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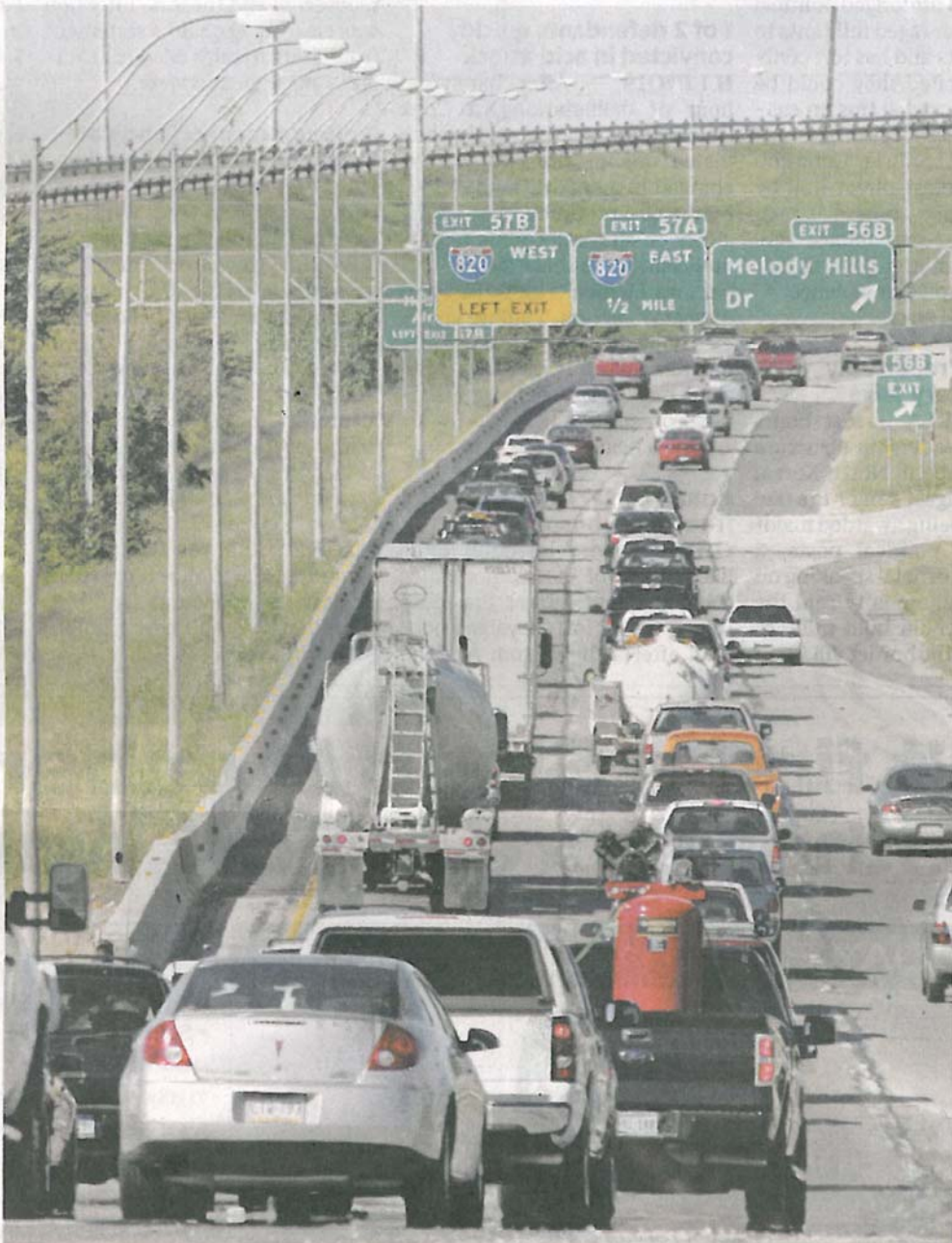
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TRANSPORTATION

Key road project about to get going

In late October, Northeast Loop 820 and Airport Freeway preparations begin.
 Toll lanes and better frontage roads and ramps are part of 4-year overhaul.
 Also: State officials reach tentative deal on plan to revamp stretch of I-35W.



