

Tollway plans to drive growth to Greenville

Could the proposed Blacklands Turnpike be the same sort of economic driver for Greenville that the North Dallas Tollway was for Frisco?

The Texas Turnpike Corp. is betting that if a new 24-mile toll road from Lavon to Greenville gets all the approvals it needs, it could be the fast lane for retail and residential development to spread east. Dallas-based Texas Turnpike Corp. would design, build, finance, construct, operate and maintain the four-lane, limited access Blacklands Turnpike.

The toll road is just one of many options being considered as part of the Blacklands Corridor Feasibility Study commissioned by the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Expected to be completed by December 2014, the study spans portions of Dallas, Collin, Rockwall and Hunt counties.

NCTCOG will discuss the study at a public meeting in Nevada, a small town halfway between Greenville and Lavon, at 6 p.m. on Nov. 7.

Texas Turnpike Corp. officials said the state's traditional road funding is limited and other road improvements could be delayed for years while the state's population grows. On the other hand, a private toll road could be built faster.

"We believe that a private road construction initiative such as ours would be achieved quickly, efficiently and with minimal costs to the citizens of Texas," John Crew, president of the Texas Turnpike Corp, said in a statement. "We believe our project is feasible, based on our extensive research and analysis."

Not everyone's jumping for joy over the proposal, especially because the developer has eminent domain powers.

"People live out there for a reason. They expect longer commutes. That's a lifestyle choice they make," said Brenda Short, who owns land near the tollway and put plans to build a house there on hold. "Anybody would hate to see their home mowed down by a road of any kind."

Eight local companies take home regional Oil & Gas Awards

Hundreds of energy executives gathered at the Sheraton Hotel and Spa in downtown Fort Worth on Oct. 22 for the Oil & Gas Awards. I was lucky enough to be invited to the formal industry event and mingle among attendees, who wore tuxedos and evening gowns. The following North Texas companies were honored with Southwest regional awards:

INDUSTRY LEADER OF THE YEAR
Chris Faulkner, CEO of Breitting Oil & Gas, based in Dallas

BULK TRUCKING COMPANY OF THE YEAR
Suncoast Resources, offices in Euless and Grand Prairie

SPECIALTY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR
VZ Environmental, based in Fort Worth

TEEMCO ENERGY COMPANY OF THE YEAR
Breitting Oil & Gas

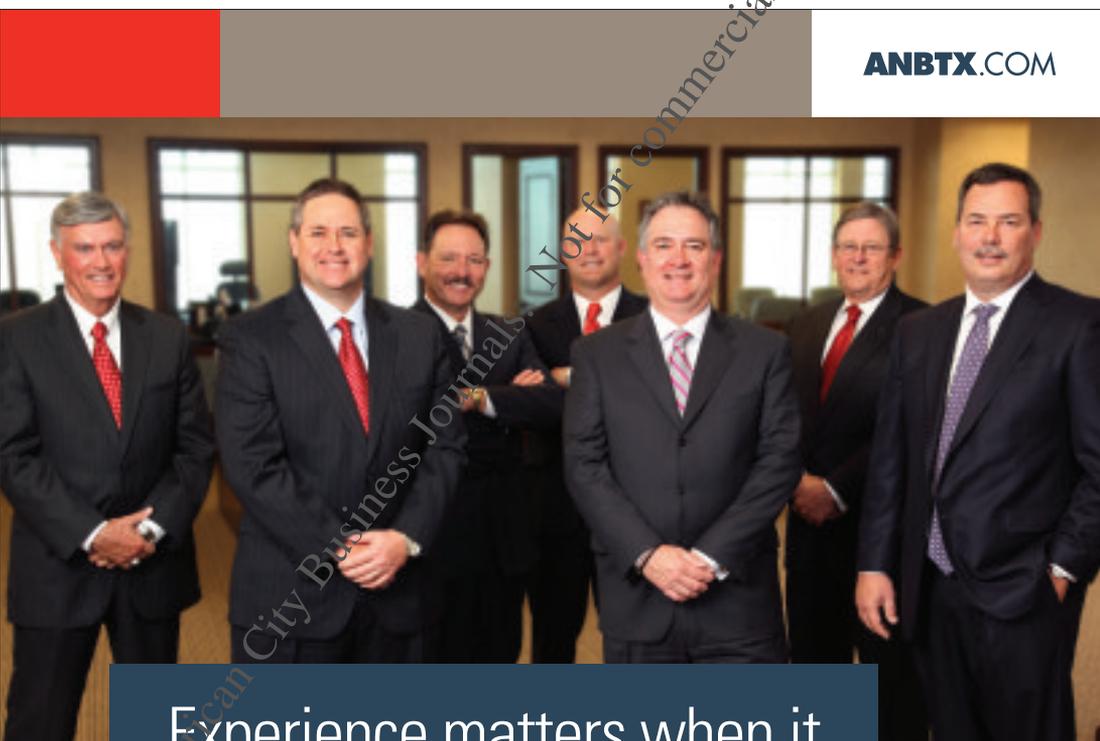
MIDSTREAM COMPANY OF THE YEAR
Crosstex Energy Inc., based in Dallas

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMPANY OF THE YEAR
Select Energy Services, operational headquarters in Gainesville

GENERAL INDUSTRY OF THE YEAR
Geoforce, based in Coppell

FUTURE INDUSTRY LEADER OF THE YEAR
Ryan Boscheetti, of Hunt Oil Co., based in Dallas

DRILLING COMPANY OF THE YEAR
Precision Drilling, office in Weatherford



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CORRECTIONS

Cushman & Wakefield of Texas and Cassidy Turley Commercial Real Estate Services submitted incorrect data for the LISTS in the Oct. 25 edition. Cushman & Wakefield has 9,772,896 square feet in its North Texas office leasing portfolio, which would have ranked it No. 6 on that list, and 10,448,668 square feet of rentable commercial space managed, which would have ranked it No. 12 on the largest commercial property managers list. Cassidy Turley has 14,484,171 square feet in its North Texas office leasing portfolio, ranking it at No. 3 on the office leasing portfolio list.

NPG Energy Capital Management was added to the private equity list ranking at No. 3 with \$13,000,000,000 in total capital under management. Commerce Street Capital provided incorrect data and was removed from the private equity list.

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