



## **Media Release City of Temple**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **City of Temple Receives Surface Transportation Enhancement Grant (STEP)**

(TEMPLE, TX) July 29, 2010 – The City of Temple is the recipient of a Surface Transportation Enhancement Grant, TxDOT announced at its commission meeting this morning. This grant will provide approximately \$2.155 million towards the \$2.75 million project that will include an approximately 3,000-foot-long, 10-foot-wide pedestrian and bicycle trail, lighting, median, landscaping, and streetscape that will be part of a critical interconnected network of trails within the Temple Medical and Education District (TMED). The grant will provide the necessary funding to begin the first of several phases of re-development for 1<sup>st</sup> Street from the Loop to R Street.

These trail improvements are made possible through the Transportation Enhancement (TE) program, which is a federally-funded program derived from 10 percent of the Surface Transportation Program apportionment which must be set aside from transportation enhancement projects. This program allocates funding for enhancement projects that are identified as serving a statewide benefit and providing for the safe, effective, and efficient movement of people and goods. The department issued a funding limited TE program call on October 9, 2009. \$76.7 million in grants were awarded by the state this morning for 54 projects.

The design for this STEP trail is 95% complete and will complement an already funded trail in the critical interconnected network of trails. In the fall of 2009, the Department of Energy (DOE) awarded funding to the City of \$413,000 for a trail that connects 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Scott & White Blvd. This DOE trail accomplishes a connection among Scott & White, the Health Science Center and Temple College and will feature a 3,600-foot-long, 10-foot-wide concrete trail and pedestrian bridge.

This trail network will connect important public educational entities, research entities, and private sector companies within the TMED area by offering alternative, multimodal transportation. TMED is a major employment center and gateway to downtown Temple. It includes Temple College, the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System, Scott & White Hospital, Texas A & M Health Science Center, a TISD middle school, a recreation center, shopping centers, older neighborhoods, apartments, and public housing, all within what will be, a 5-7 minute walk /bike of each other.

“This new infrastructure will promote redevelopment by the private sector, leverage resources and create public and private partnerships, and enhance community wellness,” state Kim Foutz, Assistant City Manager. “As a result, the area will be more economically vibrant, enhance aesthetics, and contribute to reduction of crime.” These projects are part of the City’s overall master plan for hike/bike trails and greenways, which is also coordinated with the regional transportation master plan. Residents can expect to see construction of these trails in 2011.

See embedded picture below.

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