



DR. ELBA GARCIA
DALLAS COUNTY
COMMISSIONER

Dr. Elba Garcia, Dallas County Commissioner, District 4

SUMMER 2018

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Message from Dr. Elba Garcia



Dr. Garcia at the Records Building Commencement Ceremony

As I come to the end of my second term as County Commissioner for District 4, I am so proud to look back and see all that we have accomplished. We've established new transparency, ethics and purchasing policies, which have made County government more open and accessible to the public we serve. You can now watch Commissioners Court meetings and find all of our elected officials' campaign finance reports online – which was not possible before. WE completed a comprehensive review of our facility needs

and have begun catching up on over \$80 million of deferred maintenance. We created the Animal Cruelty Unit in the DA's Office to help prosecute animal abusers and bring them to justice. We instituted a "Ban the Box" hiring policy, giving those who have made mistakes in the past a second chance and fair shot at employment. We created a non-discrimination policy to promote equality. We helped start the Home for Hounds program at our jail, which gives inmates a marketable skill when they are released and gives the dogs in their care a second chance at being adopted. We completed the long delayed Hunter Ferrell Road project, as well as many other projects to improve mobility and connectivity for District 4. This includes the creation of over 13 miles of new trails in District 4, with another 15 miles in the planning or construction stages. Just in the past year alone, we've begun construction projects on

Northaven Trail – all of which you will find out more details about in this newsletter. And I'm very pleased to announce that our \$200 million Records Building Renovation Project has now entered the construction phase – on time and under budget. I'm proud of all the work we have done since I have been elected. I'm also proud to say that I have not taken a single pay raise or car allowance for myself. By declining my pay raises and car allowance, we were able to put \$163,000 back into employee training and other beneficial items for Road and Bridge 4. I want to keep our taxpayers' money working for our taxpayers. Thank you for the support you have given me since I have been elected. We have accomplished much, but we still have much left to do. As I look forward to another term as your County Commissioner, I also look forward to all that we can and will accomplish together in the future.

Saludos, *Dr. Elba Garcia*



Dr. Garcia at MacArthur Blvd. Ribbon Cutting

MacArthur Blvd. Ribbon Cutting

The dirt finally settled after 2 years of construction on Major Capital Improvement Program (MCIP) project MacArthur Boulevard. In March of 2018, Dr. Elba Garcia, along with leaders from the City of Grand Prairie, City of Irving and North Central Texas Council of Governments, commemorated the project with a grand opening and ribbon cutting to inaugurate the new section of MacArthur Boulevard.

This \$20 million dollar project improved MacArthur Boulevard by widening and converting this former 2-lane road way into a 4-lane divided concrete thoroughfare from I-30 to north of the Trinity River. This much anticipated project will improve accessibility, ease traffic congestion and help prevent any issues with flooding. MacArthur Boulevard runs across the Trinity River flood plain and in the past was known to be inundated when torrential rains would hit the area. New traffic signals, street lights, railings, upgraded storm drainage, an overflow channel along with the addition of retain-

ing walls are just some of the additional features. There are also new bike lanes and sidewalks that serve as connections between the Grand Prairie and Irving trail systems. This would not have been possible without the funds and partnerships of Dallas County, the City of Grand Prairie, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Each respectively contributed \$1.5 million, \$1.5 million and \$12 million in regional toll revenue. Completion of this project is a primary example of how different governmental entities can effectively and efficiently work together for the overall benefit of Dallas County tax payers.

