

Commissioner Gary Fickes Tarrant County, Precinct 3

# Northeast Tarrant Transportation Summit



Friday, February 10, 2012

Hurst Conference Center 1601 Campus Drive, Hurst, Texas 76054

www.NETransportationSummit.com



## **Commissioner Gary Fickes**



Tarrant County, Precinct 3

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for attending our 3rd annual Northeast Tarrant Transportation Summit today. Enjoy the program and please don't hesitate to ask questions. Take advantage of this opportunity to speak to the experts about your transportation concerns. We have representatives here from the critical road construction projects taking place in NE Tarrant County plus representatives from some of our cities in Precinct 3.

Our goal is to inform the business owners and citizens of Northeast Tarrant County, about major transportation issues and plans to improve mobility in our area.

After the Summit, if you would like to follow the status of some of these projects, please visit our website at:

#### www.NETRANSPORTATIONSUMMIT.com

and then click on the Contact Information Sheet to reach the appropriate individual for that project or visit their website for updates.

Gary Fickes

# Keynote Speaker



# Phil Wilson Executive Director of TxDOT

Phil Wilson is executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation. Under the direction of the Texas Transportation Commission, he manages, directs, and implements TxDOT policies, programs, and operating strategies. He also represents TxDOT before the Texas Legislature and other entities. He is the department's first executive director since legislation was passed in 2009 removing the requirement that the position be occupied by a professional engineer.

Before joining TxDOT on Oct. 17, 2011, Wilson served as senior vice president of public affairs and as a corporate officer for Luminant, Texas' largest electric generation company. In 2007, Gov. Rick Perry appointed Wilson as Texas' 106th Secretary of State. In that position, he was the chief elections officer and the chief international protocol officer for Texas. His responsibilities also included maintaining business and public filings and acting as the governor's chief liaison on border and Mexico affairs. Wilson also served as the chair of the Governor's Competitiveness Council and on the Texas Border Security Council.

His public service includes more than 10 years as a key aide to U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm. Wilson also served Governor Perry in several senior roles finishing as his deputy chief of staff. Wilson oversaw the governor's initiatives on economic development and job creation in this role.

Wilson grew up in Brownwood, Texas. In 1990, he graduated from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene with a bachelor's degree in political science and history where he was named the outstanding graduating man. Wilson also earned a master's degree in business administration from the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Wilson lives in Austin with his wife Kristen and their son.

## **AGENDA**

## 8:30 REGISTRATION

## 9:00 WELCOME

Commissioner Gary Fickes Congressman Michael Burgess

### **Seminar #1** Status of Commuter Rail in North Texas -

Jungus Jordan, Council Member City of Fort Worth Richard "Dick" Ruddell, President - The T Gary Thomas, President - DART James "Jim" Cline, President - DCTA

# Seminar #2 Partnerships and Processes for Successful Road Projects -

Michael Morris, Director of Transportation NCTCOG Christie Gotti, NCTCOG Brian Barth, TxDOT Fort Worth Renee Lamb, Tarrant County Doug Wiersig, Fort Worth Elizabeth Mow, NTTA

## **Seminar #3** Regional Transportation -

Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price

## 11:45

## **LUNCHEON**

## **Introductions**

Commissioner Gary Fickes

#### **Invocation**

Representative Todd Smith

## Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bob Golden

## Recognition

Commissioner Gary Fickes

## **Highway Updates**

**DFW Connector ...... Kristen Schropp** 

Public Information Coordinator, NorthGate Constructors

North Tarrant Express ...... Robert Hinkle

Director of Corporate Affairs, North Tarrant Express

## **Keynote Speaker**

Phil Wilson, Executive Director of TxDOT

## **Closing Remarks**

**Commissioner Gary Fickes** 

## **SEMINARS**



## Regional Commuter Rail

**Jungus Jordan Councilmember, City of Fort Worth** 

First elected to the City Council in June 2005, Jungus Jordan represents District 6 in the far south and southwest portions of Fort Worth. He was re-elected to his fourth term of office on May 14, 2011.

He is a Fort Worth native who was born at Carswell Air Force Base, received a Bachelors Degree in Economics from TCU and a Masters Degree in Management from Webster University. He is also a graduate of the Management Executive Program at Cornell University.

Following his retirement from the United States Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel, Mr. Jordan worked as a development officer at TCU, then as vice-president of Marketing and Business Development for the Eurpac Service Company, and now works part time for Cook Children's Hospital.

