



NE Transportation Summit

February 21, 2014

GRAPEVINE'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE DFW CONNECTOR

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City Manager**

Background

- Area widely known as the “Grapevine Funnel”
- Central Grapevine is a pinch point between Grapevine Lake and DFW Airport
- 7 freeways converge into a single segment of SH 114/121
- Traffic congestion had this segment of roadway at a “F” rating prior to the project

Grapevine Lake

DFW Airport

Imagery Dates: Apr 10, 2013 - Oct 19, 2013

32°55'47.22"N 97°03'54.79"W elev 612 ft

©2010 Google

Eye alt 14.24 mi

Goals

- Protect City's access – entrance and exit ramps
- Protect private property access to frontage roads
- Expedite construction/assistance
- Survival of businesses within the corridor

DFW Connector Project

- Design/Build project owned by TxDOT
- \$1.1 billion funded, 8.4 miles of new freeway with double the previous capacity
- 2 toll managed lanes in each direction (TEXpress)
- Contractor – NorthGate Constructors
(joint venture of Kiewit and Zachry Construction)
- Groundbreaking – February 2010
- Substantial Completion – November 2013
- Final Acceptance – March 2014
(about 9 months ahead of schedule)

Working with NorthGate

● City Liaison

- High level City staff person dedicated to coordination with TxDOT and NorthGate
- Major role in Schematic development (MIS)
- Prepared alternative alignments at City's cost to protect our collective interests
- Frequent meetings with businesses and property owners

Large Scale Public Info Program

- ⦿ A good public information team is critical!
- ⦿ Program run by NorthGate
- ⦿ No shortage of ways to get message out:
 - Website
 - Mobile apps
 - Email & text alerts
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Press releases
 - Electronic message boards
 - Roadside banners
 - Toll-free public info phone line
 - Storefront office
- ⦿ Still on-going for FM 2499 improvements

Business Owners' Task Force

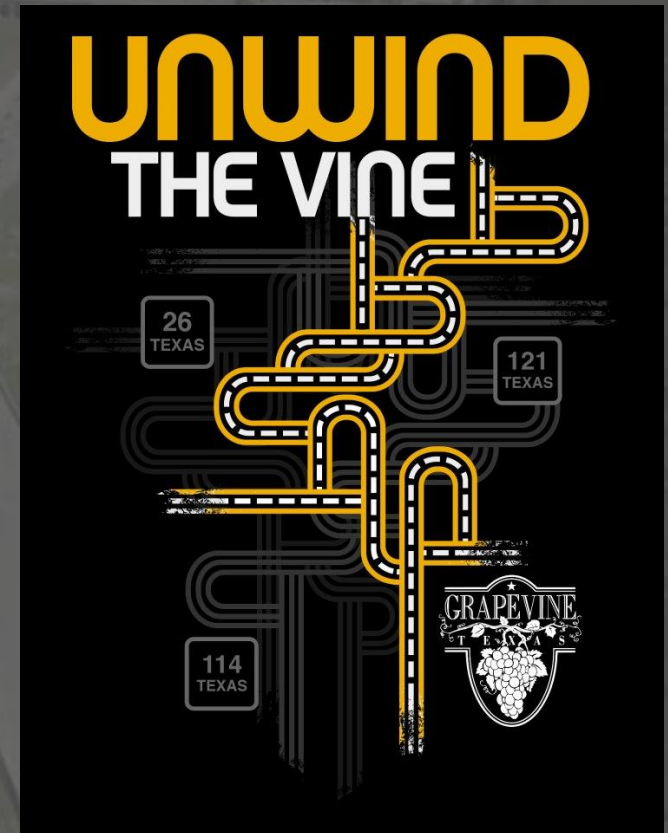
- ◉ Coordinated with the Grapevine Chamber
- ◉ Meetings held monthly
- ◉ Organized by contractor but led by a community business leader
- ◉ Gives business owners another liaison with an “inside track” to project managers if they have concerns
- ◉ Provides an opportunity to head off developing issues before frustrations snowball too much

Executives Meeting

- Meetings held monthly at City Hall
 - TxDOT Project Manager
 - NorthGate Project Manager
 - City Manager / Assistant City Manager
 - Police Chief / Fire Chief
- Serves as a pro-active rather than reactive group
- Important to start these relationships from beginning of project
- Council quarterly updates at City Council meetings with TxDOT & NorthGate key staff

Unwind the Vine

- Chamber of Commerce/ City of Grapevine joint project
- Loyalty program with cards at participating merchants
- Donated prizes raffled monthly



***“The exit may have changed,
but our doors are still open.”***



Questions?