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## TxDot proposes to expand Interstate 35 through Denton

by Holly Harvey of *North Texas Daily*

*The end result would be a welcome relief for many commuters.*

The Texas Department of Transportation has made plans to expand Interstate 35 that will impact more than 3,000 buildings and facilities, according to a report by TxDOT and engineering firm HNTB.

The proposed plan would include adding up to two lanes in each direction from San Antonio to Oklahoma at the cost of \$20.7 billion. Funding for the project will come from state funds for Proposition 12 and Proposition 14, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. TxDOT is currently looking for other ways to raise additional funding as well.

Eleven segments of I-35 make up the top 100 most congested roadways in Texas in 2010, and some parts see more than 200,000 vehicles a day, according to a 2011 Advisory Committee Plan for the I-35 Corridor.

The proposed plan projects that expanding I-35 would alleviate congestion, according to the report.

Construction has begun in the Hillsboro and Waco areas, but most of the construction in the project will begin in 2013. The project is expected to take several years.

Pre-political science junior Chelsea Burkett said that commuting to UNT can be a struggle.

“The commute, in short, is awful,” Burkett said. “My house is 14 miles from school, and it can take 30 minutes to get here. Times are worse during rush hour.”

TxDOT officials did not respond to multiple calls from the North Texas Daily.



Photo by Patrick Howard



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