Jordan represents Fort Worth on the Texas Municipal League Board of Directors, the North Central Texas Clean Air Steering Committee, is the secretary/treasurer of the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition, and is the chair of the RTC.



#### DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit)

Gary Thomas President/Executive Director

Gary C. Thomas is president/executive director of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). The Board of Directors named him to that position August 3, 2001. As president/executive director, Thomas is

responsible for a 13-city transit system over a 700-square mile area with bus, light rail, commuter rail, paratransit and high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane services. He administers the goals and policies of the DART Board of Directors, including the largest public transit expansion in North America. He also directs the agency's top managers and approximately 3,300 employees, emphasizing a strong customer focus to ensure that transit riders and taxpayers receive the best transit service available. He works closely with member city governments and the public in developing short- and long-term transportation and mobility goals.

Thomas joined DART in November 1998. Previously, he had led DART's General Engineering Consultant's design of the original light rail system as LAN Program Manager from 1996 until 1998. He was a consulting engineer for 19 years prior to joining DART. He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Bachelor of Architecture from Texas Tech University.

## **SPEAKERS**



#### The T (Fort Worth Transportation Authority)

## Richard "Dick" Ruddell President/Executive Director

Dick Ruddell is the President/Executive Director of the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T). The T has 150 buses in fixed route service and 30 vans used in MITS, paratransit service

for the disabled and along with the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), jointly operate the Trinity Railway Express (TRE).

Mr. Ruddell was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas. He received his bachelor's degree from Wichita State University with a major in Psychology. He also earned a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Urban Studies from Wichita State University.

Mr. Ruddell served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army and earned a Bronze Star while serving in Vietnam. He worked for the Wichita Metropolitan Transit Authority for 12 years, served as General Manager of the Topeka Kansas Transit Authority for five years and as General Manager of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority in Toledo, Ohio for 14 years.

Mr. Ruddell is Vice President of the South West Transit Association and is the Vice President for Metro's on the Texas Transit Association Board. He also serves on the Board of the Tarrant County United Way, Downtown Fort Worth Inc., and the American Public Transportation Association and has been a Rotarian for over 20 years.



## DCTA (Denton County Transportation Authority)

## James "Jim" Cline President/Executive Director

Jim Cline is President of the Denton County Transportation Authority. He joined the authority on March 1, 2010. Jim Cline is well-known throughout the North Texas region having served as a

Director for the City of Irving prior to joining DCTA. A registered Professional Engineer in the state of Texas, Jim Cline has been heavily involved in the implementation of Dallas Area Rapid Transit's Orange Line including resolution of key design, construction, right-of-way and funding issues. He also worked closely with the Trinity Railway Express and the Federal Railroad Administration on crossing related issues within the City of Irving. He previously served on the board of the Upper Trinity Regional Water District and the Surface Transportation Technical Committee.

A 27-year veteran of the Texas Army National Guard, Jim Cline just returned from a twelve month deployment in Afghanistan where he served as the Commander of the 386<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion. He has completed extensive military leadership and officer's training. He was a Distinguished Military Graduate, graduating Cum Laude from Texas A&M University where he also received his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering.

A Denton County resident, Jim resides in north Carrollton.

## **SPEAKERS**



## Partnerships and Processes

Michael Morris, P.E. Director of Transportation, NCTCOG

Michael Morris has been on staff in the Transportation Department of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area, since 1979. The Metropolitan Planning Organization serves the region by developing transportation plans and programs that address the mobility needs of a rapidly growing metropolitan area. Mr. Morris became the Director In 1990. As the Director of Transportation, Michael is also responsible for coordinating plans, programs, and projects to improve mobility and reduce vehicle emissions.

Mr. Morris received his Masters in Civil Engineering from State University of New York at Buffalo in 1979 and is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. Several groups including the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and the Texas Transportation Commission have recognized him. He previously served as the Chairman of the Transportation Research Board Executive Committee and a National Associate of the National Academies.

## **Panel Members**

#### Christie Gotti NCTCOG

Multimodal Transportation Improvements (Haslet/Denton County) [includes relocation of BNSF, FM 156, & extension of Alliance Runway]

#### Brian Barth TxDOT Fort Worth

SH 26 from SH 114 to Cheek-Sparger

Renee Lamb Tarrant County

FM 1938 from SH 114 to FM 1709

**Doug Wiersig Fort Worth** 

City of Fort Worth Maintenance Program

Elizabeth Mow NTTA

SH 170 from SH 114 to IH 35W

## **SPEAKERS**



## Regional Transportation

#### **Betsy Price** Mayor, City of Fort Worth

Betsy Price, a Fort Worth native, was elected as the 44th Mayor of the City of Fort Worth June 18, 2011.

