

Smith County Commissioners To View Reports On Infrastructure

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The Smith County commissioners will receive two transportation reports regarding area infrastructure projects during their regular meeting Monday. Reports include the Loop 49 expansion project.

The court will also discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to approve the reappointments of Gary Halbrooks and Tab Beall to the North East Texas Regional Mobility Board of Directors.

Beall will present the NET RMA's annual report to the court and discuss Segment 5 of the Loop 49 toll project.

NET RMA Chairman Jeff Austin III said the report will allow the court and NET RMA members to discuss ongoing and future projects in the area.

Austin said funding for Segment 5, which will, upon completion, connect State Highway 155 and State Highway 110, has been approved and work should begin by late summer.

He said a federal stimulus package being considered and work by local legislators during the Legislative Session may allow the NET RMA to expedite projects westward for connection with Interstate 20.

Austin said because a rush of funding may flow into East Texas the NET RMA is preparing multiple projects' environmental and financial plans.

"We are cautiously optimistic," he said.

The Smith County Transportation Advisory Committee and East Texas Transportation Coordination Steering Committee will also present a brief report to the court.

The court meets inside the Smith County Courthouse Annex, 200 E. Ferguson St. at 9 a.m.

During the meeting the court will also receive:

- A letter from the Smith County Community Supervision and Corrections Department regarding 2008 delinquent child support funds collected
- FY09 projects update, take any necessary action;
- 2008 Racial Profiling Report from Constable Precinct 4;

- November 2008 Auditor/Treasurer financial report;
- Certificates of Course Completion for Public Information Act and for Open Meetings Act for Commissioners Terry Phillips and Jeff Warr;

During the meeting, the court will:

- Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to address contract amendments between Texas True Choice/Viant and Baylor Health Care System hospitals that impact the county's health care contract with HealthFirst TPA;
- Discuss, consider and take necessary action to accept the Task Force on Indigent Defense Statement of Grant Award FY2009 Formula Grant;
- Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the ThyssenKrupp Elevator contract for elevator modernization for the Smith County Courthouse;
- Discuss, consider and take necessary action to approve the Spindlemedia contracts, including the Software Licensing Agreement and the Software Maintenance Agreement.