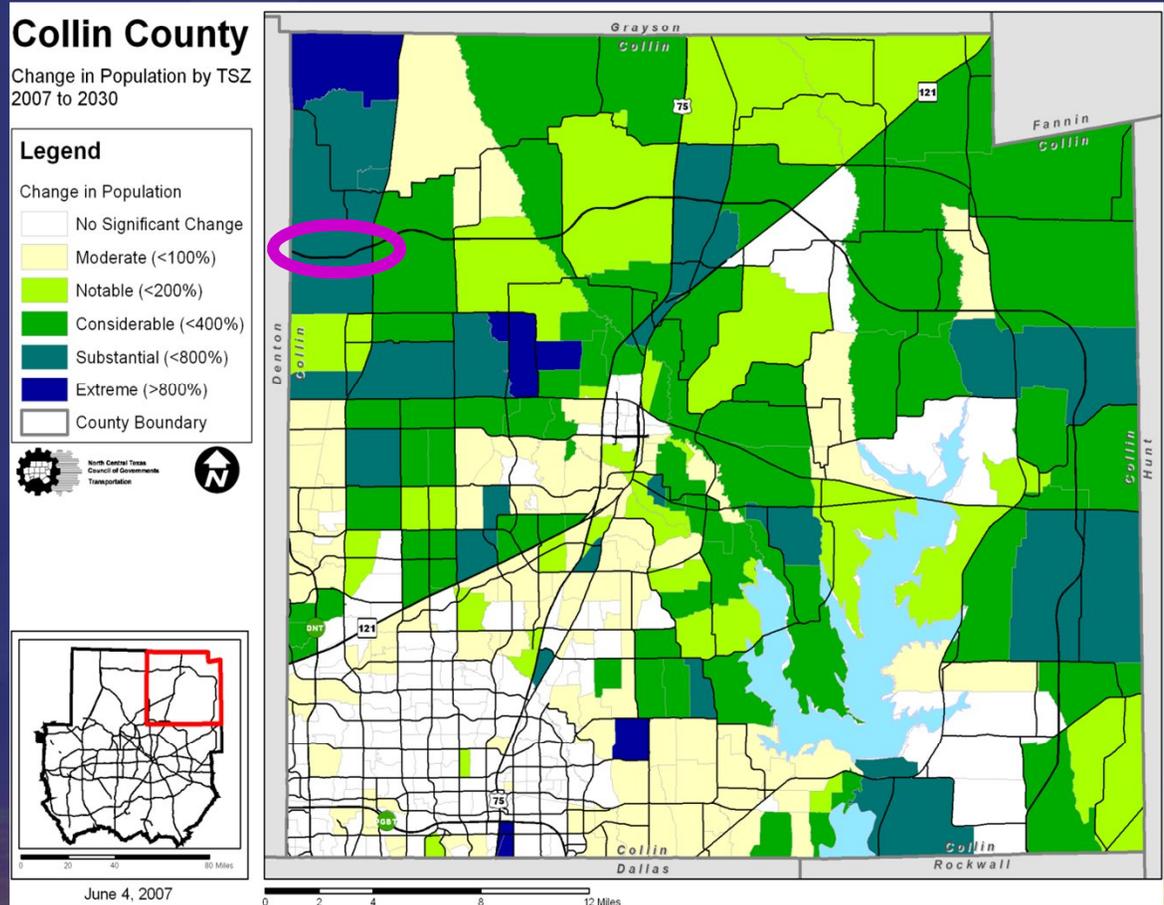
[http://www.co.collin.tx.us/commissioners\\_court/mobility\\_projects/outer\\_loop/XXXXX.pdf](http://www.co.collin.tx.us/commissioners_court/mobility_projects/outer_loop/XXXXX.pdf)



# Needs

## Growing Population

- Collin County is the fastest growing county in the region
- In 2015, the population of the county was estimated at almost 869,000
- By 2040, the county is expected to almost double in population to over 1,500,000 people

