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The Challenges of Mobility



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Dear NFW Friends,

With the first part of 2008 under way, Fort Worth continues to be a city with many opportunities and many challenges. The most pressing challenge is that of mobility.

The City Council is moving forward with a \$150 million bond package to fund neighborhood and arterial street improvements. This package will be presented to voters in May. Unfortunately, the '08 bond isn't enough to fix approximately \$636 million in existing arterial street needs, \$770 million in future arterial street needs and \$335.3 million in existing neighborhood street needs.

To develop both a short- and long-term plan for dealing with streets, the city manager created an Infrastructure Study Group comprised of stakeholders from across the city. North Fort Worth neighborhoods are well represented by citizens as well as board and commission members.

As the new chairman of the Infrastructure and Transportation Council Committee, I can tell you that the members of this

committee and the entire council are pressing hard for mobility enhancements.

There are also many mobility challenges that require state and federal assistance. Fort Worth needs a modern mass transit system, including commuter rail, light rail or streetcar trolley systems. Additionally, our region is in great need of major freeway improvements along I-35W North, Loop 820, SH 170, SH 114, Southwest Parkway, I-30, etc. The City Council will continue to work with our regional, state and federal partners on these and other projects.

According to projections, our population will surpass one million people by 2030 and 140,000 more vehicles will take to roadways. Adding roads alone won't solve overcrowding or improve air quality. The city must look for other solutions.

The Mobility and Air Quality (MAQ) Plan will help city leaders select the



best roadway and transit options to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution well into the future. In order to move forward, we must address current needs while at the same time planning for the future.

As 2008 continues, we extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the residents of District 2 for helping us keep our district on the front burner. Together, we have accomplished much. We hope that you find our newsletters informative and helpful as we continue to make Fort Worth a better place for ourselves and for our families.

Moving forward together;

Sal Espino
District 2 Councilmember

Voters to consider bond package for streets in May

Periodically, the Fort Worth City Council presents bond packages to voters to keep pace with the city's continued infrastructure needs. The Fort Worth City Council recently formulated a bond program to present to voters this spring. Election Day is May 10.

The 2008 bond is valued at \$150 million. If approved by voters, it will fund street improvements across the city over the next four years.

There are more than \$1 billion worth of existing street needs for some 74 arterial roads and 479 lane-miles of neighborhood streets in Fort Worth. To begin chipping away at these needed improvements, the proposed 2008 bond program will be spent on reconstructing high-priority streets and arterials, replacing traffic signals and improving intersections and bridges.

The bond does not cover routine street maintenance, which is included annually in the city's operating budget (approximately \$15 million in this year's budget).



Normal street maintenance includes anything from filling pot holes to repaving an entire street.

However, full reconstruction is needed when streets deteriorate to a point where maintenance is no longer cost effective. Working with council members and citizens, city staff used a number of criteria to assess which streets require the most urgent attention.

Arterial streets are ranked

according to safety, congestion, citizen feedback, mobility and others. Neighborhood street consideration takes into account safety and citizen feedback, but also includes evaluation of drainage concerns.

The proposed 2008 bond package calls for:

- \$81 million for arterial streets
- \$33 million for neighborhood streets
- \$22.2 million for bridges
- \$5 million for traffic signals
- \$3.3 million for transportation grant matches
- \$3 million for public art
- \$2.5 million for intersection improvements

If approved in May, the 2008 bond package will complement the \$150 million critical capital needs package that was approved by council last year.

To find out about specific improvements included in the 2008 bond program, visit the Fort Worth Web site at www.fortworthgov.org, or call 817-392-7621 for English or 817-392-8704 for Spanish.

Join the ranks of the Code Rangers

Are you ready to take a stand for a clean and safe neighborhood? Well, the Code Rangers program is looking for a few good citizens like you.

The Fort Worth Code Compliance Department runs the Code Rangers program, which trains citizen volunteers to identify and report code violations. As soon as they graduate the six-hour course, Code Rangers begin inspecting their neighborhoods and reporting specific code violations.

Once a report is received, a

code enforcement officer sends a courtesy notice to the owner of the property where the violation exists, asking that it be taken care of. Rangers then conduct a follow-up inspection; and if the violation still exists the case is assigned to an officer for enforcement.