A successful business owner for 17 years, Mayor Price began her career in public service as Tarrant County Tax Assessor in 2000 and quickly used her business experience to make her department one of the most efficient in Texas, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

Mayor Price has been a leader in Cowtown's business, government and community service groups all her life — from Sunday school, the PTA and Camp Fire Girls to serving as Vice President of the Red Cross and board member of the Police Department's Bike Officers Citizen Support Club, as well as professional associations.

After graduating from Arlington Heights High School, she earned a science degree in biology at the University of Texas in Arlington. Before being elected to office, she owned Price Cornelius Title Service.

## **DFW Connector**

#### Kristen Schropp Public Information Coordinator, NorthGate Constructors

Kristen Schropp is the Public Information Coordinator for the \$1 billion DFW Connector project. She is a TCU graduate with a degree in Marketing and Modern Language Studies. Kristen started

working for NorthGate Constructors, a Kiewit-Zachry joint venture, in the Public Information office in June 2009. Since then, Kristen has helped to establish a framework for public outreach with project stakeholders, local businesses and more than 175 thousand daily commuters. She works to keep them informed about traffic impacts and update them on project milestones.

## North Tarrant Express

## Robert Hinkle Director of Corporate Affairs for NTE Mobility Partners

Robert Hinkle is currently the Director of Corporate Affairs for North Tarrant Express Mobility Partners, LLC. He oversees the

day to day operations of government and media relations and the implementation of stakeholder communications and community outreach for the northeast Tarrant County infrastructure project.

Hinkle has worked with corporations throughout the US on strategic, crisis and litigation communications in the oil and gas and mining industries, healthcare, security and manufacturing. He led a team in Bogota, Colombia for the US Department of Defense in developing crisis communications strategies, internally and externally, for the Colombian Presidencia and Ministry of Defense.

He also ran the day-to-day operations of the International Media Office in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia and subsequently Kuwait City during the Gulf War. He coordinated strategies and media outreach between the US military and the governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. In addition, he has worked on political campaigns and crisis communications efforts in Africa, Eastern Europe and the Far East.

## Northeast Transportation Groups

Transportation for Area Seniors

As you are aware, mobility is the key factor in obtaining medical, social, and basic services for many senior citizens. We are fortunate to have several organizations in Northeast Tarrant County that organize volunteer drivers and their vehicles to provide this service.

As a result of your involvement with the Northeast Transportation Summit, we are able to provide supplemental funding to five of these non-profit organizations. Following is a brief description of each organization.

#### Call A Ride Southlake – callaride@hotmail.com



CARS provides dependable service with volunteers who supply their vehicle, time, and gas for senior citizens and handicapped citizens in Southlake to medical facilities within a 25-mile radius from Town Square and a 7-mile radius for many other trips. CARS was established in 2000.

#### HEB Transit - www.hebtransit.org



HEB Transit was created to provide door-to-door service for disabled citizens and those 65 and older in the Hurst Euless Bedford area. It is administered by NCTCOG in partnership with United Way of Tarrant County, the cities of Hurst, Euless and Bedford and multiple faith-based organizations. HEB Transit was established in 2006.

#### Mid-Cities Care Corps – www.midcitiescarecorp.org



MCCC is a private Texas non-profit corporation capable of providing dependable transportation services to senior citizens age 65 and over and 60 or older with a disability, throughout Northeast Tarrant County, without income qualification. Services are provided by volunteers who supply their own vehicles, time, and gas. MCCC was established in 1981.

#### North East Transit Service – www.chisholmtrail.redcross.org



NETS is administered by the American Red Cross and provides transportation services for senior and disabled citizens in Northeast Tarrant County for medical appointments and treatment. NETS was established in 2002.

#### <u>Social Transportation for Seniors – stsride@yahoo.com</u>



STS provides a volunteer driver program for seniors 62 years and older in North Richland Hills by providing non-emergency transportation for leisure and social activities with the purpose of re-engaging isolated seniors back into the community. STS was established in 2002.

# Thank you to our area Chambers of Commerce who assisted with the registration for this event!

- Colleyville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce
- Grapevine Chamber of Commerce
- Hurst Euless Bedford Chamber of Commerce
- Keller Chamber of Commerce
- Northeast Tarrant Chamber of Commerce
- Northwest Metroport Chamber of Commerce
- Southlake Chamber of Commerce



## **Staff of Commissioner Gary Fickes**

Tarrant County, Precinct 3

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