



news

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For Immediate Release

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TxDOT: Commission Approves Loop 49 Funding

March 5, 2009 - The Texas Transportation Commission, TxDOT's governing body, approved nearly \$38 million in economic stimulus funding for Segment 3A of Loop 49 at a special meeting Thursday in Austin.

Segment 3A will connect to the existing segments of Loop 49 at SH 155, and proceed northwest to SH 31.

"I appreciate the Texas Transportation Commission's selection of Loop 49 as one of the projects. The community has worked for many years to secure funding and we will continue to do all we can to see it to completion," said Senator Kevin Eltife.

"This is a great win for the people of Tyler. Loop 49 is a project with strong community support that will benefit the area. Thanks to the transportation commission for selecting this project and to all the people in Tyler who worked to make it happen," said Senator Robert Nichols.

Randy Hopmann, Tyler District Engineer explained, "Loop 49 has been a regional priority mobility project for the Tyler community. TxDOT in partnership with the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority, Smith County, the City of Tyler, and the Tyler Metropolitan Planning Organization is happy to see this long term project become reality. Each of those entities has contributed funding or engineering support to the project."

The Tyler MPO voted on Monday to use its entire \$4.7 million allotment from the stimulus package to help pay for Segment 3A. Construction on Segment 3A is scheduled to let to contract in July, with construction to begin as early as September.

Segment 1 of Loop 49, between US 69 and SH 155, was opened to traffic in August 2006, followed by Segment 2, from US 69 to FM 756 (Paluxy Drive) in December of 2007. Segment 5 of Loop 49, between FM 756 and SH 110 in Whitehouse, is scheduled to let to construction in June of this year.

The commission last week awarded \$21 million from the stimulus package for rehabilitation and system preservation funds to the Tyler District, including:

Gregg County

- * US 259: resurface between IH20 frontage and US 80 in Longview, \$3.1 million;
- * US 80: resurface between Spur 63/SH 31 intersection and US 259 in Longview, \$2.5 million;

Wood County

- * US 69: resurface between just south of US 80 in Mineola and US 69/SH 37 split in Mineola, \$1.6 million;
- * SH 37: resurface between US 69/SH 37 split in Mineola and North FM 564 in Mineola, \$1 million;

Van Zandt County

- * SH 243: bridge rehabilitation at Caney Creek, \$250,000;

Smith County

- * US 69: resurface between IH20 and North Loop 323 in Tyler, \$4 million;

Henderson County

- * SH 31: Resurface between Loop 7 in Athens and Malakoff, \$2.8 million;

Rusk County

- * US 259: resurface between Kilgore and FM 850 in Jacobs, \$4.5 million;

Anderson County

- * US 84: add shoulders between FM 3266 east of Palestine and Anderson/Cherokee county line, \$4.8 million.

For more information contact Larry Krantz, Tyler District public information officer, (903) 510-9267.

TxDOT's five goals: reduce congestion ▪ enhance safety ▪ expand economic opportunity
▪ improve air quality ▪ increase the value of transportation assets.