

**PROJECT NEWSLETTER**  
Summer 2018



# Construction Begins Along The Southern Gateway

The Southern Gateway Project is a \$666 million design-build construction project by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) aimed to rebuild and widen Interstate 35E (I-35E) south of downtown Dallas, as well as widen U.S. 67 between I-35E and I-20, and the I-35E/U.S. 67 split. The purpose of the 11-mile project is to improve safety, provide congestion relief, support traffic operations, address roadway deficiencies and improve system linkage. TxDOT is the principal owner of the project, and Pegasus Link Constructors (PLC) is the design-build contractor. Construction began in early 2018, and is slated for completion in 2021.

The first half of 2018 has brought visible progress on The Southern Gateway Project. TxDOT and PLC broke ground

in February and things quickly got underway. Crews are full steam ahead with significant construction activities planned through the rest of the summer and year.

June brought a lot of hustle and bustle along the corridor including demolition of the 8th Street bridge on June 9 and various utility work, lane closures and detours. In early June, the northbound and southbound HOV lanes along I-35E and U.S. 67 between Reunion Boulevard and Ledbetter Drive were permanently closed to allow for the creation of non-tolled managed express lanes. The non-tolled managed express lanes will open at the end of the project in 2021 and will help ease congestion during peak travel times. Unlike the current HOV lanes, these new limited-access express

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# Construction Update

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lanes will be open, free of charge, to all single occupancy and high occupancy vehicles, and will be reversible to better serve commuters during peak travel times.

In addition to the permanent HOV lane closures in June, the 8th Street bridge at I-35E will also be closed for approximately six months in order to fully reconstruct the bridge. Due to the complete demolition and rebuilding of the bridge, the 8th Street exit on I-35E will be closed until December 2018.

Detours have been put in place along Colorado Boulevard and 10th Street for the duration of the 8th Street closure. The reconstruction of the 8th Street bridge will bring welcomed improvements in the area including widened shoulders along the bridge and southbound-to-northbound and northbound-to-southbound U-turns, all in an effort to improve safety and minimize congestion along the busy overpass.

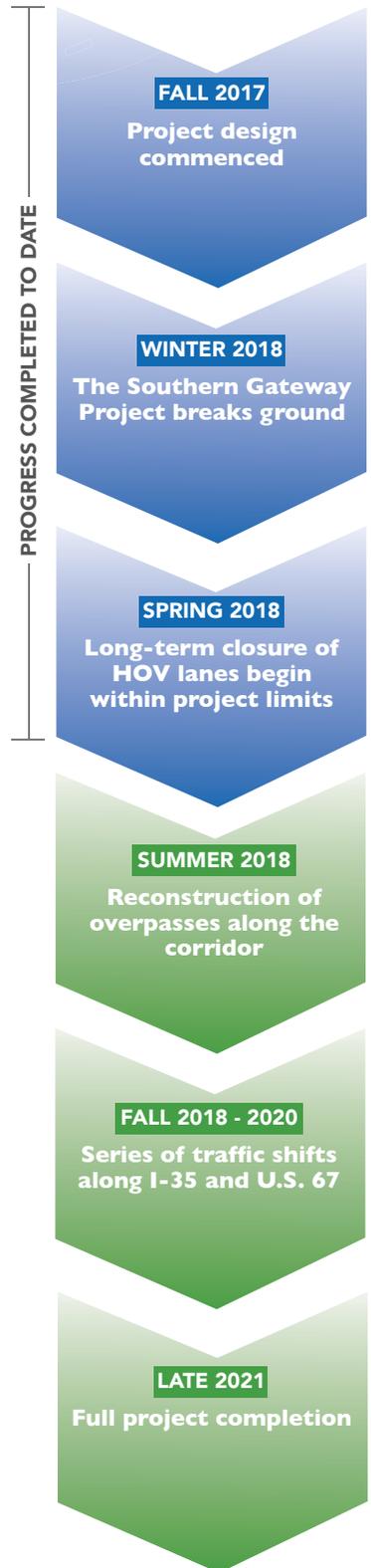
The Beckley Avenue overpass at I-35E is also currently being reconstructed. A long-term closure of the overpass began July 20 and will last about 18 months. In addition, there is a permanent closure of the Zang Boulevard exit ramp from southbound I-35E. Beckley Avenue traffic will use Zang Boulevard, Clarendon Avenue and 12th Street as detours throughout the duration of the Beckley Avenue overpass construction.

Those traveling through the project corridor later this summer should expect construction and closures near or on Brookhaven Drive, Ewing Avenue and Marsalis Avenue. These cross streets will be impacted to allow for new lanes to be added to I-35E and the building of the express lanes.

The Southern Gateway team is dedicated to keeping stakeholders informed through our website, social media, text alerts and e-blasts. To learn more about receiving alerts straight to your inbox or phone, see the back page. As always, please allow for some extra time to get to your destination, pack your patience and pardon the progress.



*Aerial views of construction preparations on I-35E.*



*\*Project timeline is subject to change*

# Community Meeting Recap

The first community meeting and open house for The Southern Gateway was held on April 3 at Townview Magnet High School. Attendees heard an overview of the project, learned more about the design-build concept and were able to talk one-on-one with project representatives. TxDOT and PLC staff were on hand to answer stakeholders' questions and listen to comments. In addition to community members, attendees also included city, county, and state elected officials or their staff representatives.

