

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

Date: April 25, 2008

To: Members of the Transportation and Environment Committee:  
Linda Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice-Chair), Jerry R. Allen, Carolyn R. Davis, Vonciel Jones Hill, Angela Hunt, Pauline Medrano and Ron Natinsky

Subject: TxDOT Freeway Maintenance

On Monday, April 28, 2008, you will be briefed on "Right-of-Way Maintenance". Attached are the briefing materials for your review prior to Monday's discussion.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Miguez'.

Ramon F. Miguez, P.E.  
Assistant City Manager

c. The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary  
Thomas P. Perkins, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Judge Jay Robinson  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager  
David O. Brown, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
A. C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager  
David K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Interim Director, Office of Financial Services  
Edward Scott, Interim Director, Office of Financial Services  
Chandra Marshall-Henson, Assistant to the City Manager

# Right-of-Way Maintenance

*City of Dallas/Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)*

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**Presented to**  
**Transportation & Environment Committee**

**Department of Street Services**

April 28, 2008



# Purpose

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- ❑ Discussion of TxDOT right-of-way (R.O.W.) maintenance issues within Dallas city limits
- ❑ Provide an overview of the TxDOT R.O.W. maintenance efforts
- ❑ Provide an overview of the Department of Street Services R.O.W. maintenance efforts
- ❑ Discussion of supplemental maintenance cycles on TxDOT R.O.W.
- ❑ Discussion of TxDOT “Sunset” review process and opportunities for input

# TxDOT R.O.W. Maintenance Issues

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- Current maintenance efforts are noticeably less than City of Dallas efforts
  - Fewer mowing cycles (prairie look)
  - Litter pick-up is not coordinated with mowing cycles
- Current maintenance level tends to give a negative perception of Dallas
- Current TxDOT funding does not allow for increased mowing cycles

# Texas Department of Transportation Maintenance Efforts

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- Prairie Look Design
  - 2-4 mowing cycles per year system-wide
  - Urban areas may receive 4-6 mowing cycles
  - Approximately 4500 acres of TxDOT ROW in the City of Dallas
  - Herbicide application cycles are typically twice a year
  - Grass height is designed to average (7) seven inch, but may be as short as (5) inches in urban areas
  - Response mowing is available to address safety concerns
- Litter removal
  - Not sequenced with mowing operation
  - Cycles from weekly to quarterly



# TxDOT acreage in the City of Dallas

## Mowing (4,507 acres)

Location	Acres	Location	Acres
IH 20 (LBJ Freeway)	1159	State Hwy 183 (Carpenter Freeway)	14
IH 35 (RL Thornton & Stemmons)	539	State Hwy 310	51
IH 30 (RL Thornton & Tom Landry)	450	Spur 348	35
IH 635 (LBJ Freeway)	577	Spur 356	37
IH 45 (Julius Schepps)	466	Spur 366 (Woodall Rodgers)	14
US Hwy 67 (Marvin D. Love)	179	Spur 408 (Patriot Parkway)	236
US Hwy 75 (Central Expwy)	14	Spur 482	102
US Hwy 175 (CF Hawn)	196	Loop 12 (Ledbetter, Buckner, Northwest Hwy, Walton Walker)	320
SH 180	25	FM 1382	93

# TxDOT acreage in the City of Dallas

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## Mowing (4,507 acres)

Location	Acres
Northwest	798
Northeast	180
Central (inside Loop 12)	1218
Southwest	895
Southeast	1416

# Street Services Maintenance Efforts



- Current scope of mowing operations
  - Maintains in excess of 1,650 acres
  - Mowing of median and R.O.W. every 10/14/21 days during growing season
  - Within a typical year, 19-21 cycles are completed
  - Litter pick-up in advance of mowing
  - Blade edging and weed eating (around utility poles, guardrails, etc.)



# Street Services Maintenance Efforts

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- Median/ROW litter only cycles
  - 6-8 cycles annually
    - 4-6 during the non-growing season
    - 2 during the summer months
  - 2 pilot cycles - 800 CY of litter removed per cycle
  
- Response litter removal in the CBD
  - The primary areas being targeted are located in or in close proximity to the Central Business District



# Street Services R.O.W Maintenance Funding

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- Median Mowing/Maintenance \$2.40M
- Litter only cycles \$ .22M
- Response Litter Removal \$ .04M
  
