



Saturday, June 12, 2010

TxDOT launched online tool to track construction on I-35

by *PegNews* wire



AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) launched www.my35.org website Wednesday, designed to help inform Texans of efforts to improve the I-35 corridor. The site is split into two parts, with one focused on current construction efforts to upgrade I-35 between Salado and Hillsboro, and the other highlighting efforts to plan for future improvements to the congested interstate corridor.

In 2009, the Texas Transportation Commission and TxDOT officials announced they were taking action as part of their promise to widen IH-35 to at least three main lanes in each direction between San Antonio and Hillsboro and committed over \$1 billion in stimulus funds and proposition 12 and 14 bond proceeds.

“With up to 10 active construction zones on I-35 at any given time over the next five years, it’s important that construction information be readily available to the traveling public,” said Bill Meadows, member of the Texas Transportation Commission.

At the same time, TxDOT has undertaken an unprecedented level of public involvement, engaging I-35 segment committees to determine the best locally-driven solutions to I-35 congestion. Comprised of citizens representing counties, cities and other affected organizations along I-35, segment committees will

develop their blueprint for long-term I-35 corridor improvements based on local and regional needs, which will serve to guide future TxDOT planning.

“We’ve made the ideas and concepts developed by the I-35 segment committees accessible to residents along the corridor on this website, keeping them informed and providing an opportunity to weigh in,” continued Meadows. “The launch of my35.org provides a one-stop-shop for all things I-35, which I hope our partners in the affected regions will find helpful.”

I-35 has long been recognized as one of the most congested corridors in the state and nation, and a tool recently released by the Federal Highway Administration included three portions of the highway in Austin (#4), Fort Worth (#21), and San Antonio (#100) on their list of the top 100 freight chokepoints in the nation.

As is the case for many highway projects today however, funding for additional improvements beyond those projects already scheduled to move forward is highly limited. Two segments of I-35 slated for widening in Waco and Temple remain unfunded, and the department has not identified resources for any additional improvements recommended by the I-35 Corridor Segment Committees.

Source: TxDOT