



Texas Department of Transportation



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2009

Texas Transportation Commission Allocates \$314.6 Million to Advance US 290/Hempstead Corridor Program

HOUSTON – The Texas Transportation Commission has approved an allocation of \$314.6 million in Proposition 12 funds to advance construction on the IH 610/US 290 Interchange, Phase I of the US 290/Hempstead Corridor Program.

Approved by voters in November 2007, Proposition 12 authorizes the issuance of \$5 billion in general obligation funds for transportation projects. In mid-2009, the Texas State Legislature authorized TxDOT to go to contract on approximately \$2 billion of those voter-approved funds for non-tolled highway projects. The US 290/Hempstead Corridor Program was identified by TxDOT's Houston District and the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) as a corridor project of statewide significance, and was one of several projects submitted for consideration to the Texas Transportation Commission in October 2009.

The approved allocation will advance planning, design, right of way acquisition and construction activities on several segments of the IH 610/US 290 Interchange. Currently ranked 13th on the 100 Most Congested Roadway Segments in Texas, the IH 610/US 290 interchange is the congestion point for three major thoroughfares in the Houston District, IH 10, US 290, and IH 610. Work on the interchange project will include reconstructing and widening both the IH 610 North Loop and US 290, as well as constructing direct connectors between those facilities and IH 10. As a stipulation for the use of Proposition 12 funding, the IH 610/US 290 Interchange reconstruction project must be scheduled for letting by May 2011.

For more information regarding the US 290/Hempstead Corridor Program, please contact the US 290/Hempstead Corridor Program Public Information Office at (713) 354-1532 or at (713) 354-1556. Additional information is also available on the Program website, www.my290.com