



NORTH TEXAS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY

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NTTA Drive to Excellence Award Recognizes Contributions to Transportation

Plano, TX – Tomorrow, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the North Texas Tollway Authority Board of Directors will recognize five individuals who have made significant contributions to transportation with its inaugural Drive to Excellence Award. These individuals have contributed to the ongoing success of toll road transportation and demonstrated a commitment to meeting regional mobility challenges. A monument engraved with the names of the honorees will be unveiled outside the board room at 8:30 a.m.

The initial honorees were selected by the NTTA Board of Directors for their visionary leadership and commitment to meeting regional transportation demands.

“These honorees are recognized for their advocacy on behalf of mobility here in North Texas and throughout the state,” said NTTA Chairman of the Board Paul N. Wageman. “We are privileged to have worked with each of them and humbled by their collective accomplishments which have contributed to advancing the mission of the NTTA as well as the economic vitality and the quality of life of North Texas.”

The inaugural honorees are:

- **Senator John Carona.** In his fifth term in the Texas Senate, Senator John Carona has distinguished himself as a leader, proactively addressing multiple issues affecting the region, including transportation. As chairman of the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee from 2006 until 2010, Carona played a pivotal role in ushering new transportation legislation into law. He is a proponent of regionalism, encouraging leaders at all levels to collaboratively ensure that transportation initiatives in North Texas are successfully advanced. As the co-sponsor of Senate Bills (SB) 964 and

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965 in 2007 and the sponsor of SB 882 in 2009, he helped equip the NTTA with innovative project-delivery methods to speed completion of toll projects. Sen. Carona also co-sponsored SB 792 in 2007, which authorized local toll authorities as the primary toll road providers within their respective service areas.

- **Chancellor Lee F. Jackson.** Chancellor Jackson has served the North Texas region for over a quarter of a century, first in the Texas House of Representatives, then as Dallas County Judge and now as the Chancellor of the University of North Texas System. Jackson helped formulate and promote collaborative regional solutions and propose a more regional orientation for the Texas Turnpike Authority. His efforts and advocacy led to the creation of the NTTA, with the purpose of keeping transportation resources local and creating a transportation authority with the ability to deliver multiple projects. Both during and following his distinguished service on the NTTA's first Board of Directors, Jackson worked tirelessly to advance NTTA projects and championed the regional toll authority model as a vital tool to meet North Texas' mobility needs.
- **David M. Laney.** As Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission, Laney provided unwavering dedication to the coordination of transportation projects between the Texas Department of Transportation and the NTTA, and other regional and state transportation providers. As chairman and commissioner of the Texas Transportation Commission and a member of the Board of Directors for the Texas Turnpike Authority (NTTA's predecessor), Laney played a pivotal role in the development of Texas highways. His guidance and support were critical in advancing such North Texas projects as the reconstruction of North Central Expressway including the High Five Interchange, improvements to the IH 30/IH 35 Canyon-Mixmaster, development of Southwest Parkway, improvements to LBJ Freeway, construction of the Woodall Rogers Freeway extension and development of State Highway 121 as a toll road. Throughout his tenure and service, he worked tirelessly to increase funding to enhance mobility throughout the state.
- **Senator Florence Shapiro.** Elected to the Texas Senate in 1992, Senator Shapiro has been a highly effective advocate for Texas citizens for over two decades. As a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 370 in 1997, Senator Shapiro was responsible for passing legislation to first create the NTTA and later to improve its operations through her sponsorship of SB 964 and SB 965 in 2007, co-sponsorship of SB 792 that same year, and co-sponsorship of SB 882 in 2009. When Shapiro became chair of the Senate State Affairs Committee, she committed herself to transportation, creating the Texas Mobility

Fund, which changed the way roads are financed and constructed. She has also been a tireless supporter of the NTTA's development of other crucial projects across the North Texas region, including Sam Rayburn Tollway, the Dallas North Tollway and the Western Extension of the President George Bush Turnpike.

- **Jere W. Thompson, Jr.** Serving on the Board of Directors of the Texas Turnpike Authority, Jere W. Thompson, Jr. has been a visionary leader since the beginnings of NTTA. His leadership was essential to the advancement and delivery of projects that had languished on regional transportation plans, such as the President George Bush Turnpike. He worked to solidify regional support for this critical transportation link and was responsible for securing the funding which included the nation's first-ever loan from the federal and state governments for a toll project. Thompson was also instrumental in the planning, funding and delivery of the Addison Airport Toll Tunnel. Currently, the Jere W. Thompson, Jr. Scholarship provides paid internships with the NTTA and other sponsors for university students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are pursuing a degree in civil engineering.

Names of the honorees are engraved on the Drive to Excellence monument outside the entrance to the NTTA board room. The monument serves as a tribute to these individuals' commitment to transportation. Senator Carona, Chancellor Jackson, David Laney and Jere Thompson will be publicly recognized at tomorrow's board meeting. Senator Shapiro will be recognized at the September board meeting.

About the NTTA

The North Texas Tollway Authority, a political subdivision of the state of Texas, is authorized to acquire, construct, maintain, repair and operate turnpike projects in the north Texas region. The nine-member governing board is comprised of Chairman Paul N. Wageman; Vice Chairman Victor Vandergriff; and Directors Kenneth Barr, Bob Day, David Denison, Bill Moore, Michael Nowels, Bob Shepard and Alan E. Sims.

The NTTA serves Collin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant counties and is responsible for the NTTA System, consisting of the Dallas North Tollway, President George Bush Turnpike, Sam Rayburn Tollway, Addison Airport Toll Tunnel, Lewisville Lake Toll Bridge and the Mountain Creek Lake Bridge. The NTTA is able to raise capital for construction projects through the issuance of turnpike revenue bonds. NTTA toll projects are not a part of the state highway system and receive no direct tax funding. Tolls are collected to repay debt and to operate and maintain the roadways.

Visit the NTTA Web site at www.ntta.org or call 214-461-2000 for additional information about the NTTA. For customer service, please call 972-818-NTTA (6882).

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