

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

August 16, 2022

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**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON EASTSIDE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROJECTS AND SUBREGIONAL STUDIES**

The Transportation and Public Works Department is advancing four transportation plans and projects to advance implementation of safe streets, connectivity, and economic development on the City's Eastside. These projects and the City's role for each are explained below.

East Lancaster Avenue: The City is in partnership with TXDOT, NCTCOG, and Trinity Metro to develop a comprehensive implementation plan for the East Lancaster Avenue Corridor, and surrounding area. This study includes transportation alternatives analysis, form-based code, and pre-environmental analysis to feed into TXDOT's work on Lancaster Avenue and Interstate 30. The alternatives developed through this study will go through extensive public comment and stakeholder outreach. A preferred alternative for the roadways and transit will be developed. The route and mode will be recommended, and brought to City Council for approval; and, will need to be included in NCTCOG's Long- and Short-Range planning documents to receive federal dollars. The preferred alternative is the sole and official concept to be used to environmentally clear and reconstruct East Lancaster Avenue, and associated transit components. Advertising for the project has been issued, and the goal is to proceed by November 2022. A Request for Proposal was issued on July 21, 2022, and proposals are due on August 18th. Robust public input is integrated into the study process, starting with a stakeholder committee. The project budget is \$1.11 million, and will take about 18 months to complete.

Berry Street Corridor Plan: This process will develop a comprehensive multimodal implementation plan to further develop projects along the Berry Street corridor from IH-35W to Lake Arlington. Robust public outreach will be used to gain the perspective of area residents, businesses, and other entities or specific groups. The corridor concept plan will identify relevant cross-section, projects, and policies to maximize the corridor's economic and functional performance. The final plan will culminate in recommendations, implementation strategies, and phasing to create short-term, medium-term and long-term projects, and policy recommendations. Work is to begin in the fall of 2022; and, upon the execution of a Notice to Proceed from the City, the process is expected to take 12 months. A budget of \$700,000 has been established for this study and will be paid through a partnership between TPW and Economic Development Departments.

Cavile Place Transit Center: The NCTCOG Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved \$1 Million in federal funding for a Cavile Place Transit Center, near the Envision Center in the Stop Six community. The project was added to NCTCOG's 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program in the August 2021 modification cycle, and was approved by the RTC on November 12, 2020. The funding will be used for design and construction of the transit bus center. The project will take approximately six months to complete, once the Notice to Proceed is issued by the City.

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Butler Place Access and Development Plan: The City and NCTCOG are collaborating on a transportation/ land use coordination regulating plan that includes the former Butler Place Public Housing Complex and adjacent area. The boundary of the project includes IH-35W to the west, IH-30 to the south and US Highway 287 to the east. The purpose is to plan transportation and land use coordination strategies; and, to develop projects to enhance access and mobility with preliminary engineering. Butler Place was added to the NCTCOG's Transportation Improvement Plan in the August 2021 modification cycle, and was approved by the Regional Transportation Council on April 11, 2019. The City and NCTCOG have established a budget of \$2.5 million. The plan is expected to proceed in Fall 2022, and to be completed by Summer of 2024.

Northwest and Southwest Regional Studies: The Northwest (NW) and Southwest (SW) Regional Studies will concentrate on highway corridors, the broader arterial network, and regional connections that serve rapidly growing areas of the greater Fort Worth region. Staff will be working with NCTCOG, TXDOT, affected counties, and other potential partners to identify projects and possible funding to increase connectivity. Both studies will focus on rapidly growing areas of the Fort Worth area outside of Loop 820 on the north, south, and west sides of the City. Preliminary data gathering has begun for these two study areas. The TPW Regional Transportation and Innovation team is working with NCTCOG and Tarrant County staff to refine a scope and develop a budget for any consultant work.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Porter, Assistant Director, Transportation and Public Works, Regional Transportation and Innovation Division, at 817-392-7259.

David Cooke
City Manager