



NEWS RELEASE

AUSTIN DISTRICT

Diann Hodges

O: (512) 832-7027

C: (512) 284-1425

Diann.Hodges@txdot.gov

HEY TEXAS, NEED TRAVEL INFO? HERE'S YOUR SIGN

Traffic Management System uses new technology to make I-35 a smarter, more efficient highway for drivers and emergency crews

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May 28, 2019

AUSTIN — Today, TxDOT representatives joined local elected officials, including Texas Transportation Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr., State Representative Celia Israel, Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra, Williamson County Commissioner Cynthia Long and City of Austin Mayor Steve Adler to celebrate the recently completed Traffic Management System Initiative at the Combined Transportation and Emergency Communications Center (CTECC).

The \$11.4 million [Texas Clear Lanes](#) initiative enhances traffic incident management by providing more closed circuit television cameras to spot and clear crashes and stranded drivers, radar detectors to help determine travel speeds and dynamic message signs to relay that information to drivers. The intelligent transportation system stretches along I-35 from Williamson to Hays counties.

“The Texas Clear Lanes Congestion Relief Initiative was designed to find unique ways to get drivers where they need to go safely and quickly,” said Texas Transportation Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr. “This I-35 technology upgrade is like going from a landline to a smart phone and is proof of our commitment to find innovative ways to keep traffic moving in this region.”

Nationally, approximately 20 percent of all traffic incidents are a secondary incident. By using this technology to quickly identify and safely remove stranded motorists from the roadway, the number of these crashes can be greatly reduced, improving safety and mobility. The Traffic Management System is also used to monitor traffic during construction and special events and provide safety, travel and emergency messages to drivers.

“These upgrades will provide drivers with reliable, real-time data to allow them to make better travel decisions when considering routes, travel modes and timing of trips,” said Austin District Engineer Terry McCoy. “By identifying incidents early and deploying assistance, we can significantly increase the reliability of the overall transportation network.”

The Traffic Management System Initiative upgrade began in the fall of 2016 and was completed May 2019.

The Texas Clear Lanes program addresses Texas’ most congested highways, using funding from Proposition 1, approved in 2014 by 80 percent of Texas voters, and from Proposition 7, approved by 83 percent of Texas voters in 2015 for non-tolled transportation projects. I-35 from US 290 to SH 71 is ranked number three on the Texas A&M Transportation Institute’s 2018 Top 10 Most Congested Roads in Texas.



For media inquiries, contact Diann.Hodges@txdot.gov or (512) 832-7027.

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