



Dallas-area hike-and-bike trails poised to get major financial boost

 5
  7
  0

 2
  AA
 

By TOM BENNING

Staff Writer

tbenning@dallasnews.com

Published: 08 May 2013 10:20 PM

Updated: 09 May 2013 06:53 AM

Several North Texas hike-and-bike trails — including one near White Rock Lake and another near the Trinity River — are poised to receive major cash infusions from the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The group's Regional Transportation Council will vote Thursday on a plan to use more than \$13 million to benefit nearly a dozen biking and pedestrian projects in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The efforts are intended to provide transportation alternatives to motor vehicles, especially by connecting the projects to existing paths.

"They can't be purely focused on recreation," said Karla Weaver, a program manager at the Council of Governments. "We wanted to help to get some more concrete stuff in for active users."

The funds are from a \$70 million pot that the Texas Department of Transportation secured through federal legislation. The grants would jump-start projects across Dallas, Denton, Collin and Tarrant counties, assuming they win final approval from the transportation council on Thursday and the Texas Transportation Commission later this summer.

Dallas would be home to two of the biggest winners.

The SoPac trail, which runs northwest from White Rock Lake along the old Southern Pacific rail line, is set to get about \$3 million. The Coombs Creek Trail extension, which would complement the hike-and-bike part of downtown's Interstate 30 bridge overhaul, is expected to receive \$2 million.

Here's a closer look at those projects and others:

SoPac Trail

The \$3 million, requested by Dallas County, would extend a path that's coming together link by link.

The ultimate goal is to connect the Santa Fe Trail near White Rock Lake with the Cottonwood Trail near Royal Lane. And the city of Dallas is also working on a Katy Trail extension that would peter out in the old Southern Pacific rail corridor near Northwest Highway.

The new SoPac segment would start around Northwest Highway and stretch about two miles to just north of Greenville Avenue, said Tushar Solanki, project manager in the county's public works department.

The project, boosted by another \$3 million from the county, is slated to begin late next year.

Coombs Creek

This project focuses on integrating the hike-and-bike paths that will be part of the revamped I-30 bridge across the Trinity.

The bridge's pedestrian and biking components — Santiago Calatrava-designed spans named for Dallas philanthropist Margaret McDermott — are each to be 18 feet wide. There will be one span north of the interstate and one south, providing access between downtown and Oak Cliff.

Because of a funding issue, the approaches to those paths were going to be too narrow to support both bikes and people, said Jared White, a project manager in the city's public works department. That would've forced officials to put bikes on one bridge, pedestrians on the other.

The additional \$2 million would allow at least one side to serve as mixed-use. Planners would also use the money to better connect the bridges to Riverfront Boulevard, Beckley Avenue, the existing Coombs Creek trail in Oak Cliff and a new bike path in the Trinity River bottoms.

A-Train Trail

When the Denton County Transportation Authority opened the A-Train in 2011, officials envisioned a trail that would follow the train's path from Denton to Carrollton.

The first stretch ran from Denton to Corinth. DCTA later secured funds for a segment from Highland Village to Lewisville. And when officials found out TxDOT planned to include a hike-and-bike bridge over Lewisville Lake as part of an I-35E revamp, they jumped to fill another gap.

The \$2 million from the Council of Governments would allow DCTA to build about two miles from Corinth to the top of Lewisville Lake. The agency hopes to start construction next year.

FM1382 Trail

Nearly \$1 million would allow Cedar Hill officials to get moving on a new trail near Cedar Hill State Park.

TxDOT is preparing to widen FM1382 from Straus Road to New Clark Road and install a 12-foot-wide path as part of the project. The city would then extend that trail 1.3 miles west to the state park's entrance, said Rhoda Savage, the city's parks and recreation director.

The city, which plans to start the project within a year, hopes eventually to stretch the trail to the Joe Pool Lake overlook and connect with Grand Prairie and other cities.

Three Cities Trail

Frisco officials want to build just a small bit of trail, a quarter mile or so.

But around \$500,000 would allow the city to accomplish the tricky task of crossing under the Sam Rayburn Tollway, said Dudley Raymond, a city parks department official. It would also mean the city's Taychas Trail could connect with a planned path through Plano, Allen and beyond.

The city hopes to begin construction by the end of the year.

Follow Tom Benning on Twitter at [@tombenning](#).

Did you see something wrong in this story, or something missing? [Let us know](#).



Owner to sell rooming house where Oswald lived before JFK assassination



Slater: Obama to target Ted Cruz, GOP in Congress during Texas visit today



Photos: Garrett grabs glove, Cowboys host home run derby at the Ballpark



Still gift less for Sunday? See what gardening moms want come Mother's Day

Comments

To post a comment, log into your chosen social network and then add your comment below. Your comments are subject to our [Terms of Service](#) and the privacy policy and terms of service of your social network. If you do not want to comment with a social network, please consider writing a [letter to the editor](#).



Login to post a comment

Login

Post

2 Comments

[RSS](#) | [Subscribe](#)



Henry Smith 9 hours ago

Millions here...millions there...for a few citizens.

Those millions would repair a lot of miles of road we ALL use every day. AND..I mean actually repair, not just throw down some pretty blacktop to become bigger potholes in six months.

BTW..Those millions are not free. Those millions are our tax dollars; or whats left of them after the feds skim off their take.

...

Reply

[1 reply](#)

0 1



Robert 3 minutes ago

Agree with you on your first comment - man do we NEED ->real

Reply

0 0

Sponsored Results

New Rule in TEXAS: (APR 2013): If You Pay For Car Insurance www.ConsumerFinanceDaily.com
Credit Find valuable credit card information you www.financialsuccessfactors.com
Best Funds Innovative funds to meet your savings and AllInvestmentAdvice.net
Mortgage Rates Hit @ 2.5% If you owe under \$729k you may qualify www.Refinance.LowerMyBills.com