

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE June 13, 2008

TO Trinity River Committee Members:
David A. Neumann (Chair), Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Elba Garcia (Vice-Chair), Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine R. Caraway, Carolyn R. Davis, Linda Koop, Pauline Medrano, Mitchell Rasansky, Steve Salazar

SUBJECT Sylvan Avenue Bridge from Irving Boulevard to Gallagher Street

The Sylvan Avenue Bridge crossing of the Trinity River is the last of the low water crossings. The bridges over the main channel and the levees need to be replaced. Design of the replacement bridge began in the late 1980's. The item on the June 25, 2008 City Council agenda is to supplement the original design contract with the HNTB Corporation.

Design for the replacement of the Sylvan Avenue bridges was originally funded in the City's 1985 bond program and Dallas County's 1991 bond program. The existing bridge structure does not meet current design standards and is frequently closed due to flooding. The proposed bridge will be one continuous six lane bridge spanning the entire width of the floodway.

The original design contract for the replacement of the Sylvan Avenue bridges was approved in May 1989. Design was a partnership between Dallas County and the City and was substantially completed in accordance with then current City standards and specifications. It was originally designed with the intent of being a locally funded (City, County) construction project; however, Dallas County's 1991 bond program was the last of its kind until implementation of the County's Major Capital Improvement Program in early 2000.

In late 2000, the federal Off-System Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation program was authorized by the Texas Transportation Commission, and in late 2001, the Sylvan Avenue bridges were included in the program. This program provides funds to replace or repair bridges and covers up to 90 percent of allowable costs. After lengthy negotiations with TXDOT, they finally agreed to participate in the design and construction of the proposed six lane bridge.

As the bridge is now a federal aid project with federal funds for construction, major modifications to the design are required to meet TXDOT and federal criteria and standards. In January 2004, the contract with the HNTB Corporation was supplemented to review and re-use applicable elements of the original design and to provide preliminary design and environmental documentation for the federal process. An interlocal agreement with TxDOT was also authorized.

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The June 25, 2008 item on the City Council's agenda is to again supplement HNTB Corporation's contract. This supplement will be to prepare the final design and construction drawings for the federal aid project that correspond to the alignment and requirements of the recently completed preliminary design. The design and construction drawings are estimated to be complete by October 2009, and future action by the City Council will be required at that time to authorize the City's share of construction funding.

If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know.



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

- c: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
David O. Brown, Interim Assistant City Manager
Dave K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney
Craig Kinton, City Auditor
Judge Jay Robinson, Judiciary
Frank Libro, Director, Public Information Office
Jeanne Chipperfield, Interim Director, Office of Financial Services
Edward Scott, Interim Director, Office of Financial Services/City Controller
Helena Thompson-Stevens, Assistant to the City Manager – Council Office
Rick Galceran, P.E., Director, Public Works and Transportation