

DFW Connector Project December Monthly Update

December 29, 2011

Connecting People



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Mobile Application



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Celebration on the DFW Connector

Milestone Event

The City of Grapevine, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and NorthGate Constructors held an event this past month to celebrate substantial completion of the Main Street Bridge and more than 50 percent completion of the project. Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez was in attendance and spoke at the event. The Main Street Bridge will not be open to full capacity until spring 2012.



Speakers and Grapevine City Council members after the Main Street Bridge ribbon cutting ceremony.

Safety

[Winter Weather](#)



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Winter is in full swing in Texas! Over the summer, DFW Connector employees faced many safety risks due to the extreme temperatures such as dehydration and heat exhaustion. Now that the seasons have changed, our employees still face safety risks over the winter months. Here are a few safety tips that our employees use to stay safe during the season that you can use too:

- **Slips, trips and falls:** Rain in the winter usually means ice which can contribute to slips and falls. Always be mindful of the area around you and make sure you clear a path to your work area and vehicle to prevent injuries.
- **Cold Temperatures:** When temperatures drop below freezing, people can experience burns and frostbite. Protection of your body, hands, face and feet when exposed to long periods of cold temperatures is important. Also, people can get dehydrated in the wintertime therefore drinking plenty of fluids is essential in the winter months.
- **Vehicle Breakdowns:** Vehicle breakdowns in the winter are common. Be prepared by making sure your battery is in good condition, having jumper cables on hand and having flashlights and blankets in the car.



Follow our winter weather tips to keep you safe.

Recent Construction

Structures

The structures group has been working full force on the new eastbound SH 114 to southbound SH 121 bridge. In fact, the group has set approximately 20,600 feet of girders on the bridge which would stretch for 3.9 miles! Here are some other areas that the structures group has been focusing on:

- The structures group has been making progress on the new westbound SH 114 to southbound International Parkway bridge. Over the course of the month, the discipline placed 913 cubic yards of concrete on the deck of the new bridge.
- We completed the southbound International Parkway bridge which opened to the public a few weeks before the Christmas holiday.



Deck work on the westbound SH 114 to southbound International Parkway Bridge.

Paving

Here are some pieces of work that the paving group completed this past month:

- The westbound SH 114 to northbound SH 121 ramp.
- The eastbound frontage road from FM 1709 to the eastbound SH 114 on-ramp.
- Westbound SH 114 mainlanes east of Texan Trail.

To date, the paving group has tied over 16.5 million pounds of steel and batched over 200,000 cubic yards of concrete. That is enough concrete to fill 61 Olympic-sized swimming pools!



Shown here is steel that we've tied prior to concrete paving.

Other Major Construction Activities

- The Maintenance of Traffic team successfully opened the new southbound SH 121 to southbound International Parkway Bridge into the DFW Airport.
- The drainage discipline laid over 3,055 linear feet of pipe last month and are beginning to focus on SH 26.
- The walls group has been working on the wall next to the westbound SH 114 ramp to southbound International Parkway. This wall measures close to 45,000 square feet and stretches one mile long!



Pipe work is an important element of drainage work on this job.

What's Next?

- The intersections group will begin roadway construction at FM 1709 in early January.
- Construction at Texan Trail will begin after the New Year.

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