

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NET RMA Priority Project Grant to Alleviate Traffic and Enhance Safety
Near New Hallsville West Elementary School in Longview**

(Longview, TX) – Regional cooperation is leading to improvements along a congested road in a high growth area of Harrison County near Hallsville West Elementary School. The North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA) is awarding one of its priority project grants to expand an intersection and roadway near the new school.

The \$209,000 project will widen and improve Page Road near the Loop 281 intersection in Longview. NET RMA has funded dozens of transportation projects in its 14-member counties by utilizing funds generated by revenues from Toll 49.

“The area is already congested, and that traffic is probably going to double with the new elementary school,” says John Martin, Superintendent of Hallsville ISD. “These improvements are going to make it a lot safer for our families and other community members traveling to and from our school.”

Page Road currently sees two times the average traffic on any Harrison County maintained roadway. The wider intersection and roadway will also minimize the interruptions to the businesses located at the intersection of Loop 281 and Page Road.

“We work on specific projects in the county and don't often look at the bigger picture and that's something that NET RMA brings to the table,” says Harrison County Judge Chad Sims. “NET RMA is a regional authority, and they often look at the bigger picture and help communities and counties work together on issues like transportation.”

“NET RMA and Toll 49 are located in Tyler and they're helping us here in Harrison County to improve our infrastructure,” says Rush Harris, Executive Director of Marshall Economic Development Corporation and NET RMA Board Member for Harrison County. “This project is a great example of regional cooperation. We need a safe intersection for those kids to go to school.”

The improvement project will widen Page Road, starting at the Loop 281 intersection and continuing east for 1.6 miles to the intersection with Page Road North (County Road 3531).

“These NET RMA grants are important because it allows the school district and entities like the City of Hallsville to use our tax dollars elsewhere,” says Hallsville Mayor Jesse Casey.

“This project combines two huge priorities for economic development - infrastructure and education,” added Rush Harris. “It will improve traffic flow in the area and it helps our education system, which is growing, particularly in the Hallsville system.”

About the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA)

The NET RMA is an independent government agency created to accelerate the development of transportation projects in North East Texas. Our mission is to implement transportation solutions that will enhance the quality of life and the economic environment in our area. The NET RMA is governed by a 21-member board of directors that represent each of the member counties: Bowie, Kaufman, Cass, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Panola, Rusk, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Wood and Van Zandt. Texas RMAs were made possible through an initiative passed by the State Legislature in 2001. The NET RMA was established in October 2004. For more information visit, NETRMA.org.