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Private sector partnership for North Tarrant Express ***Proposals sought on I-35W/I-820/SH 121/SH 183 Corridor***

TARRANT COUNTY — Another opportunity to accelerate needed mobility improvements is on the way for a high priority corridor in the Fort Worth area. A request for private sector proposals to speed up development of the North Tarrant Express was issued Dec. 8 by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

The North Tarrant Express is a 36-mile project along the I-35W/I-820/SH 121/SH 183 corridor. The improvements, estimated at \$2 billion, will reconstruct and add lanes on I-35W, I-820 and SH 121/183, including express toll-managed lanes.

The public-private partnership opportunity calls for developing, financing, constructing, operating and maintaining the first segment at I-820 from I-35W to the Northeast Interchange, which includes a new multi-level interchange at I-35W. This 6.4-mile segment would include the addition of four tolled managed express lanes plus one non-toll lane in each direction.

Proposals will also include development and financing plans for the remaining segments of the North Tarrant Express.

“The North Tarrant Express is ideal for a public-private partnership because it calls for a new level of thinking on a complex project,” said Fort Worth District Engineer Maribel Chavez. “This is a highly traveled corridor providing connections for Alliance Airport, D/FW International Airport and major businesses. We’re looking for innovative ideas that will improve mobility for these crucial economic generators.”

Private sector teams interested in competing for this public-partnership will first submit qualifications and conceptual proposals, which will be due by March 2007.

After the initial proposals are reviewed by TxDOT, detailed proposals will be requested. TxDOT will evaluate the detailed proposals to determine which offers the best value to Texas.

Approximately one-quarter of the needed funding has been identified by the region for the North Tarrant Express. A public-private partnership could accelerate the start of construction by several years.

The North Tarrant Express is needed to accommodate the increasing transportation demand in this portion of the region. In addition, the development of this project will greatly reduce congestion, enhance safety, expand economic opportunity, improve air quality and increase the value of the region’s transportation assets.