PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH TURNPIKE
WESTERN EXTENSION (SH 161) Progress Report

North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA)

October 2012

The President George Bush Turnpike (PGBT) Western Extension corridor project, also known as State Highway (SH) 161, provides a new, approximately 11.5-mile link in the growing loop around Dallas. The corridor consists of tolled main lanes as PGBT Western Extension and frontage roads as SH 161. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) initiated the project in May 1969, conducted the preliminary corridor studies, processed the Environmental Impact Statement and obtained right of way for the project. As outlined in Senate Bill 792, passed by the 80th Texas Legislature, the corridor underwent a market valuation process, which was a joint effort of NTTA and TxDOT.

Corridor Details

- Project length: Approximately 11.5 miles
- NTTA estimated Phase 2, 3 and 4 costs: $534.6 million (excluding the cost of future expansions)
- Substantial completion dates:
  - Phase 1 [main lane interchange at SH 183 and frontage roads from North Carrier Parkway to Interstate Highway (I) 20]: TxDOT opened August 2009
  - Phase 2 [two main lanes in each direction from SH 183 to Egyptian Way]: TxDOT opened August 2009
  - Phase 3 [frontage roads and a third main lane in each direction from Conflans Road to North Carrier Parkway]: TxDOT opened April 2010
  - Phase 4 [two main lanes in each direction from North Carrier Parkway to I-20, I-20 interchange and five of eight direct connectors at I-30]: NTTA opened October 13, 2012 (remaining two I-30 direct connectors anticipated early 2013)
  - Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) work [at grade railroad crossing at Main Street and Jefferson Street]: Anticipated end of 2012

Milestones

- In February 2010, the Federal Highway Administration announced the SH 161 project had received a $20 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant allocated through the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA).
- On February 24, 2010, the Texas Transportation Commission authorized TxDOT to enter into a toll equity loan agreement with the NTTA regarding the SH 161 project.
- The NTTA Board formally approved the SH 161 project on February 26, 2010, authorizing a toll equity loan agreement with TxDOT and a commitment of an up-front payment of $458 million (plus interest). In addition, the NTTA finalized the railroad agreement with UPRR.
- NTTA issued two notices to proceed (NTPs) for Phase 4 in February 2010. NTP 2 was for UPRR construction work and NTP 3 was for remaining design work and for construction within the corridor.
- During its April 2010 meeting, the NTTA Board approved designating the SH 161 tolled main lanes project as the Western Extension of the PGBT. The frontage roads will remain SH 161.
- On June 25, 2010, the NTTA paid $200 million as an initial installment of the up-front payment. The NTTA then paid the remainder of the up-front payment upon financial close.
- Phase 4 design was completed in January 2011.
- On April 28, 2011, the NTTA closed on the financing of the PGBT Western Extension project. The PGBT Western Extension will be funded by a combination of a federal TIFIA program loan and SH 161 revenue bonds.

Corridor Updates

- Phase 4 of the PGBT Western Extension opened to traffic on Saturday, October 13. The project will open in phases; the first phase was two main lanes in each direction from north of I-30 south to I-20, along with a four-level interchange connecting I-20 to the Western Extension main lanes. Six of the eight direct-connector ramps and bridges at the I-30 interchange also opened to traffic.
- The remaining two I-30 direct-connector ramps are scheduled to open in early 2013.
- The SH 161 frontage road at-grade railroad crossings between Main Street and Jefferson Street are scheduled to open at the end of the year.

Next Steps

- Complete Phase 4 construction.

Project Partners

- TxDOT
- NTTA
- Dallas County
- Irving
- North Central Texas Council of Governments
- Grand Prairie
- UPRR

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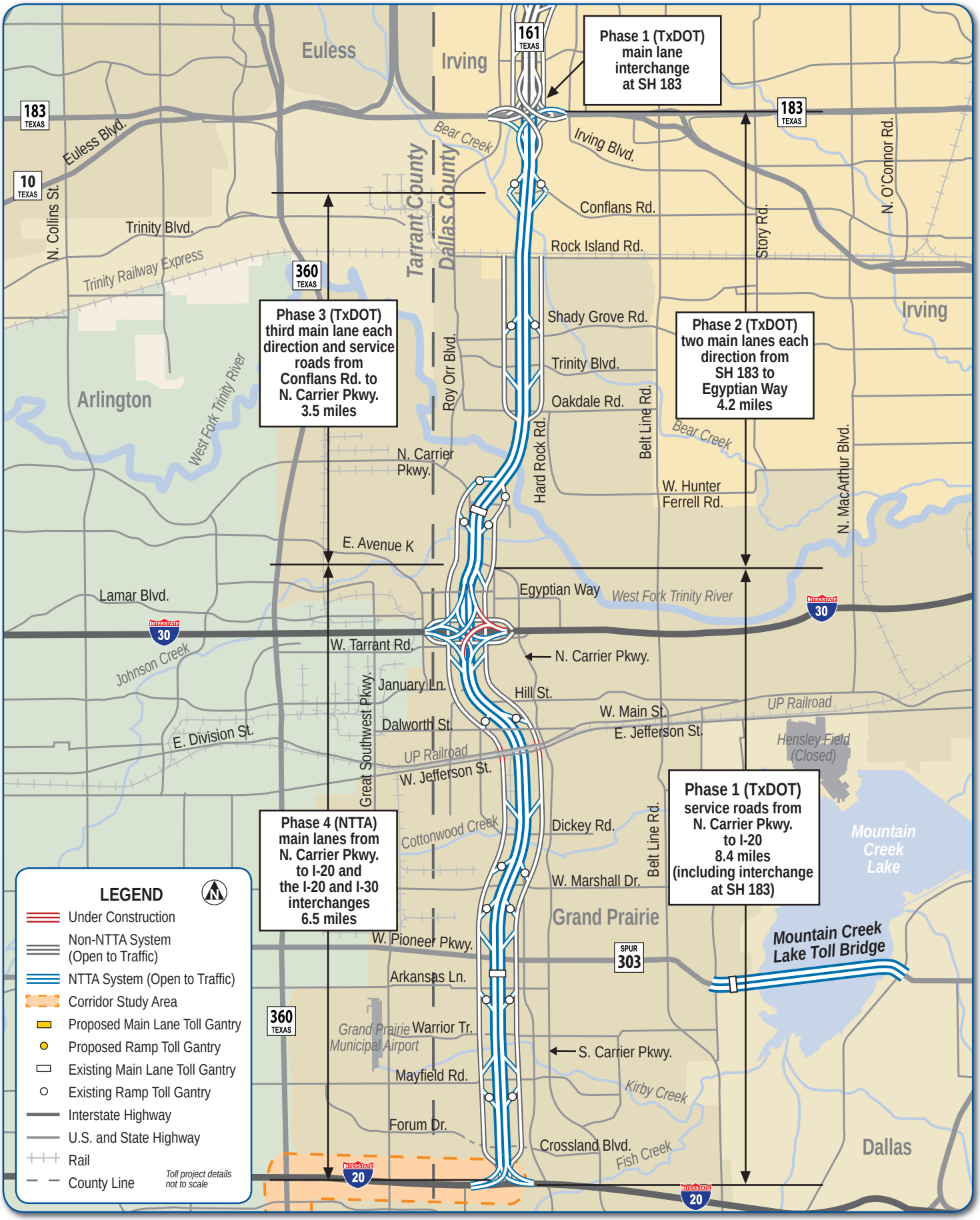

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NTTA
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