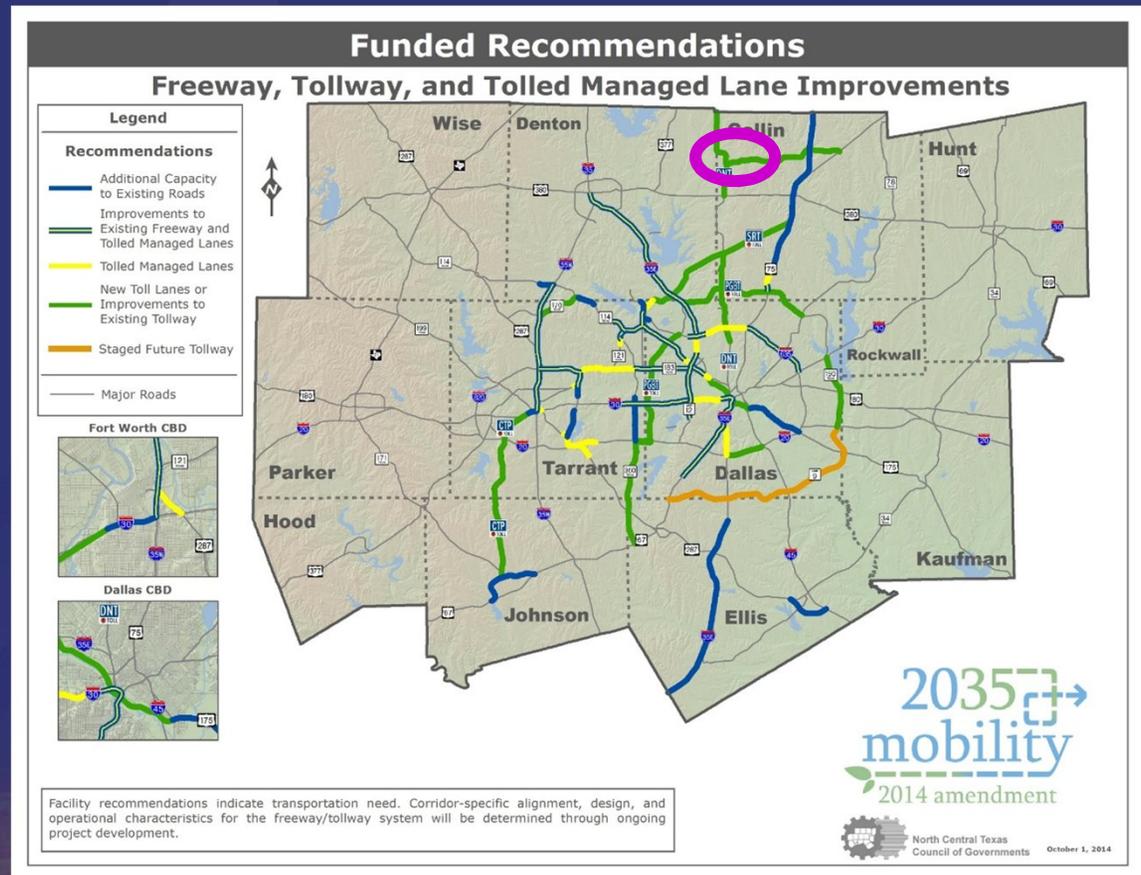


The county is proactively planning the development of transportation facilities to accommodate the future growth 4

# Needs

## System Linkages

- Provide a necessary east-west link in the county
- Provide access to the future extension of DNT, SH 121, US 75, and an alternate route to US 380
- Included in the Collin County Thoroughfare Plan, 2014 Update and the Mobility 2035 - 2014 Amendment



# Project Purpose

---

- Help establish and preserve a transportation corridor to manage travel demand from rapid population and employment growth and development
- Increase the economic development opportunities in northern Collin County
- Provide roadway capacity, mobility and accessibility for developing areas by providing more direct links to existing major radial highways
- Provide the basic transportation infrastructure necessary to allow for expansion that accommodates varied travel demands or modes as warranted



# Resources Addressed

---

- Social and Economic
  - Land Use
  - Right-of-Way and Relocations
  - Community Cohesion
  - Economic
  - Public Facilities and Services
  - Utilities
  - Visual
  - Demographics
- Regulated Material Sites
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Natural Resources
  - Farmland
  - Vegetation
  - Threatened and Endangered Species
  - Wildlife and Migratory Birds
  - Water Quality
  - Floodplains
  - Wetlands/Waters of the US
- Cultural Resources
- Parklands and Open Space



# Summary of Effects

---

- Existing land uses include farmland, timberland, railroad, roadway, and utilities
- Requires approximately 218 acres of land
- The project would not displace any residential or commercial structures
- No regulated material sites within the proposed right-of-way



# Summary of Effects

## Vegetation and Wetlands/Waters of the US

- **Vegetation**

- Permanent conversion of vegetation communities to a maintained transportation corridor
- Approximately 5 acres of woody vegetation within the right-of-way could be removed but no large trees (over 12 inches) were identified

- **Wetlands/Waters of the US**

- 2 streams are located within the proposed right-of-way.
- Impacts are estimated at 0.01 acres and would be authorized under a Nationwide Permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers

- **State/Federal Threatened or Endangered Species**

- None located in the project area or proposed right-of-way



# Property Owner Meetings

---

- All affected property owners were contacted by Collin County staff
- Meetings with affected property owners were held on August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2015
- Information regarding the conceptual design, property impacts, and acquisition schedule was provided
- The majority of the property owners had no issues
- Comments focused on right-of-way acquisition, project schedule, and property access



# October 2015 Public Meeting

---

- All affected property owners were contacted and a public notice was published on the Collin County website
- The preliminary design, right-of-way, conceptual designs for the DNT and SH 289 interchanges , draft environmental document, and an environmental constraints map were available for review
- Staff from Collin County, NCTCOG, and consultant team were available to answer questions
- Four written comments were received after the meeting
  - Two comments were against the final alignment
  - Two comments were regarding future contact preference



# Conclusion

---

- Investigations for a conducted did not reveal any significant impacts to social, economic, and/or environmental resources
- Subsequent environmental evaluation(s) would be required prior to the construction of a second frontage road, mainlanes, and interchanges

