



Victor Vandergriff steps down from North Texas Tollway Authority board

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Published: 16 January 2013 11:42 PM

Arlington businessman Victor Vandergriff announced his resignation from the North Texas Tollway Authority board Wednesday, nearly 15 months after stepping down as board chairman in the midst of a fight over the authority's reliance on high-dollar consultants.

However, in contrast to the chaos that surrounded his decision to relinquish the chairmanship, Vandergriff said "things are in very good shape" at NTTA as he left the board for good.

"Much of what I was striving and pushing for got done," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

For nearly two years as board chairman, Vandergriff led an effort to lessen NTTA's reliance on "legacy firms," contractors who worked for generations as the agency's lawyers, financial advisers and engineers. Vandergriff argued that NTTA was paying its consultants millions of dollars for work that could have been done in-house.

"Look around the room at board meetings. Three-quarters of the room are consultants," he said in 2011.

That same year, he chose not to seek a second term as board chairman, saying he didn't have support from a majority of the board.

NTTA has since adopted a more competitive bidding process for consultant work. Speaking last week to the editorial board of *The Dallas Morning News*, the current board chairman, Kenneth Barr, said the agency has "come a long way."

Vandergriff agreed, praising the agency for revamping its procurement process, broadening the number of firms it uses, and adopting other reforms.

Vandergriff's term technically expired in September, but he stayed on to help arrange financing for an extension of State Highway 360 south of Interstate 20 in Arlington. He joined the NTTA board in 2007.

He will continue as chairman of the board of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, an agency created by the Legislature in 2009 to oversee the state's motor vehicle services.

Vandergriff, an attorney, is the son of the late Tom Vandergriff, the auto dealer and former Tarrant County judge largely responsible for wooing the Washington Senators to Arlington in 1972 as the Texas Rangers.



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