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Firms to compete for North Tarrant Express

The field narrows for private sector firms competing to accelerate mobility improvements for a high priority corridor in the Fort Worth area. The Texas Department of Transportation has selected four of the seven firms to move into the second round of competition for the development of North Tarrant Express.

“This is a clear signal that the private sector continues to be ready, willing and able to invest in transportation in Texas,” said Michael Behrens, TxDOT’s executive director. “More proposals mean better competition which will drive down costs and benefit all Texans.”

The four teams competing for a public/private partnership on the North Tarrant Express project include B3 Connect Texas, Itinere Infrastructure, LLC, NTE Mobility Partners, and OHL Infrastructure, Inc. This project was exempt from the current moratorium on Comprehensive Development Agreements.

The next step in the competitive selection process is for TxDOT to request detailed proposals from the teams, which will include financial and development plans. The Texas Transportation Commission is expected to consider the issuing the request this fall.

The detailed proposals will focus on developing, financing, constructing 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. The 6.4-mile segment would include the addition of four tolled managed express lanes plus one non-toll lane in each direction. The best value proposer will also assist TxDOT in developing the remaining corridor segments.

Following submittal of the detailed proposals, TxDOT staff will conduct a thorough evaluation. A final selection of a best value proposer is expected by Spring 2008.

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 environmental process is ongoing.

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