

COLLIN COUNTY

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DATE:	October 15, 2019
TO:	Collin County Commissioners Court
FROM:	Clarence Daugherty, P.E., Director of Engineering
SUBJECT:	Public Hearing regarding Update to the Thoroughfare Plan

Since the 2015 Addendum to the Mobility Plan Update that projected suburban density development in the east side of the County, it has been apparent that our thoroughfare plan is not adequate for that density. It was designed for a rural density. We contracted with Jacobs Engineering to develop an update to our thoroughfare plan that that would provide the mobility for the suburban density. The draft update has been prepared in concert with the cities on the east side of the County.

The draft plan is very similar to the plan on the west side of the County in that it includes thoroughfares roughly on a mile grid. There are exceptions where necessary to take into account creeks, lakes and existing roads. While we do not think that all of the thoroughfares will develop with six lanes, we recommend designation all the thoroughfares as six lanes, so that adequate right-of-way is acquired. The draft plan update is limited to thoroughfares. While it takes into account the Outer Loop as a freeway, it does not address the future US 380 freeway nor a new north/south freeway on the east side of the County. While we need to add those facilities as soon as possible, the alignment of those freeways is not yet fixed. It is important that we move ahead with the thoroughfare update and not wait on the freeways because we need the thoroughfares in place as developments occur in the current rural areas of the County and to provide structured growth of the cities. We will need to update the Thoroughfare Plan again when the new freeway alignments are settled.

A public hearing has been advertised for the month prior to the Commissioners Court meeting on November 4. The label on our plan is the Thoroughfare and Transit Plan because it shows the extension of express rapid transit lines along the DART-owned corridor just east of US 75, the BNSF corridor in the west part of the County, and the extension of the Cotton Belt corridor in the south part of the County. Therefore, it is recommended that the Commissioners Court hold a public hearing during your meeting on November 4, 2019, to hear testimony about the draft update to the Collin County Thoroughfare and Transit Plan. Then we recommend that the Court adopt the advertised plan either as proposed or with any revisions that are appropriate as a result of the public hearing.