



## Meeting offers fresh approach to I-35's future

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The Interstate 35 corridor runs from Laredo through North Texas to Gainesville, and it's called one of the most important links for business in the state.

But state and local leaders agree that the highway is not ready for what the future holds: More traffic and more commerce.

There's a new approach under way to develop plans for improvements. It's called My 35.

The idea behind it is to involve local leaders and citizens at every segment of the interstate across Texas. Transportation planners want to know what ordinary citizens think is best for the future of the corridor.

I-35 is more than just a highway; it's one of the state's primary routes for freight and passenger cars and trucks. Improving it is a huge issue.

Segment committees are meeting across Texas. One of those panels will gather in Arlington Wednesday morning to discuss Segment One of the highway, which runs through 11 North Texas counties.

Those counties and seven local cities — including Dallas, Fort Worth, Denton, McKinney, Rockwall and Weatherford — will all be represented.

Getting local leaders involved early is a fresh approach to transportation planning. The goal is for the segment committees to come up with one blueprint for the entire corridor.

Everyone seems to agree that I-35 needs more room for traffic and improved safety. The challenge is coming up with a plan that does exactly that — from South Texas to the Oklahoma border.

*The My 35 meeting on Wednesday will be held from 9 a.m. until noon at the North*

*Central Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive in Arlington. Similar meetings will be held throughout the year.*

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