



COLLIN COUNTY

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Date: June 19, 2017
To: Commissioners Court
From: Clarence Daugherty, P.E., Director of Engineering
Subject: Frontier Parkway

Frontier Parkway is on the County's Thoroughfare and Transit Plan as a Principal Arterial connecting Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway. It is the westward extension of FM 1461, which is being designed to connect to Laud Howell Parkway and US 75. It is considered one of the most important roadways in this area of the County due to its connectivity between US 75, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway. The County has been involved with the Town of Prosper and the City of Celina for several years to assist with funding, to resolve an issue with the crossing over the BNSF Railroad and to manage the project to widen Frontier to four lanes. Recent information shared by the Economic Development Corporations in both cities indicate the tremendous amount of growth occurring which will strain the capacities of the roadway throughout the area.

Commissioner Fletcher and the County staff have exerted considerable effort to work with both cities in order to gain agreement about the need for and design of a bridge over the railroad. This issue was resolved as evidenced by the resolutions passed by Celina on December 7, 2015, and by Prosper on January 12, 2016. On February 15, 2016, the Commissioners Court authorized the County staff to manage the project (at the request of the cities). After the design firm started preliminary work on the project, it was determined that the estimates used previously by the County engineering staff were grossly understated and that additional funding was needed.

The estimated cost of the project at this time (including projections for cost increases at time of construction) is approximately \$23M, which is \$7M more than current funding. We have now received communications from the staffs of The Town of Prosper and the City of Celina that their Councils are agreeable to contribute one-third of the over-run each. The cities are requesting that the County provide the other third, or approximately \$2,400,000.

Prosper: \$5.98M (City funds)

Celina: \$6.30M (County bonds and City funds)

RTR: \$8.35M

Total: \$20.63M Available

County \$2.37M Shortfall

This is a very critical roadway, as is depicted by its designation as a Principal Arterial in the County's Plan, connecting existing and future limited access roadways. There is funding available in the \$29M in bond funds sold in 2015. Therefore, it is recommended that the Commissioners Court agree to provide one-third of the funding necessary to cover the difference in the cost of the project and the amount currently allocated.

If the Commissioners Court approve this request, County staff will move forward immediately to initiate design. We will follow up with agenda items which identify the specific account for the additional funding and either MOUs or ILAs with the cities. The timing of the project has now become critical due to the tremendous number of lots being developed nearby and due to the construction of the Prosper Independent School District football stadium on Frontier Parkway.