



# Dallas County Public Works Newsletter

*Our mission...Improving the quality of life of our customers...the citizens, taxpayers, transportation users, communities and partners of Dallas County...by effectively planning and implementing regional public works transportation projects*

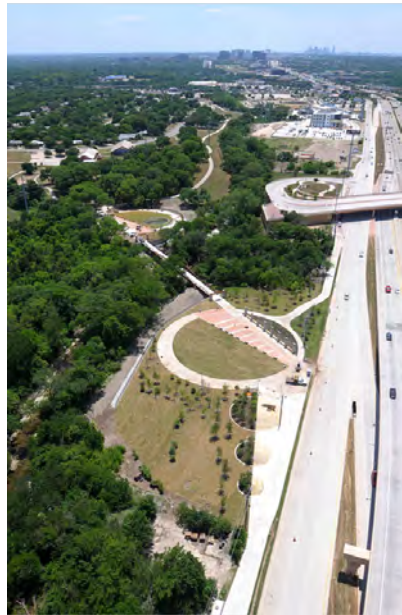
## Connecting Cottonwood Creek Trail

Summer 2010

Local officials and citizens gathered June 3 near the towering High Five Interchange—the convergence of two of the region's busiest freeways, US 75 and IH-635—to celebrate another level of connectivity for the region's travelers: Cottonwood Creek Trail.

Construction had been recently completed to link six of the trail's eight total segments. Included in the construction are two large esplanades, attractive enhancements made possible by generous donations of both supplies and labor. One of the plazas lies along the northbound US 75 service road; the other is in nearby Hamilton Park. The two are joined by a 240 foot pedestrian bridge.

Two final segments are expected to be completed by the summer of 2011. Once these segments are finished, Cottonwood Trail will extend from Preston Ridge Trail, north of IH-635 in Plano, south to White Rock



*Cottonwood Trail Segment E aerial  
photographed by Aerial Photography Inc.*

Creek, Katy and Santa Fe Trails in Dallas. The trail will provide a vital link, allowing residents to travel freely and safely by foot, bicycle or rollerblade a distance of nearly 20 miles. Cottonwood Trail creates connectivity to two DART light rail stations as well as to retail and major employers such as Texas Instruments (TI), whose headquarters is immediately adjacent to the trail. Environmental benefits from the project include improved air quality from people walking or bicycling instead of driving automobiles, and greater access to—and trail users' awareness of—the natural areas through which the trail will pass.



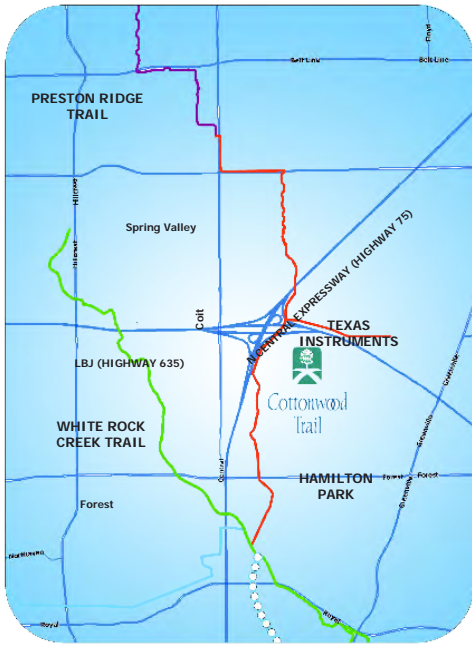
*Cottonwood Creek Trail continued on next page...*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Connecting Cottonwood Creek Trail.....	1
Connecting Cottonwood Creek Trail Continued.....	2
Balch Springs Modern Roundabout Grand Opening.....	3
Public Works Recognitions.....	4



# Connecting Cottonwood Creek Trail



A section of the trail that runs under the two freeways was built by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) as part of the High Five construction. For several years this segment remained disconnected from nearby pedestrian and bicycle trails until former Dallas City Councilmember Mary Poss and Dallas County Commissioner Maurine Dickey collaborated to connect the pieces.

Poss secured some funding to construct the links, but at first no agency stepped forward to deliver the project. Commissioner Dickey and Dallas County Public Works Director Don Holzwarth recognized that completing the project would both enhance the quality of life for Dallas County residents and serve a critical need for non-motorized transportation through the congested US 75 corridor. Dickey committed County MCIP funding and Dallas County Public Works stepped up to lead the complex, multi-agency project.

Dickey said that the trail is about two things: collaboration and connectivity.

The project has been successful, Dickey said, "because we have all worked together." Project partners include public agencies—such as TxDOT, NCTCOG, DART, Dallas County and the Cities of Dallas and Richardson—and private corporations such as Texas Instruments (TI).

