



NEWS



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Weatherford Projects Funded Years Ahead of Schedule

WEATHERFORD - Due to the partnership between the City of Weatherford and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), nine projects along the highways of Interstate 20, SH 171/FM 51 and FM 2552 will be improved years ahead of schedule. These projects are made possible through a new funding tool called pass-through toll agreements.

The pass-through toll agreement, signed Nov. 22, marks a new day in inter-governmental cooperation. It allows local government agencies to take the lead in funding and constructing needed transportation improvements. Then, TxDOT (not the motorist) reimburses the agency through an agreed upon fee based on the number of vehicles using the highway, hence the "pass-through" financing. The City of Weatherford is the first agency in North Texas to use the program and second in the state.

"In the past, small cities near the Metroplex have had a difficult time competing for state funds to improve our local highway system," said Mayor Joe Tison. "Early in its inception, we saw this program as an answer to the problem and have dedicated considerable resources in actively partnering with TxDOT. We are pleased that TxDOT has worked so hard in helping us reach this plateau and are ready to move forward with design and construction projects as soon as possible."

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From 1990 to 2000, the City of Weatherford's population grew approximately 34 percent. Parker County grew approximately 46 percent. Growth and economic development along I-20, SH 171/FM 51 and FM 2552 necessitated the City of Weatherford pursuing this new funding source as these projects were years away from traditional funding.

"TxDOT is proud to be a partner with the City of Weatherford. I applaud the city for recognizing their transportation needs and aggressively pursuing new funding sources available to them. Together, we will improve mobility and prepare the city for the growth of tomorrow," said TxDOT's Fort Worth District Engineer Maribel P. Chavez, P.E.

The City of Weatherford's nine projects include new frontage roads along I-20, improvements to SH 171/51 and the realignment of FM 2552 for an estimated \$52 million.

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