

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

## F O R W A R D

### Fort Worth Alliance for Responsible Development

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The Fort Worth Alliance for Responsible Development, FORWARD, has sent letters to the Texas Transportation Commission members asking that a proposed highway in Fort Worth be reviewed.

In the letter, FORWARD asks that the Southwest Parkway project be reviewed on the basis of transportation need. “We are writing to alert you to a potential waste of scarce transportation resources,” it says, “To date, no study that begins with a transportation problem statement and concludes with the proposed solution has been conducted for the project.” The letter goes on to note that the road’s projected traffic could easily be carried by a six lane arterial roadway.

“There are several places in North Texas that are in desperate need of increased road capacity, but funds aren’t available,” said Barbara Koerble, FORWARD Co-chair. “The Southwest Parkway will pull more than \$100 million from TxDOT, but it has never been shown to be anything more than a means to increase development. There is no stated transportation problem that it actually solves.”

Ben Isgur, FORWARD Co-chair, served on the Project Design Team that was assembled to provide public input on the Southwest Parkway. He said while the public process was admirable, the team was not allowed to consider whether the road was needed. “We discussed the design amenities, but we never saw any data that demonstrated how the road would benefit the whole community. That was not part of the discussion,” he said.

“While the Metroplex struggles with air quality problems, Fort Worth is trying to build a brand-new highway that will encourage sprawl and more driving,” Isgur said. “TxDOT needs to be solving real transportation problems, not subsidizing development.”

A portion of the road will be a tollway, Koerble noted, but the tolls will pay for only 25% of the cost. “More than half of the \$300 million price tag for the Southwest Parkway will be paid by taxpayers outside the city of Fort Worth,” she said. “They sit in traffic on roads that can’t be improved for lack of funds. At the same time, they are being asked to pay for an unneeded highway in Fort Worth. It doesn’t make sense.”

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