

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hardy Toll Road Airport Connector Beautification Project **Awarded for Construction**

Houston, Texas (March 5, 2004) - The North Houston Association, in partnership with the Harris County Toll Road Authority, City of Houston - Houston Airport System, Trees For Houston and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is pleased to announce that the Hardy Toll Road Airport Connector Enhancement Project has now been awarded for construction. The project was awarded to HLS Enterprises of Texas for \$1,094,990. This project was selected by the Texas Transportation Commission under the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP)- 2002.

This is not only the first project to let for construction out of the STEP 21 projects, but also the largest landscaping project that TxDOT- Houston District has ever undertaken. This project encompasses just under 21 acres and 30,000 containers of vegetation.

“The project seeks to enhance north Houston’s natural beauty by adding more naturalized, native vegetation and complimenting this with color” said Harris County Commissioner Jerry Eversole “The vegetation also serves to screen unsightly views and provides continuity in the transition from the Hardy Toll Road into the airport.”

“We are so pleased to be participating with the North Houston Association on such an important regional project” added Harris County Judge Robert Eckels. “This project clearly demonstrates that when the public and private sector are in working in concert – good things can happen.”

“We are delighted about the progress of this project and looking forward to the completion of the construction when we will be able to truly showcase north Houston’s assets,” said Senator Jon Lindsay, president, North Houston Association. “This project is very much in line with our purpose and mission and we are fortunate to have a great working relationship with all of the entities involved including the Texas Department of Transportation, Harris County Toll Road Authority and the Houston Airport System.”

Lindsay went on to say that in 1999, the Association merely responded to the request of north Houston residents in developing this project when NHA was contacted by several property owners. This corridor is the gateway to the city and state, and giving consideration to the number of international passengers that are flying into and out of Bush Intercontinental Airport daily, this project will ensure visitors are left with a positive image of north Houston and the region as a whole,” Lindsay continued.

The North Houston Association is a non profit organization that identifies advocates and supports projects and initiatives which advance the business environment and improve the quality of life in North Harris and Montgomery counties.

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