- Total: \$2.86M

# TxDOT Supplement Options

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- TxDOT will allow cities to supplement or assume their maintenance responsibilities if the cities will bear the cost
- TxDOT scope of work may be changed when a city desires a higher level of treatment
  - Location exchanges –Increase frequency in one area for decrease frequency in others
  - City supplements –Adding cycles between regular scheduled cycles (at the city's expense)
  - Full adoption by Cities – Assume maintenance responsibilities (at the city's expense)

# Supplemented TxDOT Efforts

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- ❑ Other cities/entities have elected to have a higher level of service:
  - Plano – Full adoption
  - Richardson – Full adoption
  - Irving –Supplements
  - Mesquite – Full adoption and Location exchange
  - Downtown Improvement District -- Supplements

# TxDOT Supplement Options

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- ❑ Current TxDOT frequency is 2-4 cycles per year
- ❑ Estimated cost to add cycles
  - Additional 16 cycles (18-20 total) - \$3.8M
    - ❑ This option would closely match our median mowing frequency
  - Additional 12 cycles (14-16 total) - \$2.8M
  - Additional 4 cycles (6-8 total) - \$1.4M

Note: Assumes \$52.50 cost per acre to remove litter and mow property currently maintained by TxDOT

# TxDOT Sunset Review

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- ❑ Sunset process assesses whether or not there is an continuing need for a state agency to exist
- ❑ Agencies are reviewed every 12 years
- ❑ The 12-member Sunset Commission is appointed by the Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House to guide the process
- ❑ Legislature must reauthorize the agency and its mission/functions or it will be abolished
- ❑ TxDOT is currently involved in a Sunset review process

# TxDOT Sunset Review

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- ❑ TxDOT submitted a Sunset self-evaluation report in August 2007
- ❑ TxDOT Sunset review began in September 2007
- ❑ Sunset staff report will be issued in May 2008 recommending solutions to problems found
- ❑ Sunset Commission will hold a public hearing on July 15, 2008
- ❑ Commission will make recommendations for consideration by the legislature in their 2009 session

# TxDOT Sunset Review

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- Opportunities for input
  - Schedule a meeting with the staff director of the Sunset Advisory Commission
    - Staff report due in May 2008
  - Schedule meetings with members of the Sunset Advisory Commission
    - Potentially align with other cities that consider this an important issue



# Appendix

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- Sunset Commission members
- Central Expressway landscaping update
- City of Dallas maintenance cost
- Map of major TxDOT roadways traveling through Dallas and surrounding cities

# Sunset Commission Members

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- ❑ Carl Isett (Chair) – Lubbock
- ❑ Glenn Hegar, Jr. (Vice-Chair) – Katy
- ❑ Dan Flynn – Van
- ❑ Kim Brimer – Fort Worth
- ❑ Linda Harper-Brown – Irving
- ❑ Robert Deuell – Greenville
- ❑ Lois Kolkhorst – Brenham
- ❑ Craig Estes – Wichita Falls
- ❑ Ruth Jones McClendon – San Antonio
- ❑ Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa – McAllen
- ❑ Ike Sugg (Public Member) – San Angelo
- ❑ Michael Stevens (Public Member) - Houston

# Central Expwy Landscaping Update

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- ❑ TxDOT has procured a vendor and will install native grasses test at Coit and Churchill Way this month
- ❑ Staff is continuing to investigate private sector funding opportunities
- ❑ Staff is developing alternative hardscape concepts for median and window boxes
- ❑ Recommendations will be developed for presentation to the TEC in August 2008

# City of Dallas

## Unit Cost per Service

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- ❑ Median Mowing/Maintenance
  - Average mowing cost per acre is currently \$64.50;
    - ❑ Maintains 1,650 acres
    - ❑ 19-21 cycles annually
  - Litter only removal
    - ❑ \$19-20/hour
    - ❑ 6-8 cycles annually
- ❑ Response Litter Removal (CBD)
  - Cost associated with this service is based on an hourly rate (\$15/hr)
    - ❑ Approximately 2,600 work hours annually