Rangers patrol for such violations as:

- accumulation of trash and *all* other debris
- outdoor storage of broken and discarded items

- front-yard parking
- garage sales without permits
- broken fences

All of these violations carry potential fines from \$200 to \$2,000.

Boasting voluntary abatement rates of nearly 75 percent since its inception in 2003, the Code Rangers program has dramatically helped reduce urban blight in Fort Worth.

For more information about the Code Ranger program or to enroll in the next course, call 817-392-6573.

Council strengthens dangerous dog ordinance

The Fort Worth City Council unanimously passed new rules that now cover unprovoked attacks on animals as well as humans by unrestrained dogs.

The new dangerous dog ordinance allows for more aggressive enforcement of cases where a pet being walked on a leash is attacked by a free-roaming dog. Animal Care and Control officials hope the new ordinance will emphasize the need for pet owners to be responsible and make sure their dogs are restrained.

According to the new ordinance, a seizure warrant now will be issued after an aggressive dog report is filed with the Municipal Court. After Animal Care and Control seizes the dog, it will be impounded at the animal shelter until the court determines whether it is deemed dangerous.

Once a dog has been declared dangerous, the owner of the animal must comply with certain requirements within 15 days.



The dog will remain in Animal Care and Control's custody until compliance is verified or while any appeal processes are pursued by the owner. If an appeal is unsuccessful, the owner will pay all applicable sheltering fees for this time period.

For more information, call 817-392-3737 or visit www.fortworthgov.org/publichealth.

City bans tethering, chaining dogs

The City Council approved an ordinance banning use of chains, ropes, tethers, leashes, cables or other devices to attach an unattended dog to a stationary object or trolley system commonly known as dog tethering.

A dog still must be confined within a secure enclosure at all times.

The ban, which comes in light of evidence that shows tethering may increase aggressive behavior in animals, strengthens rules limiting the practice that were passed by the state legislature in 2007.

Under the new ordinance, the tethering of dogs still will be allowed under limited circumstances when the owner is present, such as at lawful animal events or city dog parks and during veterinary treatment, grooming, training or law enforcement activity.

Those who violate the new ordinance could face a fine as high as \$2,000. For more information or to report a violation, call the Animal Care and Control Division at 817-392-3737.

Residents asked to help light up Fort Worth

The city of Fort Worth has launched a re-lamping program to light up Fort Worth. Driving on dark streets can be dangerous. That's why city leaders are asking for citizens' help by reporting outages.

Fort Worth has more than 60,000 street lights that must be maintained. Malfunctions include burned out lamps, lights working

intermittently, lights burning during daylight hours or knocked down poles. Last year, crews replaced 127 poles, performed 91 circuit repairs and replaced 4,684 lamps.

"We need neighborhoods to tell us when lights are out or malfunctioning," said Robert Goode, Transportation and Public Works director. "The city has 37 staff to perform all maintenance on

our street-light inventory. If we are to keep the lights burning, we need residents, police and people driving the streets to report outages."

Residents are asked to report street light outages and malfunctions by calling 817-392-8100 or online at www.fortworthgov.org.

Once an outage is reported, repairs can take three to 14 days.

New rental registration program in place

City Council approved changes to the rental registration ordinance that significantly alter the requirements for residential rental property owners within the city.

Starting Jan. 1, the Code Compliance Department began the registration of complexes with three or more rental units (a change from eight or more) and single and two-family rentals with major code violations. Here are the major changes to the ordinance:

One- and two-family rentals (with no violations):

- **Registration is voluntary.**
- Requires out-of-state property owners to designate a local agent to accept legal service and a contact for local emergencies.

One-and two-family rentals (with previous violations):

- Registration is mandatory.
- Annual registration fee is \$200 for one and two-family units with violations.
- Requires out of state property owners to designate a local agent to accept legal service and a contact for local emergencies.

Rental complexes with three or more units:

- Three and above means: three or more units under the same roof (triplexes); three or more on one lot under the same ownership; or three or more units on connecting lots all owned by the same person.
- Annual registration fee is \$24 for the first rental unit and \$8 for each additional unit.
- Requires out-of-state property owners to designate a local agent to accept legal service and a contact for local emergencies.

