

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Two Councils look to future area transportation needs *Prosper and Celina taking hard look at looming traffic concerns*

PROSPER (January 14, 2016) Resolutions by adjoining municipalities are calling attention to the need for establishing a long-range vision to adequately address the transportation needs of two of the fastest growing areas in North Texas.

“The Town Council of Prosper and the City Council of Celina both passed resolutions that support a strategic look at how traffic movement will be managed in the near future,” said Prosper Town Manager Harlan Jefferson. “The resolutions spell out the need for bold action in defining what will satisfy future transportation needs.”

Among the proposals within the resolutions are the construction or reconstruction of arterial streets and major thoroughfares that serve residents of both communities.

“We know that traffic in the area will increase exponentially for both Celina and Prosper in the very near future, and will continue to increase every year,” said Mike Foreman, Celina City Manager. “The completion of an expanded Preston Road through both communities means that increased development is now a given.”

A number of major residential and commercial developments in Celina and Prosper send an unmistakable signal that the tipping point for potential gridlock is within sight. Creating a traffic management plan to address that eventuality, and moving that plan forward, were the motivating factors for the resolutions. Members of both Councils, along with the staffs of both cities, as well as Collin County Commissioner Susan Fletcher have been discussing the topic for some time, and the twin resolutions have grown from those discussions.

Among the recommendations given the nod by both Councils were additional southbound lanes along the Dallas North Tollway, the construction of an overpass along US Hwy 380 over the Dallas North Tollway, and the reconstruction of Frontier Parkway, also known as FM 1461, from two lanes to six lanes from Preston Road to the Dallas North Tollway. The reconstruction will include an overpass on Frontier Parkway over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rails.

Furthest along in the planning is the reconstruction of Frontier Parkway, which will count on several financing streams. The Town of Prosper plans to contribute \$3.65 million toward the total cost of the project. The City of Celina would earmark \$3.97 million of Collin County bond funds allocated to that city for the project. Also, \$4.35 million would come from Regional Toll Revenue funds and \$4 million from the Regional Transportation Council and Collin County.

Design work on the reconstruction of Frontier Parkway is expected to begin following the completion of right-of-way acquisition, project bidding and awarding. A construction schedule has not been developed as yet. In addition, both resolutions also include language that supports the upgrading of FM 1461 easterly from Preston Road to Custer Road, along with further improvements to ancillary roads and streets.

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**ABOUT THE TOWN OF PROSPER** – The Town of Prosper is a fast-growing suburb with small town charm, located 30 miles north of Dallas at the crossroads of U.S. 380, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway in Collin and Denton Counties. Prosper sits on 27 square miles and is home to more than 15,000 people. A home-rule municipality, governed by a council-manager form of government, the town has full-time fire and police departments, including its own dispatch service. As the Town grows to its projected build-out population of 70,000 residents, Prosper’s vision is to remain a “Place Where Everyone Matters.”