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Interstate 35W project in north Fort Worth receives funding

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced today that the Interstate 35W project, also known as the North Tarrant Express, has received a \$415 million federal loan through the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) financing program. Securing funding for all segments of I-35W has been the top priority of the 35W Coalition since its inception in late 2005, according to the group.

"Today's announcement by the U.S. Department of Transportation of \$415 million in federal support for the reconstruction of I-35W represents a tremendous victory for this region," said Russell Laughlin, president of the 35W Coalition in a news release. "With this funding commitment, we can finally advance the critical improvements along the IH-35W corridor – plans that have been in the works for decades and will have a far-reaching economic impact for not just Fort Worth, but also for the greater North Texas region and the state."

The improvements include reconstruction of sections of I-35W from downtown Fort Worth north and reconstruction of the interchange at I-35W and I-820. In addition, the project proposes to develop multimodal managed lanes to serve the region's public transportation providers.

"I'm thankful that Secretary LaHood and the U.S. Department of Transportation will partner with us on the North Tarrant Express with this significant award," said Bill Meadows, Texas Transportation Commissioner. "This would not have been possible without the constant support of the community's public and private sector leaders."

Plans call for expanding I-35W from Interstate 30 to North Loop 820 by rebuilding existing lanes and adding two new managed toll lanes in each direction. State officials hope the project can be completed by 2017 with federal grants and loans.

The North Tarrant Express, a \$2.5 billion public-private project, will widen North Loop 820 and the Texas 121-183 corridor. Spanning 14.4 miles, the DFW Connector will improve mobility along Texas 121 and Texas 114 through Grapevine, Southlake and the north edge of Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

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