

Web Search by Yahoo!

[News](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#) [Entertainment](#) [Life](#) [Health](#) [Travel](#) [Opinion](#) [Autos](#) [Real Estate](#) [Jobs](#) [Shopping](#) [Classifieds](#)

[Elections](#) [Weather](#) [Traffic](#) [Investigations](#) [Obituaries](#) [Celebrations](#) [Photos](#) [Video](#) [Blogs](#) [eBooks](#) [Contact Us](#) [Subscribe](#)

[Home](#) > [Transportation Blog](#)

TxDOT, city hall will hold open house for S.M. Wright project; plan keeps new road at six lanes

| 1 2 |

| 0 |

[comments \(0\)](#)



By Michael Lindemberger

mlindemberger@dallasnews.com

9:40 am on July 20, 2012 | [Permalink](#)

MORE IN UNCATEGORIZED

[North Texas Tollway Authority spent \\$137,000 trying to keep former executive director's criticisms secret](#)

After a hearing in April, lawyers for the North Texas Tollway Authority learned that they were going to lose a...



The primary aim of the S.M. Wright Boulevard project has always been to eliminate "Dead Man's Corner" on US 175, where C.F. Hawn Freeway (bottom, far right) curves sharply to become S.M. Wright Freeway (vertical line going north towards Dallas). The construction of S.M. Wright divided a community, and residents today hope that plans to downsize the freeway will include plans for revitalization as well. Photographed May 13, 2010.

It looks like efforts by community activists and residents to convince TxDOT to scale back its plans for the new SM Wright Boulevard in South Dallas haven't worked.

The agency still plans to turn the elevated S.M. Wright Freeway into a six-lane boulevard, despite area voices urging it to make it a four-lane local street instead. The smaller configuration would leave room for city-owned, but community-managed land that could be used to foster new businesses in the mostly dead area of town.

TxDOT has in the past resisted the idea, however, because they say even the new, at-grade S.M. Wright will need to carry enough traffic to make it useful for

drivers moving through the area, not just for those who may live and shop there.

The project will be discussed at an [open house](#) Aug. 7 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center's senior citizens building from 5 p.m. till 8 p.m. The address is 2822 Martin Luther, Jr. Blvd.

TxDOT will show the latest plans for the project and answer questions.

The S.M. Wright project involves two phases: Bringing the elevated SM Wright Freeway down to grade and transforming it into a street-level boulevard with heavy landscaping components; and connecting Interstate 45 with US 175.

Doing so will eliminate Dead Man's Corner.



Hank Lawson, seen here at a community meeting in July 2010, helped lead a community effort to convince TxDOT to shrink the new SM Wright Boulevard to just four lanes. Community member Cedrick "Hakill" is at left.

Neighborhood groups have long argued that the reconfigured SM Wright Boulevard should be just four lanes, instead of the proposed six, as they say the right of way that would be saved as a result could be used to foster neighborhood businesses and bring street life back to the neighborhood many feel has been falling deeper into decay ever since the original Freeway was built to run right through the old neighborhood in the 1960s. (Shawn Williams and the Rev. Gerald Britt have weighed in, too.)

But TxDOT has always maintained it's more important to build the road in a way that will accommodate more traffic, and it looks like that's the prevailing view given the proposal that will be discussed at the open house.

The meeting is not a formal public hearing — and that means there will not be a formal opportunity for those in attendance to address TxDOT. Comments can be sent in writing or by fax, and the officials at the meeting will take questions and provide answers in one-on-one settings.

City of Dallas will also be on hand to answer questions.

To send public comments by fax, use the number: 214.320.4470. Written comments can also be mailed to:

Texas Department of Transportation / Attn.: Nasser Askari, PE (SM, Wright Mail) / 4777 E. Highway 80 / Mesquite, TX 75150-6643

More From Dallasnews.com

- Entertainment [D-FW has spoken: Jane McGarry voted favorite local news anchor](#)
- News - Premium [Who is Amber Young? On the hunt for the North Texas Tollway Authority's most wanted scofflaw](#)
- Opinion - Premium [Mark Bittman: You drink too much milk](#)
- Opinion - Premium [Thomas Grugle: My nightmare with the NTTA](#)
- Transportation Blog [NTTA spent \\$137,000 trying to keep former executive director's criticisms secret](#)

From the web

- [Bangstyle](#)
- [The "One Square Meter" House](#)
- [Away.com](#)
- [Creepy Places](#)
- [Environmental Graffiti](#)
- [10 Creepiest Abandoned Water Parks on Earth](#)
- [Styleblazer](#)
- [8 Celebs Who Are Aging Badly \(Michelle Williams, Lindsay, The Jenner Sisters & More!\)](#)
- [BBC](#)
- [Canada's most beautifully built city](#)

What's this?

Comments

Dallasnews.com is now using Facebook Comments, but users of the Education Blog may log in using a few other services, too. To use another service, you first will need to log out of Facebook. Comments are subject to Facebook's [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) on data use. If you don't want your comment to appear on Facebook, uncheck the 'Post to Facebook' box. To find out more, read the [FAQ](#).



Add a comment...

Comment

Facebook social plugin

This entry was posted in [Uncategorized](#) by [Michael Lindemberger](#). Bookmark the [permalink](http://transportationblog.dallasnews.com/2012/07/txdot-city-hall-will-hold-open-house-for-s-m-wright-project-plan-keeps-new-road-at-six-lanes.html/) [http://transportationblog.dallasnews.com/2012/07/txdot-city-hall-will-hold-open-house-for-s-m-wright-project-plan-keeps-new-road-at-six-lanes.html/].