

Prospective Projects for MCDC Funding

Prospective Project	Description	Cost	Timeframe
Gateway	Hotel/Conf Center	\$6,500,000 existing commitment/possible additional	Q3 2012
Promotional and Community Event Grants	Cycle II 2012	\$50,000	Q3 2012
McKinney Housing Authority	Repair & Renovation of Residential Units	\$200,000	Q4 2012
Baylor Foundation	Park, hike & bike trail at Baylor McKinney	\$272,432	Q4 2012
North Collin County Habitat	Housing Rehab	\$150,000	Q3 2012
City of McKinney - Planning	NW Quadrant Study	\$50-75,000	Q3 2012
City of McKinney - Engineering	Bicycle Master Plan	\$60,000	Q3 2012
Community Lifeline	Infrastructure improvements	\$15,000	Q4 2012
City of McKinney Aquatic Center	Construction	?	?

**McKinney Community Development Corporation
Approved Grants - FY 12**

Category	Grant	Amount
Promotional & Community Events		\$ 100,000
	McKinney COC -- McKinney First! Be Vocal. Buy Local.	\$ (15,000)
	Heritage Guild - Farmers Market and other events	\$ (15,000)
	Heard Wildlife Museum - Nature Festival	\$ (2,000)
	Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association - 2 events	\$ (3,000)
	Kiwanis Club Historic McKinney Triathlon	\$ (5,000)
	Balance	\$60,000
Projects - MCDC Discretionary		\$ 659,529
	City of McKinney/Arts Commision - Arts Master Plan	\$ (35,000)
	McKinney Performing Arts Center - Marquee	\$ (20,000)
	Heritage Guild - Chestnut Square Renovation and Repair	\$ (99,000)
	Heard Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary	\$ (18,335)
	Balance	\$ 487,194
Projects (Capital and Economic Development)		\$ 3,797,646
	Economic Development Incentive Package	\$ (500,000)
	Balance	\$ 3,297,646
Projects - PROS & MPAC		\$ 2,658,352
	Miscellaneous Projects incl MPAC	\$ (2,627,281)
	Balance	\$ 31,071.00
Contingency	Balance	\$ 379,764



Bus services from McKinney, Allen to Plano DART station still stalled

By DANIELLE ABRIL

Staff Writer

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Three years after almost \$1.8 million was approved for an experimental mass-transit link between low-income residents and jobs in several North Texas cities, no wheels are yet in motion.

The program is supposed to provide bus service between McKinney and Allen and the Parker Road Rapid Transit station in Plano. Federal funding took a year, but for 18 more months the project has been awaiting approval by Dallas Area Rapid Transit, which runs the transit station.

Allen and McKinney representatives were careful not to directly blame DART for the delay.

"It's been more than frustrating," said Allen City Manager Peter Vargas. "We've been ready to go for more than two years."

Allen has been waiting on DART to approve access before it can finalize details with its bus service. McKinney secured its service provider early this year.

But the agency is in no rush.

"The DART board is not going to make a quick decision which impacts the agency negatively for years to come," DART spokesman Mark Ball said.

Allen and McKinney are not among the 13 DART member cities and therefore don't pay taxes for its services. Ball said DART has an obligation to first consider the effects on member cities.

DART is concerned about additional riders at the end-of-the-line station, which already exceeds seated capacity by more than 30 percent during peak periods. There is a chance, Ball said, that more Dallas and Richardson riders would be forced to stand, since McKinney and Allen riders would be some of the first to board southbound trains.

In December 2010, McKinney and Allen secured \$250,000 and \$645,000, respectively, from the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The organization provided the federal funds via a so-called Job Access/Reverse Commute grant, which helps low-income people with employment and helps other residents find suburban employment opportunities. The cities invested equal matching funds from their budgets.

Both proposed services were planned to run for three years and would carry riders from employment and retail areas in Allen and McKinney to the DART Parker Road station. After three years, the two cities were expected to decide whether they wanted to expand their relationships with DART.

Sherman-based Texoma Area Paratransit System was expected to operate the McKinney service, which would provide two buses running two morning and two evening routes. Collin County Area Transit was expected to run Allen's service, which would include two buses running at various times throughout the day. The Council of Governments, Allen and McKinney did not have estimates on how many people might be served.