Dallas County Records Building



Records Building Post-Demolition Phase

involved the demolition of some of the building's interior components, where many historical artifacts of note have been discovered. One unique artifact was the brass railing used in the jail that was originally salvaged from the Battleship Texas. Others, like colorful portraits and

This year, the first phase of the \$200 million renovation of the Dallas County Records Building comes to a close. That phase has involved the demolition of some of the building's interior components, where many historical artifacts of note have been discovered. One unique artifact was the brass railing used in the jail that was originally salvaged from the Battleship Texas. Others, like colorful portraits and decorative molding discovered inside the legendary (Jack) Ruby Courtroom, recall the building's more colorful and glamorous, years. After all, this is the building in which Jack Ruby was found guilty of the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald and where Clyde Barrow was jailed before he set off on his crime spree with Bonnie Parker. The demolition has even revealed a mysterious staircase, its purpose uncertain, inside one of the building's interior walls. Many of the items are being saved, with hopes that display space can be found for them either in the renovated

building or another museum nearby. And much of the refuse generated during the first phase is finding new life in innovative ways. For example, the sledgehammers used on April 25 to ceremoniously launch the project's second phase were comprised entirely from debris caused by the first-phase demolition. This summer, the renovation entered its second phase, which included the demolition and rebuilding of floor and ceiling slabs. No doubt, more intriguing artifacts of history will appear as the project moves toward its expected completion in mid-2020.



Road & Bridge 4 Crew Spreading Asphalt

The Road and Bridge 4 crew have been working hard to ensure its partner cities and beneficiaries receive high quality service. Since September 2017, the Road and Bridge crew has completed projects in the cities of Irving, Hutchins, Rockwall, Coppell and Lancaster. The cost of these completed projects have totaled \$1.3 million. Streets such as MacArthur Blvd in Irving;

Road & Bridge 4-Update

Percy, Highland and Hickman in Lancaster; all had overlay work done and are complete. Overlay work was also done at the JCT Parking Lot in Hutchins and various guard-rail repairs and culvert clearing was done in Rockwall. Overlay work was done on Beltline Road and Royal Lane in Coppell with an estimated cost of \$1.2 million. Over \$1.8 million worth of projects are currently in the

works. These active projects are located in the cities of Coppell, Irving and Cockrell Hill. In Irving, milling and overlay work is being performed on Northgate and Valley View Road at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million and projected completion date of October 2018. Lastly, in the City of Cockrell Hill, over \$240K of milling and overlaying work is being done. Road and Bridge 4 crew is staying busy this year.



Portion of Northaven Trail Under

Construction on phases 2B and 2C of the Northaven Trail Project, Dallas' first east-west bicycle-pedestrian trail, began in Spring 2018. This \$5.7 million project consists of approximately 4 miles of trail west of Midway Road to Denton Drive, and will provide regional bicycle and pedestrian connectivity with two DART

Northaven Trail

Green Line stations: Walnut Hill Lane and Royal Lane Stations. Additional destinations along the trail will include Royal Park and three nearby DISD elementary schools. It will eventually run from US-75 to the Elm Fork Athletic Complex on the west side of I-35 once all phases are complete. The trail will serve as a key connector to a growing network of trails in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Studies have shown that trails

enhance local property values, reduce traffic and improves air quality. This project is in partnership with three governmental entities: Dallas County, the City of Dallas and the Texas Department of Transportation. This much anticipated project is set to be completed by Fall of 2019. This project would not have been possible with out \$2.36 million from federal and state funds, \$2.86 million from Dallas County and \$500,000 from the City of Dallas.

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Cockrell Hill Rd.



sects with other major thoroughfares such as, Jefferson Blvd. and Davis St. This Major Capital Improvement Program (MCIP) project will reconfigure the intersection of Cockrell Hill Road and Jefferson Boulevard into a roundabout. This unique feature will, not only help relieve traffic congestion at this intersection, but also promote economic development in the area. Additionally, through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, sewers and wastewater mains will be replaced in an effort to upgrade drainage infrastructure. Cockrell Hill Road will have 2 north-south lanes each measuring 10.5 feet wide with a center turn lane measuring 11 feet wide. Sidewalks will also be constructed for

the purpose of making Cockrell Hill Road pedestrian friendly. Construction began in January of 2018 and it is estimated to be completed in Fall of 2019. Currently, construction crews are laying a Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP) for drainage at Calumet and Higgins and laying a waterline at Jefferson and Cockrell Hill Rd. intersection for the City of Cockrell Hill. The projected cost for the Cockrell Hill Road Project is \$15.35 million. Funding has been secured through Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) from TxDOT, Dallas County and the City of Cockrell Hill. This is a great example of how different levels of government; state, county and municipal, can collaborate and work together for the purpose of improving the quality of life for our constituents.

