

Rider Scott named new DRMC executive director



3:42 PM Fri, Mar 05, 2010 | [Permalink](#) |
Rodger Jones/Editorial Writer



The **Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition** today named the well-connected Rider Scott as its new executive director.

Scott has worked in key government roles from Austin to Washington, as a lawyer representing North Texas cities and counties, and as an Austin lobbyist with a long list of clients.

The DRMC voted to authorize the governance committee to negotiate a personal services contract with Scott, who will serve as director while keeping his law practice as a partner in the Collin County office of Strasburger & Price.

From the DRMC news release:

Scott brings to the DRMC 30 years of legal experience and leadership gained from every level of government service, from local to federal agencies. "Rider is one of the most knowledgeable leaders in Texas when it comes to high-stakes transportation issues and government affairs, and we expect his insight and experience to help take the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition to a new level of performance," said Rob Franke, co-chair of the DRMC and mayor of Cedar Hill. "We look forward to drawing on Rider's deep expertise to forge powerful partnerships and to help our region achieve its most important transportation policy and funding objectives on a local, state and national level."

Scott previously served as first assistant district attorney for Dallas County, as general counsel and chief of staff to Gov. William P. Clements, Jr. and as a special assistant to U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr in Washington, D.C., before returning to Dallas to enter the private practice of law.

His 2010 list of lobby clients from the Texas Secretary of State's office includes: the city of Celina, city of Willow Park, Clear Creek Watershed Authority, Collin County, Denton County, Dallas County Schools, Dave & Busters Inc., Denton County Transportation Authority, Destroyers Inc., Las Colinas Association, and the North Texas Crime Commission.

The DRMC represents the interest of Dallas, Collin, Denton, Rockwall and Ellis counties. It is the counterbalance to the **Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition**.

The twin advocacy organizations mirror the twin TxDOT districts based in Dallas and Fort Worth. Does it sound like there's a traditional rivalry here?

Of course, and it's heating up some with the North Texas Tollway Authority's coming decision whether to take on **the Southwest Parkway-Chisolm Trail project** -- the first toll road that the agency would build in Tarrant County (with part of it in Johnson). One beef in the east is that tolls collected over here will be helping to finance roads in the west -- much like tolls collected on the North Dallas Tollway helped push the road into Collin County.

The Southwest Parkway question is a huge deal on the west, as our friends at **the Fort Worth Star-Telegram would tell you**. They just don't want any more playing around.

Some people on the Dallas side think that Tarrant County has the edge now, because Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley chairs the policy-making **Regional Transportation Council** this year; the metroplex's representative on the Texas Transportation Commission is **Bill Meadows**, a former Fort Worth City Council and NTTA board member; and Gov. Rick Perry's appointment to the NTTA (which must be from an adjacent county) is **Robert Shepard from Weatherford**, which adds weight to the west.

The east added muscle today.