A new agreement on Interstate 35W work includes a makeover of the poorly designed interchange at Northeast Loop 820 and removal of all left-lane exits — and getting those new lanes open by 2017. S-T/Paul Moseley

A \$2-billion-plus makeover of Northeast Loop 820 and Airport Freeway is just around the corner.

The developer of the North Tarrant Express project plans to hold an open house Oct. 27 in Hurst to help people understand how an estimated four years of road work will affect their lives. By late October, motorists may notice crews preparing the roadsides for cranes and other

heavy machinery.

The project includes the reconstruction of existing lanes, the addition of toll lanes, and better frontage roads and ramps.

Also, state officials have reached a tentative deal with a developer to rebuild Interstate 35W from Interstate 30 near downtown Fort Worth to North Tarrant Parkway and to add toll lanes by 2017.

Gordon Dickson, 1B

Online extras

Keep up with traffic news at star-telegram.com/yourcommute
 Honkin' Mad: Stay current on transit happenings at star-telegram.com/blogs

High court may finally resolve A-1 money fight

The fight over money tied to the canceled A-12 warplane has lasted 20 years — more than six times as the contract itself.

Now the Supreme Court has to hear the case, which pits the government against two defense contractors, including General Dynamics, whose Fort Worth unit was to build aircraft. At stake: about \$3 billion.

Debate over guns at colleges now has new urgency

Tuesday's crisis involving a University of Texas at Austin student who shot an AK-47 across campus killed himself has reignited the debate over allowing concealed handguns on college campuses.

The issue, hotly debated by lawmakers two years ago, was expected to be reintroduced in the legislative session. Bill Hanna, 1E

LIVE!



Jimmy Johnson voted off 'Survivor'

The ex-Cowboys coach declared himself the weakest castaway at Tribal Council and was booted by his tribemates. 1E

FORT WORTH



Makeover of NE Loop 820 and Airport Freeway will start soon

■ The North Tarrant Express is a four-year, multibillion-dollar project.

By Gordon Dickson
gdickson@star-telegram.com

With all the talk about the \$1 billion DFW Connector project under way in Grapevine, Tarrant County motorists may not realize that an even bigger project is about to kick off just down the road.

It's the megamakeover of Northeast Loop 820 and Airport Freeway, a \$2-billion-plus job dubbed the North Tarrant Express, which cuts through far north Fort Worth, Haltom City, North Richland Hills, Hurst, Euless and Bedford.

By late October, motorists will see the beginning of work zone preparations, particularly near the always strapped 820/

Interstate 35W interchange, said

Online extra

Keep up with traffic affecting you at star-telegram.com/yourcommute

Robert Hinkle, spokesman for developer North Tarrant Express Mobility Partners.

And as early as 2012, work may begin on another Northeast

Tarrant project — the addition of toll lanes on Interstate 35W from I-30 near downtown Fort Worth to North Tarrant Parkway, just past the U.S. 287 split.

That phase was initially not planned for at least a decade, but on Wednesday state officials announced a tentative agreement with Mobility Partners to add the I-35W work, including a makeover of the poorly designed

More on EXPRESS, 5B

UT case reignites debate on guns

■ The Legislature will probably revisit the question of allowing concealed weapons on campuses.

By Bill Hanna
billhanna@star-telegram.com

Almost before it was over, Tuesday's crisis involving a University of Texas at Austin student toting an AK-47 across campus and killing himself reignited the debate on allowing concealed handguns at colleges.

The issue, hotly debated by Texas lawmakers two years ago, was already expected to be introduced again in the 2011 legislative session.

As the news spread Tuesday, Tarrant County GOP Chairwoman Stephanie Klick tweeted: "Too bad for UT students that Conceal Carry on Campus did not pass during the last legislative session."

Klick said Wednesday that

A big win for home team



Express

Continued from 1B

interchange at I-35W and 820 and removal of all left-lane exits – and get those new lanes open by 2017.

In all, the work on Loop 820, 121/183 and I-35W could total \$3.3 billion, most of which Mobility Partners, led by Spain-based Cintra, would bring to the table.