For more information, contact the Code Compliance Department at 817-392-2572.

New sign ordinance expected to reduce neighborhood clutter

The Fort Worth City Council recently approved revisions to the sign ordinance to cut down on clutter. The ordinance covers the entire gamut of signs one might find in neighborhoods and at businesses. Below is a quick rundown of some of the highlights of the new ordinance:

- Political signs must be located on private property and not exceed 36 square feet, with height limited to 8 feet. Political signs may not be illuminated or contain any moving elements.
- Window signs may not exceed 10 percent of the total window area. Maximum window height for calculation purposes is 15 feet.
- Temporary signs — including portable signs and banners — must be permitted and may be displayed for 30 consecutive days, six times per calendar year.
- Attached signs on commercial and industrial buildings are limited to 10 percent of wall area. Signs



must be no longer than 75 percent of the building's façade.

- All detached signs must be monument signs — which remain close to the ground — unless special permission is granted by the city. Pole signs are prohibited.
- Homebuilder signs will be allowed only in special kiosks at locations to be approved by the city. Homebuilder signs are prohibited on both public and private property until a kiosk program is implemented.
- Subdivision directional signs will be prohibited on both public and

private property until a kiosk program is implemented. Existing subdivision directional signs may remain until the expiration of their permits, but new signs will not be permitted. All subdivision directional signs without a current/valid permit must be removed.

- Electronic “changeable copy” signs require Board of Adjustment approval and are not allowed in residential areas. Electronic text can change only once every 20 seconds. Flashing and blinking is prohibited as it can distract drivers.

The city is currently preparing a request for proposals for a private company to operate a kiosk program. A contract is expected to be awarded early this year. In the meantime, city staff will work with the builders and developers to achieve compliance.

For information and additional rules that may apply, call 817-392-7820.

Need some trees?

Does your neighborhood evoke a sense of place and charm? Do tree-lined streets give you a feeling of home?

Trees enrich our lives by adding beauty and color, and they perform vital functions such as filtering pollution from the air. We enjoy their shade and cooling effects, and trees even help us save energy. They soften the harsh lines of buildings, provide privacy screens and contribute to the general character of a home.

Trees can increase the selling value of properties; and, most of all, planting a tree today will leave a legacy for decades to come.

Your neighborhood can transform from a treeless, hot street into a shady, tree-lined haven. The city of Fort Worth offers a free program to city neighborhoods to create beautiful, beneficial tree-lined streets. The Neighborhood

Tree Planting Program is available to make such a transformation possible.

So, how does one get involved? It's easy. Simply call Forestry at 817-871-5729 to get started.

A representative from the neighborhood must volunteer to become the neighborhood project coordinator and act as a liaison between your community and the forester.

Up to 75 addresses per neighborhood, per season are eligible to receive two free 5-gallon street trees. The trees are provided by city of Fort Worth Forestry and must be planted in the parkway or city right of way (this is often the area between the sidewalk and the curb). Participants agree to plant the trees and water them for up to two years or until the trees are established.

A tree-lined street is in your



future, so what are you waiting for? Call Forestry at 817-871-5729, or visit the Web site at: www.fortworthgov.org/pacs/fwpacsd/forestry/index.htm to learn more about the free street tree program.



New consolidated gas well Web site available

The City of Fort Worth has consolidated all information on gas well drilling into a new Web site to help residents find the information they need in one place. Staff from Communications, Planning and Development, Parks, Engineering and Finance departments met to identify various components

of their operations as it relates to natural gas wells. The goal was to present the information as a topical Web format.

Highlights of the new consolidated gas well site include the ability to:

- See who is bidding to drill on city property
- Learn about the permitting process
- Access pending and approved permits
- Link to other information resources without having to remember which department handles that particular task.

Point your browser to www.fortworthgo.org/gaswells to see the new site.

Residents can improve local parks

Parks are a crucial part of the quality of life we enjoy in our neighborhoods. That's why it's vitally important for residents to be directly involved in making sure parks are meeting the community's current needs.



The Neighborhood Development Program presents communities with a unique opportunity to leverage private resources with city funds for park improvements. The goal of this program is to create a sense of

neighborhood ownership through the construction or replacement of neighborhood park facilities.