If you're part of a group that would like to request a speaker from the project, a request form is available online by visiting [www.thesoutherngateway.org](http://www.thesoutherngateway.org) under the Connect With Us tab. Just tell us about the organization or group, how you would like us to participate, the meeting/event information and someone from our team will contact you.



Welcome and sign in table.



Project overview presentation.



Project team members addressing questions.



Attendees viewing project schematics.

# DBE Outreach Event

## PLC hosts first DBE Outreach Event

On March 27, the PLC Project team welcomed small minority, women and disadvantaged businesses to Townview Magnet High School to get an update about The Southern Gateway project and information about the DBE program. Upcoming subcontracting and construction bid opportunities were also discussed. Participants also spoke with TxDOT representatives, along with local and regional small business agencies and resource providers.



Resource partners.



Presentation and procurement information.



Attendees listening to presentation.



The project team and resource partners speaking with DBE firms.



Networking and outreach.



Natasha Harris, Outreach & Recruitment Director with Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses DCCCD location visiting with an attendee.

## Simon Engineering & Consultants Inc.

**It took a very persistent colleague to convince CEO Nikki Simon to start her own engineering and consulting business.**

She wasn't interested at first and would dismiss her colleague's urging, but one day their conversation struck a chord with Simon and she decided to pursue entrepreneurship and Simon Engineering & Consultants Inc. (SEC) was born.

Simon is a graduate of Texas A&M University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. She began her career in the Houston area before transferring to the Dallas area where she has spent the last thirteen years involved in the design of a variety of transportation projects. These projects include the structural design of retaining walls and bridges for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Light Rail Starter System, as well as various roadways, water and sanitary sewer design projects. As part of the General Engineering Consultant (GEC) team for the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA), Nikki's most recent role was serving as Deputy Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) manager; providing oversight of NTTA CIP projects.

SEC is one of the subcontractors for PLC on The Southern Gateway Project. SEC is providing design of waterline relocations in three separate areas within the project. It's the first time SEC has directly worked with a contractor or a design-build project; an opportunity Simon says provides valuable experience for her company.

SEC has been in operation for 8 years and has earned many awards in that time. Some accolades are Collin County Business Press' Top Collin County Area Women-Owned Business and DiversityBusiness.com's Top Emerging Business of America. Simon lives by the motto perseverance pays off.

Active participation in her profession and her community are very important to Simon. She served two consecutive terms (2012-2015) as the President of the Greater DFW chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar; an organization devoted to advancing women in transportation. She served as the 2015-2016 President of the Frisco Sunrise Rotary Club and she currently serves on the City of Frisco Parks and Recreation Board of Directors. Nikki is also the current Vice President of the Board of Directors for North Central Texas InterLink, Inc., an organization that serves to bridge the gap between industry and educators, helping guide curriculum development to meet industry needs.



**Nikki Simon**



*Simon and her husband Blake, SEC's VP of operations and project manager, review plans.*

# Employment Opportunities

The Southern Gateway Project is a \$666 million design-build construction project by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) aimed to rebuild and widen I-35E south of downtown Dallas, as well as widen U.S. 67 between I-35E and I-20, and the I-35E/U.S. 67 split. TxDOT is the principal owner of the project, and Pegasus Link Constructors (PLC) is the design-build contractor. PLC has various opportunities available for craft and skilled labor positions.

## To Apply:



### Visit us

Fill out an application at:  
160 Continental Ave.  
Dallas, Texas 75207  
Hours: 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.



### Call

Call the job line:  
972-421-2342



### Email Resumes

Send your resumes to:  
jobs@plcgv.com

# Subcontracting Opportunities

Below is list of upcoming subcontracting opportunities on The Southern Gateway Project.

- Erosion Control
- Painting
- Concrete Flatwork
- Guardrail
- Seed/Sod and Landscaping

## Contact:

Adrienne Williams  
972-421-2343  
adrienne.williams@plcgv.com



# Groundbreaking Highlights

On February 28, community leaders and transportation officials gathered to officially break ground on The Southern Gateway project. TxDOT officials, along with the Texas Transportation Commission, State Senator Royce West, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings and a host of other county and local elected officials were in attendance and shared comments to mark the long-awaited occasion.

Despite the rainy day, attendees' attitudes weren't dampened about the excitement surrounding the beginning of the project. Many community leaders noted that the improvements will help make southern Dallas County more attractive for development and growth. The groundbreaking came to a close with a ceremonial turning of the dirt.

**“This project, along with others we’re building across the state are part of Governor Abbott’s directive to the Transportation Commission to ease traffic jams in our major metropolitan areas.”**  
- Texas Transportation Commission Chairman  
**J. Bruce Bugg**



The Ceremony Stage.



From left: Cedar Hill Mayor and Chair of the Regional Transportation Council Rob Franke, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, TxDOT Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr. and State Senator Royce West.



Many entities worked together to make the project happen.



Attendees meet and greet during ceremony.

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[www.thesoutherngateway.org](http://www.thesoutherngateway.org)