

Airport Mobility Improvements Addressed

North Houston mobility experts convened at the North Houston Association's (NHA) Airport Mobility Panel Discussion to discuss roadway and highway projects that would improve mobility in the Bush Intercontinental Airport area.

Panelists included Don Andrews, city of Houston department of aviation; Harris County Precinct Four Commissioner Jerry Eversole; Wesley Friese, Harris County Toll Road Authority; Paul Gaines, city of Houston department of aviation; Jerry King, Metropolitan Transit Authority; Ed Shackelford, Harris County Precinct Four; and District Engineer Gary Trietsch, Texas Department of Transportation.

At the event, which was held April 18 at the Wyndham Hotel - Greenspoint, panelists were presented with nine projects that NHA identified as priority projects for improved mobility in the area.

James Royer, NHA chairman and moderator of the event, led panelists through a discussion of each project. Issues of project limits, costs, managing agency, timeline, environmental constraints, funding sources and project status were discussed.

The panel discussion is the outcome of 12 months of work by the NHA Airport Connectors Subcommittee, chaired by Roy Hearnberger, P.E.

"The goal of the subcommittee was to develop a consensus of mobility projects that would improve the flow of traffic in and around the Bush Intercontinental Airport area," said Hearnberger.

"The subcommittee met with the city of Houston, city of Humble, Harris County - Precinct Four, Harris County



North Houston Association Chairman James Royer addresses panelists and association members at the April Airport Mobility Panel Discussion.

Toll Road Authority, Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation," he added.

"Twenty projects were identified as a result of these meetings. The information was then compiled and sent to the North Houston Association's membership and the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce, Houston Northwest Chamber, Humble Area Chamber, South Montgomery County Woodlands Chamber and the Tomball Area Chamber to be reviewed and prioritized."

The next step will be for the Transportation Committee to select several projects it considers critical to the area's mobility and follow their progress.

In June, several Transportation Committee members and staff presented one of the nine projects to the Texas Transportation Commission in Austin at its monthly meeting (see related article "Transportation Committee").

Sponsors of the panel discussion included Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc.; Carter & Burgess; Continental Airlines; Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation; Espey Huston & Associates, Inc.; Exxon Land Development, Inc.; Ferro Saylor,

Inc.; Greater Greenspoint Management District; HNTB Corporation; JNS Consulting Engineers; LJA Land Development Engineering & Surveying; Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.; North Harris Montgomery Community College District; Southwestern Bell; The Woodlands Corp.; Turner, Collie & Braden, Inc.; and WSBC Civil Engineers, Inc.

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From the President...

Dear NHA Members:

Although Austin is a beautiful city, I am glad to be home from the 75th Texas Legislative Session. As you are all probably aware, it was a busy session, and Houston had its share of publicity.

Annexation was the hot topic at many committee meetings, and a total of 75 bills were filed relating to annexation. Of these, only five made it to the Governor's desk. Twelve of the 75 were bills I introduced. Three passed the Intergovernmental Relations Committee; these were on voting rights, doughnut hole annexations and limited purpose annexation power in city charter. One made it through Senate and House Committee but died in Calendars - SB 236, the extension of voting rights to annexed residents.

Other popular topics were property taxes and natural resources. I will give an update on the outcome of the session from my perspective at the next NHA Membership Meeting, to be held Tuesday, July 29 at the Hyatt Regency Houston Airport Hotel. Contact the association office to make your reservation.

Senator Jon Lindsay

Space is Limited for NHA 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Space is limited and time is running out to sign up for the 3rd Annual North Houston Association Golf Tournament, to be held Monday, August 25 at Willow Creek Golf Club.

Compaq Computer Corporation is stepping up as the tournament's first Gold Underwriter and Columbia Northwest Medical Center is the Bronze Underwriter.

Harris County Commissioner Jerry Eversole and Montgomery County Judge Alan Sadler are once again serving as honorary chairmen.

Golf Committee chairmen are Bobby Adams, with Turner, Collie & Braden and Virgil Swift, of Swift Energy Company.

Tournament format will be select drive, best ball and each team will be completed by a public official. The tournament will be limited to 144 players, or 36 teams.

"This is the only event the association holds for fundraising purposes," said Marlisa Stanley, executive director.

"Our financial goal in all other events and programs is always to cover our costs."

Tournament contests will include first, second and third place teams, putting and chipping contests, hole in one, longest drive and closest to the pin.

Registration will begin at 10 a.m., allowing golfers time to warm up at the driving range. Contests take place until 11:45 a.m. and shotgun start will be promptly at noon. Boxed lunches will be provided for players on their golf carts.

An awards dinner will follow the tournament at 5 p.m. This dinner serves as the annual meeting of the North Houston Association's membership.

All members are invited to the dinner; contact the NHA office to RSVP.

Several sponsorship levels are still available, including team/hole sponsors (\$800), team sponsors (\$600), hole sponsors (\$250), food, putting green and driving range sponsors (\$500 each). Call 281/875-0660 for more information. ■

Lindsay, Nichols to Speak at July Luncheon

Senator Jon Lindsay, NHA President, will update the association's membership on the 75th Texas Legislative Session, and newly appointed Texas Transportation Commission Member Robert Nichols will speak on his new role at the next NHA quarterly membership meeting.