The Neighborhood Development Program is funded by gas well royalties received from city-owned

gas leases. Each year, a total of \$100,000 is available for this program. The grant amounts are categorized into three tiers:

- Tier one: \$15,000-\$25,000
- Tier two: \$10,000-\$14,999
- Tier three: \$5,000-\$9,999

Any organized neighborhood or community-based group within the City of Fort Worth, private businesses and nonprofit groups are eligible to

receive matching grant funds to develop local neighborhood parks.

Residents or groups interested in learning more about the Neighborhood Park Development Program may call 817-871-5700.

Revitalize your neighborhood

The Model Blocks Program is the City of Fort Worth's award-winning neighborhood revitalization initiative aimed at building strong neighborhoods, a safe community and a sound economy.

This special program can make a visible impact by concentrating city activities in a predefined area and using multi-year resources of \$2.4 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds.

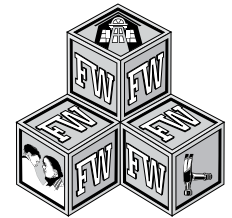
From the inception of the program 15 years ago, 18 Model Blocks have been established. Neighborhoods compete for the Model Blocks award based largely on the following principles:

- *Comprehensive planning and implementation:* Neighborhood residents, assisted by city staff, develop a comprehensive neighborhood plan, including a vision statement, goals, objectives and strategies to implement the plan.
- *Resident empowerment:* The Model Blocks Program fosters

strong neighborhood organization. Residents participate in developing the neighborhood plan and implementing projects. Of the 18 Model Blocks selected since 1993, nine have formed nonprofit community development corporations.

- *Public-private partnership:* Model Blocks neighborhoods work with area businesses, government agencies, banks, nonprofit organizations, housing developers, universities, churches and schools to form the partnerships necessary to effectively solve problems and build for the future.
 - *Leveraging of resources:* The Model Blocks Program has successfully competed for additional funds from various sources beyond the initial allocation. Partnerships with various organizations have also expanded services in these areas.
- The competitive award is made approximately every two years. The proposed area must be located

within the CDBG Eligible Target Areas where at least 51 percent of the residents have low or moderate incomes.



Fort Worth
Model Blocks Program

The sponsoring organization must have bylaws and a steering committee containing at least five residents of the Model Block area who are willing to actively participate during the entire process, including project implementation. Many improvements to the neighborhood can be made, and the priority of projects is set by the participating neighborhood residents. The plan can cover projects in housing, infrastructure and community facilities.

The Home Improvement Loan Program is also a significant part of most Model Blocks programs. These home repair loans are available to income-eligible homeowners who reside in the Model Blocks area.

For more information, call 817-392-7331 or 817-392-7545.

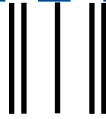
Helpful Numbers

This section is included to help residents find direct access to some of the most needed services.
If additional assistance is needed, please contact District 2 Office.

Report crime or non-emergency requests	Police	817-335-4222
Trash, recycling, brush, bulky waste	Environmental Management	817-392-3279
Barking dogs, animal abuse, dead animal, lost or found pet	Animal Care and Control.....	817-392-3737
High weeds and grass, junk vehicles, debris, open and vacant structures	Code Compliance	817-392-1234 www.fortworthgov.org/codecompliance
Sidewalks, speed bumps, school zones, curbs	Transportation and Public Works.....	817-392-8100
Water service, billing, sewer issues	Water	817-392-4477
Permits, inspections, licensing	Development.....	817-392-7820
Construction services, engineering	Engineering.....	817-392-8306
Housing services, concerns, complaints	Housing.....	817-392-7546




FROM _____




PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FORT WORTH



**CITY OF FORT WORTH
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
DISTRICT 2 COUNCILMEMBER
SALVADOR ESPINO
1000 THROCKMORTON ST
FORT WORTH TX 76102-6311**





Salvador Espino
Councilmember District 2
City of Fort Worth
1000 Throckmorton St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102

We want to hear from you!

Please use this card to send your feedback about pressing issues in our District. You can remain anonymous if you choose. You can also submit comments via e-mail at district2newsletter@fortworthgov.org.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Comments: _____

Neighborhood Association Name: _____