

GEORGETOWN CITY Reporter



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Construction has started on a new Lakeway Drive Bridge over Interstate 35 that will replace a functionally obsolete two-lane structure. The Texas Department of Transportation project got underway in December.

Georgetown Mayor George Garver says, "This is one of the most important projects in the improvement of our transportation network. The existing bridge has no pedestrian [walkways] and no bike lanes, and the number of accidents is way out of proportion to what it should be."

Safety concerns were a primary reason to replace the existing bridge, which is at a skewed angle and has steep inclines that limit sight distances. The narrow bridge was the scene of 28 motor vehicle accidents from June 2009 through April 2011.

A recent traffic count tallied 6,500 trips per day across the two-lane bridge. "It will be a great addition to our city to help people move from one side to the other," says Garver. Lakeway Drive is the only I-35 crossing in the 4.6-mile segment between Williams Drive and Texas 195.

Last May, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Lakeway Drive Bridge Construction Starts



board unanimously approved federal funding for the bridge. "I'm very pleased that TXDOT, CAMPO, and the City have worked hard to make this bridge a reality," says Garver, who is on the 19-member CAMPO board.

The new Lakeway Drive Bridge, which will be constructed just south of the current one, will have a total of six lanes, including two through-traffic lanes and a left turn lane in each direction. To accommodate bicycles, the bridge will have 14-foot wide outside lanes and there will be sidewalks on each side for pedestrians.

The project will include a new ramp for the northbound Lakeway Drive exit that will be about 1,200 feet south of the current 264 exit ramp. The new exit ramp configuration on the east side of I-35 will improve traffic flow for vehicles taking the ramp and turning left onto Austin Avenue. On the west side of I-35, the southbound access road will be straightened at the intersection.

The cost of the new bridge is estimated at \$10.25 million, including \$5.75

million in federal funding from CAMPO, \$2 million from TXDOT for utility relocations, and \$2.5 million from Georgetown Transportation Enhancement Corporation, which is funded through a 0.5 percent sales tax in Georgetown.

The construction company for the project is Ballenger Construction, headquartered in Harlingen. Completion is projected for spring 2013.

Intersection improvement

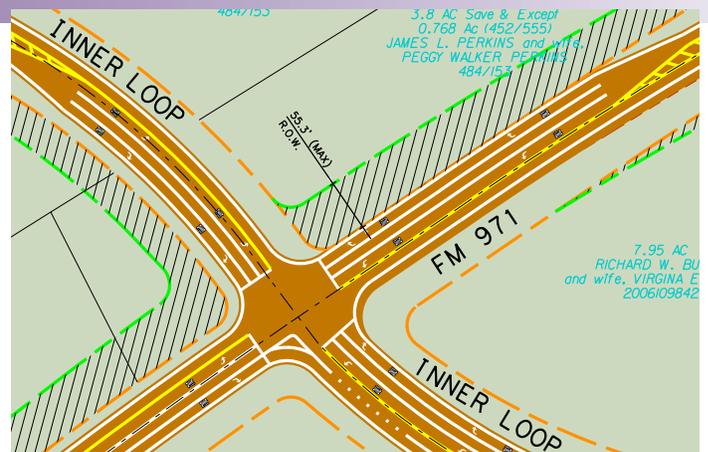
FM 971 and NE Inner Loop

Intersection improvements at FM 971 and NE Inner Loop are set to begin by February. The project will add right and left turn lanes to all corners of the intersection and a continuous travel lane on NE Inner Loop to the driveway for Forbes Middle School and Cooper Elementary School.

Sources of funding for the project by the Texas Department of Transportation and City of

Georgetown are a \$343,000 Congressional earmark federal grant and 2008 City of Georgetown voter-approved road bonds.

The project is designed to conform to the ultimate four-lane roadway design for FM 971 as approved by TXDOT and Georgetown voters. Completion of the intersection improvement is projected for September.



Upcoming Events

The Palace Theater

I Hate Hamlet,
January 13 – February 5

Singin' In the Rain,
February 24 – March 25
Details at GeorgetownPalace.com,
or call (512) 869-7469.

First Friday, February 3

Downtown live music, shops and restaurants are open late. See the Downtown Georgetown Association website at TheGeorgetownSquare.com.

Cupid's Chase 5k

The 17th annual Cupid's Chase 5k is on Feb.4. Register online at cupid.georgetown.org.

The Georgetown Swirl

Saturday, March 3
Enjoy wine and food on The Square from 6 – 9 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Georgetown Main Street Program. Details at swirl.georgetown.org



Stephanie McNickle
Planning Specialist
Planning and Development
Customer Service
Employee of the Year



Jordan Maddox
Principal Planner
Planning and Development
Supervisor of the Year

City of Georgetown

2011 Employee Awards



Mark Miller
Transportation Services Manager
Transportation Services
Manager of the Year



Vanessa Conde
Customer Service Representative
Utility Office
Customer Service
Employee of the Year



Jess Henderson
Business Analyst
Information Technology
Employee of the Year

Cupid's Chase 5K

Love 'em
or
Leave 'em

Register now for the 17th annual Cupid's Chase 5k Run/Walk on Saturday, February 4. This chip-timed run begins at 8:30 a.m. in downtown Georgetown at Seventh and Main streets. Register before January 25 for early-bird prices. Cupid's Chase is sponsored by Georgetown Parks and Recreation. To register, use the online form at cupid.georgetown.org. For details, contact Erin Ruyle at Erin.Ruyle@georgetown.org or (512) 930-8459.

The *Georgetown City Reporter* is a publication of the City of Georgetown Public Communications Department, P.O. Box 409, Georgetown, Texas, 78627. For questions or comments, contact Keith Hutchinson, public communications director, at (512) 930-3690 or by email at keith.hutchinson@georgetown.org.

Reporter
GEORGETOWN CITY

News items from across the city

DiFusion Tech 4A Agreement

DiFusion Technologies, a medical device company at the Texas Life-sciences Collaboration Center, will be acquiring a key piece of equipment as a result of a performance agreement with the Georgetown Economic Development Corporation. The agreement for an \$80,000 mass spectrometer was approved by the city council in December.

The 4A corporation agreement sets job creation benchmarks for DiFusion, which will use the spectrometer to conduct highly sensitive chemical analysis in the

development of orthopedic implants.

This acquisition represents the initiation of a planned expansion of the TLCC to include additional laboratory space in the existing TLCC building," says Russ Peterman, executive director for the center.

"The expansion also entails the construction of a new technical building for additional wet lab space, sterile manufacturing space, and nanotechnology clean rooms."

Federal Tax Prep Help

AARP Foundation: Free tax counseling, preparation, and e-filing services offered for low- and middle-income taxpayers, especially those 60 and older. The service is offered in conjunction with the IRS by trained and IRS-certified volunteers. Two locations:

Wednesdays, 12 to 4 p.m.,
February 1 – April 11:
Community Resource Center,
805 W. University Avenue

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 to 4 p.m., February 2 – April 17,
Cowan Creek Amenity Center,
1433 Cool Spring Way

Questions? Contact taxaide@sharrade.com.

Tax Help at the Public Library:

Free federal tax help from IRS-trained volunteers will be offered at the Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. Eighth Street, starting Saturday, January 28. Volunteers will offer tax help at these times:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, 12 to 4 p.m.

Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.