

dallasnews OPINION

Powered by *The Dallas Morning News*

88° 
 FORECAST TRAFFIC 

Home > Opinion Blog

It is time for City Hall to drive a stake through the Trinity toll road's heart



By Rudolph Bush
rbush@dallasnews.com
8:54 am on June 2, 2014 | Permalink

4 6  1 0 3

I hope you saw [the column by Larry Good this morning](#) stating that after 10 years of support, he can no longer stay behind the construction of the Trinity toll road.

It's hard to understate the importance of this. We identify Larry as chairman of Good Fulton & Farrell Architects and "a longtime activist in city planning."

A better way to describe him is as a dean of Dallas architects. The fact that Larry Good no longer sees the toll road as the right decision for this city is huge. He joins Bob Meckfessel, another major name in architecture, and Wick Allison, D Magazine CEO, as important players who have turned on the toll road.

Larry writes today that "Dallas has made real progress in the past decade toward becoming a culturally rich, diverse, walkable city."

The conclusion, of course, is that the toll road would be a step backward.

So what's next? A few days ago, Wick Allison and I traded some tweets. I warned against declaring the toll road dead. Powerful people want this road. He agreed and said we need to drive a stake through its heart.

Okay, here's the stake. City Hall constantly points to this years old contract or agreement or whatever it has with NTTA. This agreement essentially pledges cooperation and \$70 million in city bond funds toward the construction of the road.

See, there's nothing we can do, the line goes. It's a contract. The deal's done.

No it isn't. Given the weight of public opinion now, and the moldy old age of this agreement and the fact that NTTA is nowhere close to having the money to build this road, it's time to figure out a way to tear up this contract.

That's the stake in the heart. Imagine what could happen in return. The \$70 million that has been jealously guarded at City Hall for concrete could be poured into our park. We could actually have the greatest urban river park in the country (okay, one of the greatest).

The contract is the last peg standing. Council members, listen to the way the wind is blowing. Demand that city staff get you out of this deal. Fund a beautiful park. Build a better city. Future generations will praise you for it.

You Might Also Like



The homeowner's to-do list: Here's where to start
(The Cincinnati Insurance Companies)



20 Unbelievable Flea Market Flips
(DIY Network)



This Is What Sheryl Crow's 12.5 Million Dollar House Looks
(Lonny Magazine)



10 Award Winners Who Have Fallen Off the Big Screen
(Wall St. Cheat Street)

Recommended by