



***Transportation:
'Critical Care' Status in Bell County***

- The safe and efficient movement of goods and people in and thru Bell County is critical to Temple, Bell County, the State of Texas and the United States
 - For US and Texas , I-35 is key surface transportation for the country
 - For Temple, it is I-35, I-35, I-35...all our major road projects are tied to it

- I-35 & NW Loop 363
 - About one –third of all the Waco District projects in Bell County are directly related to I-35 (16 of 52)...and I-35 represents about 65% of the total projected budget for all the Waco District projects in Bell County (\$484 million of \$747 million total*)
 - Current, best case timeline for I-35...bid first segments 2012...completion of final segments in 2017
 - Not all segments of I-35 are funded...current cost estimates for I-35 expansion are in the \$780M range
 - NW Loop 363 is inextricably tied to I-35 and must precede I-35 expansion
 - District Engineer has stated that 'I-35 will be closed for extended periods during construction'
 - An alternate I-35 route must be in place to accommodate safety and mobility issues...NW Loop 363 is the alternate, and TxDOT agrees
 - NW Loop 363 project is currently on the unfunded project list...current cost estimates for NW Loop 363 project \$200-300M
 - Other TxDOT Projects are also important to Temple...for example...
 - South Loop 363 Interchange...South entrance to Temple...front door to VA, Temple College...back door to S&W...
 - South Loop 363 Interchange currently unfunded...cost estimates at \$25.8M

- What needs to be done?
 - No single solution...mix of federal and state solutions, to include:
 - at the federal level...the State 'getting it's fair share' from the fed's, and with fewer strings attached
 - at the state level...no diversion of transportation funding...increased funding options, like pass thru financing...focus on existing infrastructure and maximizing capacity of it before building new capacity