The luncheon, to be held July 29, 1997, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., will take place at the Hyatt Regency Houston Airport Hotel, located at 15747 John F. Kennedy Boulevard.

Robert Nichols was appointed to the Texas Transportation Commission by Governor George W. Bush in May of this year. The three-member commission formulates plans and policies for the location, construction and maintenance of a comprehensive system of state highways and public roads.

Nichols is replacing former member David Bernsen of Beaumont whose term recently expired. Nichols' term will expire February 1, 2003.

Nichols served as mayor of Jacksonville, Texas from 1985 to 1989 and as city council member from 1980 to 1984.

Between 1975 and 1996, he founded and was chief executive officer for three companies in Jacksonville: Progressive Polymers, Inc., Monarch Products, Inc., and MediVac Corporation. All three companies are still operating in Jacksonville.

He has also served on the boards of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Jacksonville Development Corporation, Nan Travis Hospital and Lon Morris College.

Cost of the luncheon is \$25 for NHA members, \$35 for non-members and \$200 for a table of ten.

Contact the association office (281/875-0660) by July 24 to RSVP.

Economic Development Committee

The results of the Houston Compensation Association 1997 Survey are now available. NHA members may view the results at the association office, or may purchase their own copy. NHA will soon receive a north Houston "cut" from the results, to be used to respond to inquiries from companies seeking north Houston compensation information.

The North Houston Association and many of its members recently took part in the survey conducted by Arthur Andersen L.L.P. for the Houston Compensation Association.

The survey monitors total compensation trends and addresses timely compensation issues among Houston area companies.

In other economic development news, the committee is currently in the process of updating the NHA Aerial Land Use Map.

In June, all NHA member contacts received a copy of the map, along with a letter requesting updated information be forwarded to the association.

The committee expects the map to be available for purchase by January 1998.

For more information on economic

development issues, or to join the committee, contact the NHA office.

Environment Committee

NHA's Environment Committee recently met with Robert Litke, director of planning and development for the city of Houston, to discuss the city's landscape ordinance.

The committee made comments on the ordinance's proposed amendments late last year, and wanted to discuss the ordinance's practical implications.

Litke reported that his department strives to be flexible and work with the

community regarding compliance to the ordinance.

The committee is also currently investigating wetlands and landfill issues.

Transportation Committee

The North Houston Association's Transportation Committee recently made a presentation to the Texas Transportation Commission in Austin in support of a project on the association's priority list of airport mobility projects.

Following the April panel discussion on mobility improvements in the Bush Intercontinental Airport area, the Texas Department of Transportation's District Engineer Gary Trietsch, asked the association to address the Commission in support of the extension of the mainlanes of Beltway 8 at US 59.

The Transportation Committee is also beginning to revise the association's Mobility Update. The Mobility Update Subcommittee, chaired by Jon Strange, JNS Consulting Engineers, has requested input from north Houston chambers of commerce, asking them to provide NHA with their "wish list" of projects to improve mobility in their areas.

NHA's membership will be polled on their suggestions of mobility projects in the near future. ■

North Houston Association Priority Airport Mobility Projects

4 direct connectors US 59 at Will Clayton Parkway
Aldine Westfield Road widening, from Beltway 8 to FM 1960
Beltway 8 at US 59, 4 direct connectors and
extension of Beltway 8 mainlanes
Direct connector from Beltway 8 to Hardy Toll Road
Direct connector I-45 to Beltway 8
Greens Road widening from existing divided
roadway west of Aldine Westfield to US 59
Hardy Toll Road Airport Connector
Lee Road Relocation
Maurycy Street extension (downtown connector)



NHA President, Senator Jon Lindsay, addresses the Texas Transportation Commission as Roy Hearnberger, Carter & Burgess, James Royer, Turner, Collie & Braden, and Jack Drake, Greater Greenspoint Management District (left to right) look on. Jeff Collins, WSBC Civil Engineers, (not pictured) also attended the Austin presentation.

Upcoming Events

Welcome, New Members!

American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) joined the association in May. ABS is a not-for-profit, non-governmental Ship Classification Society chartered by the state of New York in 1862. ABS establishes and administers standards for the design, construction and periodic survey of vessels, offshore drilling units and other marine and offshore structures. The company's primary function is to promote the security of life and property on the seas by ensuring that vessels are as safe as possible within the limits of present technology. ABS is an international organization, operating in more than 80 countries with a worldwide staff of more than 1,510.

Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc. also became a member this spring. Brown & Gay has been providing engineering and surveying services in Texas since 1975. The firm has a staff of more than 60, with 12 registered engineers and

five registered surveyors. The firm was recognized in the Houston Top 100 fastest growing companies in 1995. Brown & Gay offers expertise in land and site development, municipal, drainage, and transportation projects.

Land Use Maps 50% Off!

The North Houston Association's Aerial Land Use Maps are now available at 50% off regular price. Member prices: large map \$5; small map \$2.50; non-member prices: large map \$12.50; small map \$5. Call the NHA office (281/875-0660) to order.

NHA Committee Meetings

Contact the NHA office 281/875-0660 for information on the association's transportation, environment, golf and economic development committee meetings. The meetings are also announced in the weekly "Friday Facts" communication to members.

Special Thanks...

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