



**Texas Department of Transportation**

# News

125 E. 11th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2483  
(512) 463-8700 FAX (512) 463-9896

TxDOT's six goals: Prepare for the future; Enhance safety; Maintain the transportation system; Relieve congestion; Enhance connectivity; Work with our partners to identify funding strategies

**For Immediate Release**

**August 18, 2011**

## **MY 35 Wins National Transportation Award for Public Involvement**

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) MY 35 public involvement effort won the 2011 National Transportation Public Affairs Workshop (NTPAW) award for best public involvement approach. The award was presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> annual NTPAW Conference held in Des Moines, Iowa and sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

MY 35 is a transportation planning process that enlists local citizens' help to plan for major highway corridors in Texas. The effort is led by the I-35 Advisory Committee and four I-35 Segment Committees. These committees are made up of volunteer citizens who represent counties, cities, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the Texas Farm Bureau, chambers of commerce and others with a vested interest in improving mobility and safety along I-35.

Earlier this year, the I-35 Advisory Committee presented a product of their work with the public to the Texas Transportation Commission, the MY 35 plan for I-35 development. More information on the MY 35 effort is available at [www.my35.org](http://www.my35.org).

"I couldn't be more pleased to see TxDOT win an important award for the way it has implemented public involvement for MY 35," said Texas Transportation Commissioner Bill Meadows. "The citizen-driven effort has turned I-35 into an interstate where everyone has a say, and it's good to be recognized for using this approach."

"The MY 35 planning effort truly is a citizen-led, grassroots planning process that operated from the ground up," said Tim Brown, I-35 Advisory Committee Chair and Bell County Commissioner. "The Segment Committees examined challenges along I-35 at the local level, allowing the Advisory Committee to develop a comprehensive plan for the future on I-35."

NTPAW is the annual conference of AASHTO's Subcommittee on Transportation Communications. The subcommittee is made up of public affairs professionals from the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. It promotes excellence in communications through the exchange of ideas and educational programming, presents annual skills awards, and advises other committees on communications issues.

-30-

For more information call TxDOT's Government & Public Affairs Division at (512) 463-8700.

### **The Texas Department of Transportation**

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its approximately 12,000 employees strive to empower local leaders to solve local transportation problems, and to use new financial tools, including tolling and public-private partnerships, to reduce congestion and pave the way for future economic growth while enhancing safety, improving air quality and preserving the value of the state's transportation assets. Find out more at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov). Fan us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/txdot](http://www.facebook.com/txdot). Follow us on Twitter [www.twitter.com/txdot](http://www.twitter.com/txdot).