Last year, a JAVRC grant helped fund Arlington's Ride2Work program, which gives low- and moderate-income residents a ride to work. Similarly, in 2006, Hurst, Euless and Bedford used a JAVRC grant to fund HEB Transit, which helps people without cars get to work.

DART's board has asked its staff to develop options that may include access fees. Once ideas have been vetted by the board and member cities, DART will present McKinney and Allen its options, Ball said.

But DART officials didn't always seem so hesitant to participate. In its application to secure funds from the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the city of McKinney included a copy of an email from Daniel Dickerson, DART's innovative-services manager.

"DART is agreeable with the concept and design," Dickerson said in the email about a letter of support.

Last week, Ball neither denied nor supported Dickerson's statement but said DART is focused on figuring out how nonmember cities help fund costs associated with adding riders.

Michael Morris, COG director of transportation, believes the projects were delayed because DART was confusing the requests with those of other nonmember cities such as Mesquite, which was working to extend DART services into its city around the same time. But Allen and McKinney were seeking only access to DART's Plano facility, Morris said.

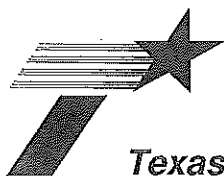
"I believe what held us up was there was some confusion on what [the service] was," said Morris, adding that the Council of Governments spent time explaining the purpose of the service to DART this spring. "We think we've made some headway ... with DART having a better understanding of what this is and isn't."

In March, DART established its first partnership with a nonmember city, Mesquite. An express bus service now shuttles riders between Mesquite's Hanby Stadium and Lawnview Station.

"Our anticipation was once they ... started contracting with other parties, hopefully, that would expedite things" with us, Vargas said.

About 18.3 percent of McKinney residents traveled to Plano for work and 7.6 percent traveled to Richardson, according to a 2004 COG study documented in the application.

"We're approaching this the right way," said Vargas, who expects to have completed negotiations within the next six months. "We just need to get started."



Texas Department of Transportation

News

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TxDOT's four goals: Maintain a safe system, address congestion, connect Texas communities, and be a Best in Class state agency

For Immediate Release

July 12, 2012

Nationwide Study Shows Texas is #1 in Infrastructure and Transportation

AUSTIN – CNBC's 2012 Top States for Business study results are out and Texas is on top. In addition to its overall No. 1 ranking, Texas maintained the top spot in the infrastructure and transportation category for the second year in a row and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) couldn't be more proud.

"Texas stands alone as the leader in economic development and job creation and providing the infrastructure for that activity is a daily undertaking for our team," said Texas Transportation Commission Chairman Ted Houghton. "We are moving forward with multiple mega projects across the state, including the I-35 corridor expansion and I-69 from south Texas to east Texas. Activities like these undoubtedly helped us surge to the top of the ranks."

"This recognition is a good testament that TxDOT has become more innovative in constructing our state infrastructure while continuing to address congestion, connectivity and safety needs," said Senator Tommy Williams, Chairman of the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee. "As chairman, my goal is to look for methods to maintain and fund ongoing and future projects, especially as the state population continues to grow, and I am proud of what we've accomplished in Texas."

According to CNBC, Texas racked up an impressive 1,604 points out of a possible 2,500, with top-10 finishes in six of the 10 categories of competitiveness. Of the 325 total possible points for the Infrastructure and Transportation category, Texas scored 248.

"Texas is making the proper investment in infrastructure and being recognized as a national leader proves we are on the right track," said TxDOT Executive Director Phil Wilson. "Achieving this great honor, however, would not be possible without the hard work and commitment of all TxDOT employees statewide."

Access to all modes of transportation is key to getting products to market and people on the move. CNBC measured the vitality of each state's transportation system by the value of goods shipped by air, land and water. They also looked at the availability of air travel in each state, and the quality of the roads.

"Good transportation infrastructure is vital to achieving economic development in our state. It's nice to see our efforts are paying off here in Texas," said Representative Larry Phillips, Chair of the House Transportation Committee. "We will continue to work hard in the upcoming session to ensure good policy and funding is available to help TxDOT succeed."

"We continuously work with all of our partners to address transportation needs throughout the state—from highways to ports to rail to aviation," Wilson said. "Through the collaboration with local communities, we are able to deliver needed improvements now and provide the foundation for the future."

To read the full report or see the overall rankings of all states in each of the 10 categories, visit <http://www.cnbc.com/id/46413845/>.