Holzwarth said that the project helped inspire a new acronym at Dallas County Public Works: ICI, Interagency Coordination and Integration. "That's what you need to deliver a project like this," he said.

**"This trail is about two things: it is about collaboration and it's about connectivity."**

**- Commissioner Maurine Dickey**



The esplanades exemplify the kind of partnership that has made the project a success. TxDOT dedicated substantial right of way to even make the plazas possible, design for the esplanades was provided pro bono by Huitt-Zollars, TXU donated funds for the trees surrounding the plazas, TI donated bricks and Randy Phillips (who designed the esplanades) and Metzger Enterprises donated stones for benches and aesthetics.

As for the connectivity, Dickey described Cottonwood Trail as a vital form of "alternate transportation," as compared to mere "recreation." "What we need in the City of Dallas and the surrounding suburbs are trails that meet up, trails that go someplace," she said. "We need a way to get around where we don't have to get in our cars."

Assistant Directors Alberta Blair and Antoinette Bacchus and Project Manager Tushar Solanki provided crucial leadership on the project, facilitating interlocal agreements and effectively coordinating with multiple agencies, property owners, contractors and project donors to complete the construction of the missing segments.



## The End of An Era...

Part of Dallas County Public Works history was lost April 24 with the passing of former Public Works Director, Colonel Judson Shook. Shook, a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the US Air Force, served as Director of Dallas County Public Works from 1969 until 1981. After leaving Dallas County, he continued his engineering career as the Director of Transportation and Engineering for the City of Richardson and as Project Manager for the President George Bush Turnpike. Shook was well known in the industry as the man to get things done.

Under his leadership as Director, the 1969 and 1977 Bond Programs were approved by voters, allowing improvements to many area thoroughfares and County buildings.

Shook was instrumental in preserving the Texas School Book Depository in Downtown Dallas, the building from which Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly shot President John F. Kennedy in 1963. By the late 70s, the book depository had been closed for many years and was destined for sale and likely destruction. Many in the community saw the site as an embarrassment to the City of Dallas, but Shook recognized its value as an historical landmark and persuaded the County to buy it. Now the depository is home to Dallas County Public Works, the County Commissioners Court and other County departments, as well as the Sixth Floor Museum. The Sixth Floor Museum is Dallas' most popular tourist attraction, bringing in visitors from around the world.

In recognition of his efforts to save the building from destruction, Shook was presented the John Neely Bryan Award for historical preservation in 1979. Other professional honors



**Colonel Judson Shook**  
February 23, 1925 - April 24, 2010

include the Outstanding Engineer Award by the Dallas chapter of the American Society of Engineers (1980) and Man of the Year by the North Texas branch of the Texas Public Works Association (1977).

Several current members of the Public Works Department (Right of Way Agent Carol Landon-Beane, Senior Property Supervisor Pam Easterling, Accounts Manager Shirley Rapp, Senior Construction Inspector James Walsh, and Inspector Charley Cummings) were employed during Mr. Shook's term as Director.

According to Accounts Manager Shirley Rapp, the employees who worked under Colonel Shook remember him as a man who always cared about his employees and did all he could to make their lives better: "He was a true leader who led by example and always thought of his employees. He always knew he had a purpose and led all of us to fulfill ours as well."

"We were blessed to have worked with a great man of faith," Landon-Beane said. "He is gone from this earth to his heavenly home. However, his legacy lives on and he is not forgotten."

Current Dallas County Public Works Director Donald Holzwarth said of Shook, "I really liked him. His legacy for us is one of integrity and goodness."



## Happy Trails and Best Wishes to Lacey Freeman

Dallas County Public Works says goodbye and a heartfelt farewell to a member of the Public Works Administrative "Diva" Team, Lacey Freeman.

Assistant Director Alberta Blair presented Freeman with a special certificate at a lunch in her honor (also pictured is Public Works Director Donald Holzwarth). The certificate summarized Freeman's contributions during her tenure at Dallas County: "The key word to describe Lacey is PASSIONATE -- she Lives Passionately, Loves Completely, Learns Humbly, and is Leaving a Bold Legacy. She is a person who truly is Respected, Responsive and Reliable. She provided excellent service to fellow workers, outside agencies, and the general public. She treated all with respect and with common courtesy. She did what was needed to assist others in getting the job done. We will miss you, Lacey!"



### Dallas County Department of Public Works

411 Elm Street, 4th Floor  
Dallas, TX 75202  
(214) 653-7151

**Donald Holzwarth, P.E.**  
Director of Public Works

**Alberta Blair, P.E.**  
Assistant Director / Construction &  
Engineering

**Antoinette Bacchus, P.E.**  
Assistant Director/  
Transportation & Planning

**Selas Camarillo, P.E.**  
RPLS Assistant Director /  
Property

**Noah New, P.E.**  
Assistant Director / Program and  
Engineering Management