



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FM 2552 realignment ground breaking Oct. 30 *Innovative financing moves new highway project forward*

WEATHERFORD — City and state officials will break ground Thursday, Oct. 30 for the realignment of Farm-to-Market Road 2552 from Eureka Street to U.S. 180 at Denton Street. This is one of nine highway projects in Weatherford made possible through a new funding tool called pass-through financing.

Weatherford Mayor Dennis Hooks will lead dignitaries in a 4 p.m. ceremony across from the Weatherford Police Department located at 801 Santa Fe Drive. Following the groundbreaking ceremony, dignitaries will proceed to a ribbon cutting for a recently completed TxDOT enhancement project of the Weatherford Square.

The new roadway will have two lanes in each direction separated by a raised curbed median and a new bridge will span over the Union Pacific Railroad and Town Creek. The \$6.5 million project is estimated for completion by winter 2009.

“This will provide much-needed relief for north-south traffic limited by the Union Pacific Railroad and Town Creek,” said Terry Hughes, Weatherford director of transportation and public works. “The bridge will be the cornerstone to several city and state projects that are coming together to open up traffic on the city’s east side.”

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Pass-through financing 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.

The city of Weatherford’s nine projects include new frontage roads along Interstate 20, improvements to SH 171/Farm-to-Market Road 51 and the realignment of FM 2552 for an estimated total construction cost of \$52 million. Five of the remaining projects are expected to be let to a contractor by the end of this year. Find out more at: www.txdot.gov, KEYWORD: Weatherford.

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