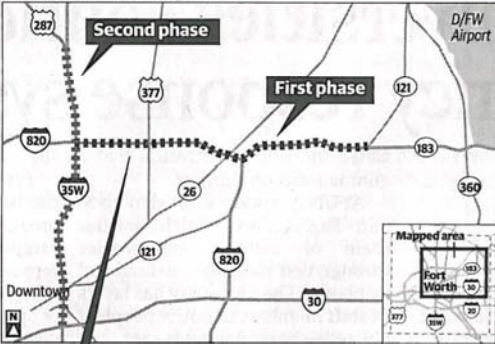
In return, it would keep tolls collected on the project for 52 years. The toll lanes would be all-electronic, and motorists would pay them via a TollTag.

Those without a TollTag would have their license plates photographed and be billed.

Public funds spent on the project would total \$773 million, including at least \$10 million from Tarrant County for right of way and utilities.

Initial work on the North Tarrant Express project shouldn't cause major traffic disruptions,

North Tarrant Express



The first phase of Northeast Loop 820/Airport Freeway expansion is scheduled to begin in late October with completion set for 2015. Negotiations are also under way to expand I-35W by 2017.

Star-Telegram

Hinkle said. "They'll start putting the pad sites down and preparing the sites for heavy equipment and the cranes between now and the end of the year," Hinkle said.

But he said drivers probably won't have to worry about narrow lanes or other obstructions that could significantly slow their commute until late this year or early 2011.

Mobility Partners plans to invite the public to an

open house Oct. 27 in Hurst to make sure area residents understand what to expect during an estimated four years of construction.

Northeast 820 will likely be the first area of the project under construction, during winter, followed by work on Texas 121/183 – aka Airport Freeway – probably in the spring, he said. But at different times during the next four years, several stretches of road could be



Work may begin as early as 2012 on the addition of toll lanes on Interstate 35W from Interstate 30 near downtown Fort Worth to North Tarrant Parkway, just past the U.S. 287 split.

Star-Telegram/Paul Moseley

under construction simultaneously.

The project includes reconstruction of existing lanes, plus two new toll lanes in each direction of 820 and 121/183. Frontage roads, safer ramps and flyovers will also be added.

That work, which totals about \$2.1 billion, is expected to be completed by 2015.

The tentative deal for work on the I-35W toll lanes requires an extra \$135 million in public funds,

possibly from Proposition 14 bonds backed by state gas taxes.

In October, the Texas Transportation Commission will consider the deal.

Texas has a logjam of several hundred road projects because of a shortage of state tax-supported funds. Communities that bring outside revenue to projects can expect them to go to the top of the list of state priorities, one official noted.

"I hold up the creativity

in the Metroplex as an example the rest of the state needs to look at," commission member Ned Holmes of Houston said. "It's very impressive."

Transportation Department officials and some lawmakers have said the state will run out of tax-supported funds for new road work by 2012 and will then use its highway fund mostly for maintenance.

Gordon Dickson, 817-390-7796

CORRECTED SCHEDULE OF CHANGES MADE BY THE CITY COUNCIL TO THE CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED FY2011 BUDGET

On Tuesday, September 21, 2010, the Fort Worth City Council approved the FY2011 Budget Appropriation Ordinance along with the Schedule of Changes. The Ordinance and the Schedule of Changes were both published in the Star Telegram on Saturday, September 25, 2010. The Ordinance as published was correct. The Schedule of Changes was published in error. The Schedule of Changes listed below is the correct Schedule of Changes approved by the City Council at its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 21, 2010.

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES MADE BY THE CITY COUNCIL TO THE CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED FY2011 BUDGET

TPW Department		
Original Estimate	\$52,650,850	(\$38,111)
Revised Estimate	\$52,612,739	
The budget decreases by \$144,000 for the elimination of ERP Phase II backfill packages. The budget increases by \$105,889 for the implementation of vacation buyback.		
Revised General Fund Appropriation Total		\$531,369,924
Net Changes from City Manager's Proposed Budget		\$8,781,093
Enterprise, Internal Service and Special Funds:		
Municipal Airport Fund		
Original Revenue Estimate	\$5,593,621	\$5,163
Revised Revenue Estimate	\$5,598,784	
An increase of \$5,163 in terminal building based on projected revenue for FY2011.		
Original Proposed Appropriation	\$5,593,621	\$5,163
Revised Appropriation	\$5,598,784	
The budget increases by \$5,163 for the implementation of vacation buyback.		
Municipal Golf Fund		