For more information, call TxDOT Media Relations at (512) 463-8700.

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Texas Department of Transportation

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail, and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 11,000 employees are committed to working with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas by maintaining a safe system, addressing congestion, connecting Texas communities, and being a Best in Class state agency. Find out more at www.txdot.gov. Fan us on Facebook www.facebook.com/txdot. Follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/txdot.

The LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

Leadership Programs Latest News

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SERVE MCKINNEY Open House Connects Citizens with Service

When you opened the door to the McKinney Chamber of Commerce on the evening of June 21, you immediately noticed that the place was buzzing. What was going on?

It was McKinney citizens doing what they do best - working together to find ways to give back to the community.

The Leadership McKinney Alumni Network and the **McKinney Community Development Corporation** offered the SERVE MCKINNEY Open House to citizens, and they came. Over 100 attendees “shopped” city boards and commissions and non-profit organizations looking for that connection to give back and help affect the future of McKinney.



“Citizen involvement through volunteerism is important to a successful and thriving society,” said Travis Ussery, McKinney Mayor Pro Tem and District 3 Councilman. “The community as a whole is bettered by diversity of interests as well as the individual reward of working to better the City.”

Thank you, McKinney, for making our community the best it can be!



McKINNEY

With Habitat's help, woman rebuilds dream

After losing her job, trailer, she finds fresh start, thanks to blitz

By GLORIA SALINAS
Staff Writer
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McKINNEY — Beads of sweat on Rosemary Congrove's brow are set to roll down her cheeks at any moment. The 63-year-old tugs on a water hose, finds slack and drags it to a freshly planted tree for watering.

She's drenched in sweat from Saturday's early morning sun, but it's a labor of love.

After six years of renting a room out of someone else's home, Congrove, and a crew of 30 North Collin County Habitat for Humanity volunteers, are putting the finishing touches on her new home.

Congrove's home is one of seven McKinney homes, located near downtown, that are part of Habitat for Humanity International's nationwide homebuilder blitz campaign.

"The homebuilder blitz takes place every two years," said Joe Prickett, North Collin County Habitat for Humanity assistant construction director. "It's a nationwide campaign to involve local builders and vendors in the community, and this is our last home of the blitz."

"It's a huge step getting into the position of owning a home, but it's been an amazing trip. Seeing all these people willing to sweat and give up their free time is just a blessing."

Homeowner **Rosemary Congrove**

In 2002, Congrove and 100 other Sanden International employees in Wylie were laid off. Soon after, she lost ownership of her double-wide trailer.

She quickly began picking up the pieces of her shattered homeowner dreams and landed a job as a receptionist for North Collin County Habitat for Humanity. She learned about the homeowner program and applied.

'No guts, no glory'

"I said, 'No guts, no glory,'" Congrove said Saturday. "I applied and was not approved the first time, but they worked with me."

Although the homebuilder blitz program is run by her employer, Congrove took no shortcuts in her determined quest to live in the comfort of her own home. She took monthly budget classes, had a homebuying mentor and became "mentally ready to purchase a home."

"It's a huge step getting into the position of owning a home, but it's been an amazing trip," Congrove said. "Seeing all these people willing to sweat and give up their free time is just a blessing."



Photos by Vernon Bryant/Staff Photographer

Volunteer Dale Casper scraped a window clean as other volunteers put the finishing touches on a new Habitat for Humanity home for Rosemary Congrove on Saturday in McKinney.

Community effort

Since Habitat began building Congrove's home in mid-May, an estimated 500 volunteers have lent a hand in the construction of her home.

Lynda Dodd, 43, sits at the

front door of Congrove's home cleaning the hardwood floors. Dodd lives just a few blocks away from Congrove. She moved into her new home, one of the seven homebuilder blitz homes, two weeks ago.

"I'm divorced with two older

kids, and it's hard; I didn't think I would have the chance to become a homeowner," said Dodd, who is a first-time homebuyer. "I love butterflies, so I say this has been my butterfly experience. I've left my cocoon and I've been able to spread my wings and fly."

Dodd said Habitat is a "program with angels" whose sole purpose is to help families fulfill their dreams.

"Being able to give back and know that it matters to someone is just the heart of it all for me," Dodd said.



Congrove's new home is one of seven McKinney homes that are part of Habitat for Humanity International's nationwide homebuilder blitz campaign.

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