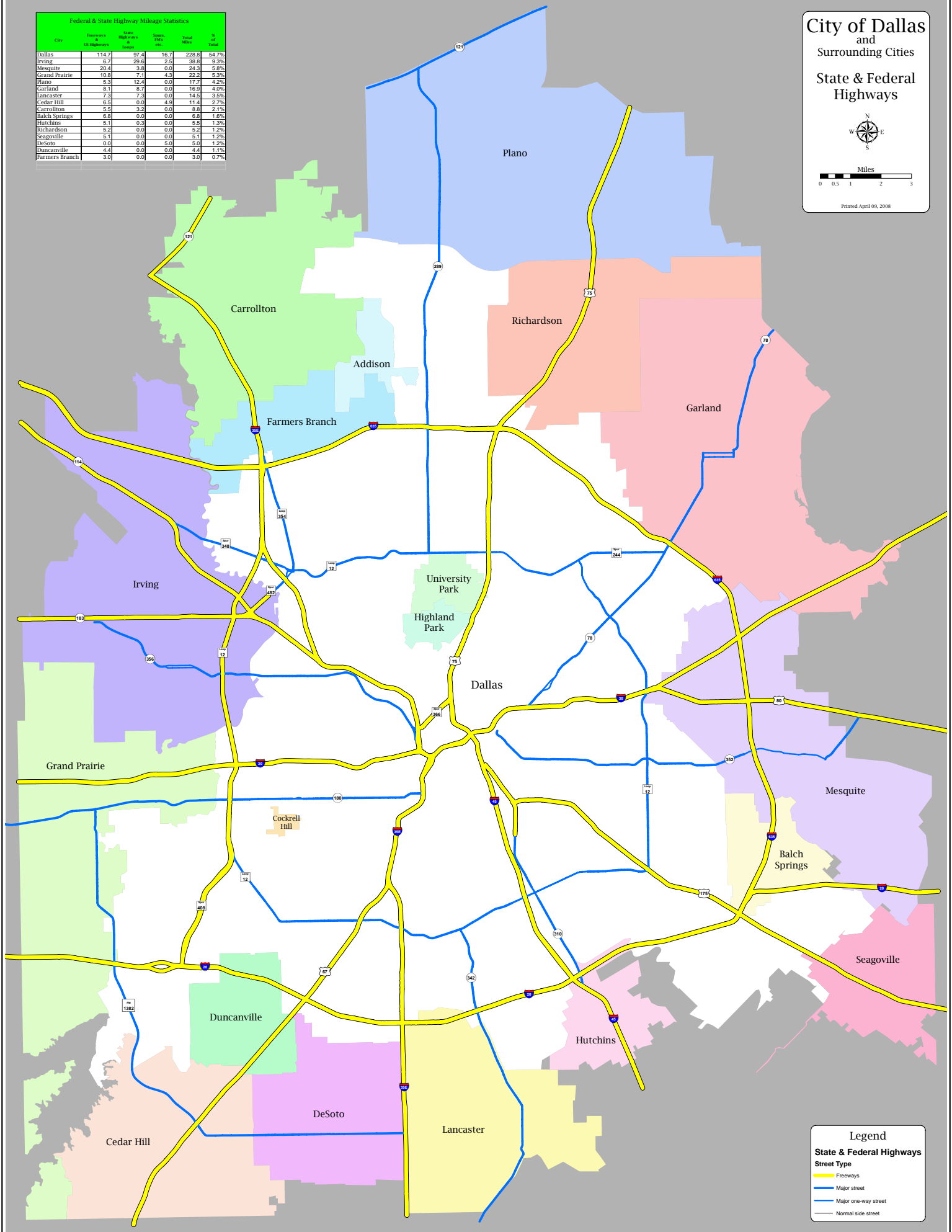
Federal & State Highway Mileage Statistics					
City	Freeways & US Highways	State Highways & Loops	State, TRS, etc.	Total Miles	% of Total
Dallas	114.7	97.4	16.7	228.8	54.2%
Irving	6.7	29.6	2.5	38.8	9.3%
Mesquite	20.0	3.8	0.0	23.8	5.8%
Grand Prairie	10.8	7.1	4.3	22.2	5.3%
Plano	5.3	12.4	0.0	17.7	4.2%
Garland	8.1	6.7	0.0	14.8	3.5%
Lancaster	7.3	7.3	0.0	14.6	3.5%
Cedar Hill	6.5	0.0	4.9	11.4	2.7%
Carrollton	5.5	3.2	0.0	8.7	2.1%
Balch Springs	6.8	0.0	0.0	6.8	1.6%
Hutchins	5.1	0.3	0.0	5.4	1.3%
Richardson	5.2	0.0	0.0	5.2	1.2%
Seagoville	5.1	0.0	0.0	5.1	1.2%
DeSoto	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	1.2%
Duncanville	4.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	1.0%
Farmers Branch	3.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.7%

**City of Dallas**  
and  
Surrounding Cities

**State & Federal Highways**

Miles  
0 0.5 1 2 3

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**Legend**

**State & Federal Highways**

**Street Type**

- Freeways
- Major street
- Major one-way street
- Normal side street

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