Back in November 2013, Commissioner Garcia, along with her colleagues, approved a Project Specific Agreement with the City of Cockrell Hill in order to address much needed improvements to Cockrell Hill Road. Cockrell Hill Road is a major thoroughfare that runs from the southern to northern city limits of Cockrell Hill and inter-

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Medical District Dr.

Medical District Drive Project has been in the books for nearly 8 years. Finally, the dirt is flying and we are seeing the planning and design efforts of this project materialize. There were many obstacles to overcome as far as Right-of-Way acquisition, the City of Dallas Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance and utilities relocation, but we managed to do so thanks in part to the collaboration of our stakeholders: Southwestern Medical District (SWMD), Children's Medical Center (CMC), Parkland Health and Hospital System and UT Southwestern. This \$27.2 million project will turn Medical District Dr. from a 4-lane to a 6-lane divided thoroughfare with provisions of bicycle lanes in each direction and en-

hanced sidewalks. Additionally, waste water and storm drainage improvements include drainage behind CMC. The roadway under the Trinity Railroad Express (TRE) bridge will be raised to alleviate flooding concerns and to facilitate construction for this section of the project. All planning and design was done with consideration of the current condition and ecosystem value of public trees within the Southwestern Medical District. We worked closely with the Texas Trees Foundation (TTF) in an effort to mitigate the heat island effect by saving major existing trees in the medical district area while also improving the medical district's public right of way to enhance safety, health connectivity,

mobility, and beautification. This project was made possible with funding from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Dallas County and the City of Dallas. Each respectively contributed \$20.78 million, \$4.66 million and \$1.76 million. Another example of Dallas County moving forward.





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Check Out Our
Website!

www.DallasCounty.org/departments/comcrt/district4/home.php

Commitment to District 4

Commissioner Garcia has donated over \$100,000 from her salary to local organizations and has not taken a single pay raise or car allowance since being elected. All benefits and pay raises have been reallocated to employee training and other beneficial items for Road and Bridge 4. Since 2010, \$163,000 have gone back to the Road and Bridge fund. This is a primary example of commitment to her constituents and Dallas County taxpayers.



Dallas County Health & Human Services

Among the numerous services that Dallas County Health & Human Services (DCHHS) offers to Dallas County residents, one particular service that targets income eligible households in need of home repair or weatherization is the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The program assists households that are in need of basic weatherization to conserve energy use thereby reducing high utility costs and decreasing the burden on these households. In addition to weather stripping and caulking, the weatherization process consists of equipping homes with insulation, repairing or providing new doors and windows, solar screens, repaired or retrofitted heating and cooling units and duct work. DCHHS wants to assure that eligible households receive the opportunity to submit an application and be considered for assessment. To be eligible, household members must show proof of all income earned in the previous 30



days and identification is required from the head of the household. Dallas County residents interested in applying for the WAP should call DCHHS at (214) 819-1909. Another valuable source of assistance for Dallas County residents is the Home Loan Counseling Center. In hopes of advancing its goal of increasing homeownership opportunities in Dallas County for low-to-moderate income families, DCHHS provides several services to make this a reality by partnering with local municipalities, home builders, mortgage lenders and

non-profit housing agencies. One service worth mentioning is the first time homebuyer seminars. These seminars are broken up into three parts and cover the essentials of the home buying process, including the mortgage financing process, property taxes, homeowner insurance, rights and responsibilities of home ownership, budgeting/consumer awareness and predatory lending. First time homebuyer seminars are free and held monthly at the DCHHS building located at 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway, Room 751, Dallas, Texas 75207. For additional information, please contact the Home Loan Counseling Center at (214) 819-6060 or visit www.dallascounty.org/hhs/.



DCHHS
Safe families, healthy lives.

Dallas County Health and Human Services