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**MEMORANDUM**

**To: John H. Happ, Jr., Chairman, Transportation Committee**

**CC: Mayor Ron Silvia**  
**Members of the College Station City Council**  
**Tom Brymer**  
**Glenn D. Brown**  
**David A. Dean**

**From: Stanford W. Lynch, P.E.**

**Date: November 30, 2004**

**RE: 2004 Summary of Transportation Accomplishments**

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In calendar year 2004 transportation has continued to play an important role for the City of College Station and its citizens. Over this past year, the City Council and the Management have achieved much for the City regarding infrastructure planning, design, and the funding opportunities for strategic projects with the City. In preparation for the upcoming meeting of the City Council Transportation Committee and in support of the City Council's appropriately aggressive transportation agenda, Dean International, Inc. has prepared, and hereby submits, this summary of calendar year 2004 accomplishments regarding services provided to meet the City of College Station's goals and objectives in the area of transportation.

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Over the last eleven months the City Council, the Council Transportation Committee, the Management and Staff have accomplished a tremendous amount of success as it relates to the transportation needs of the City as well as the Brazos Valley Region. The City Council continues to raise the level of awareness of the Brazos Valley Region's transportation needs to the numerous national, state, and regional transportation agencies and has proactively promoted its transportation priorities at every level of government. The City of College Station continues to work for the good of its neighbors as it relates to Texas A&M University, the City of Bryan, Brazos County and the Brazos Valley Region. It is becoming recognized as one of the more progressive and proactive urban communities within the State.

The City of College Station must be aggressive in the transportation public policy arena and it continues to be even more apparent as the City of Bryan and other Brazos Valley counties pull back from their respective responsibilities regarding transportation infrastructure planning and development. The growth rate of the City and the region

continued to be among the highest in the state and the competition for increasingly limited state and federal funds continued to increase. Again in 2004 we see demonstrated how quickly circumstances and situations can and do change as is exemplified by the following:

- The State's transportation policy continues to be more and more concentrated at the headquarters level in Austin;
- Bryan Wood, the local Bryan District Engineer has now assumed his position as new District Engineer which has create the need for the City to again sell it's projects to the new TXDOT team;
- The establishment of Regional Mobility Authorities and a heavy reliance by the TTC on toll roads as a manner to additionally finance highway construction in Texas is becoming more entrenched;
- The Trans Texas Corridor has now received legislative blessing and it will be increasingly important for the City to effectively assert that portions of the Trans Texas Corridor be planned and located near the City and through the Brazos Valley Region;
- The recent developments with Congressional redistricting and the subsequent election results demonstrate that the permanency an area needs in regard to congressional and federal affairs is ever changing. While the City has developed an excellent relationship with Congressman John Carter and his staff, Congressman Chet Edwards now will represent the City of College Station and Brazos County.
- While both Congressman Carter and Congressman Edwards have agreed to sponsor the two very important City projects that have been requested as federal earmarks (FM 60 & Barron Road Interchange), there are no guarantees until the Transportation Bill is finally passed and signed by the President probably sometime in 2005. Hence the relations that the City has developed with Congressmen Burgess, Brady, Sessions, Congresswomen Eddie Bernice Johnson and Sheila Jackson Lee and others, as well as Senators Hutchison and Cornyn, will be invaluable as to this continuing round of reauthorization.

Never before has the need for cities and regions of the State to be diligent and proactive; to be informed and at the table; to be active, informed and committed. The City Management and the City Council working with an equally well-informed and active community in an active collaboration can accomplish much more than one working alone. As we have discussed many times before, a city must be committed to stay the course for a period of years in order to successfully accomplish it's public policy goals and objectives.

Through the establishment and maintenance of a solid and consistent Strategic Transportation Enhancement Plan, such as has been unanimously adopted by the previous College Station City Councils and forcefully advocated by City Management and its public policy consultants, much ground work has been accomplished to position

the City and the Brazos Valley Region for an increasing share of regional, State and federal funds to address the lack of system connectivity.

In that regard and in accordance with the 2004 Service Agreement, the City Council, the Management and Staff and Dean International, Inc. have cooperatively worked effectively toward meeting the City Council's stated goals and objectives in the areas of Intergovernmental Relations, the Brazos Valley Transportation Summit, and Surface Transportation Projects. The following is a brief summary of our collective efforts to accomplish the City of College Station's multi-modal transportation objectives:

**Intergovernmental Relations** – *Dean International, Inc will work with the Council and City staff to create a proactive public policy strategy that will place the City of College Station at the forefront of transportation public policy development at the regional, State, and national levels. Dean International will assist in developing and strengthening positive working relationships with officials and decision-makers at all levels of government. Dean International will assist the City of College Station in planning and executing annual strategic missions to Austin and Washington, D.C. to petition executive and legislative branch leaders for assistance in meeting the City's transportation related goals and objectives.*

**Washington D.C. Delegation Trips** - Dean International assisted the City of College Station in planning and executing its annual strategic mission to Washington, D.C., February 2-4, 2004 to petition executive and legislative branch leaders for assistance. Council Members John Happ and Scott Mears along with Assistant City Manager Glenn Brown supported by Dean International staff completed this very productive trip to Washington D.C. with numerous substantive meetings that included five Congressmen and twenty Congressional and Executive Branch staff members. The Council Members and Management were able to thank the City's Congressional representatives regarding the Congressional earmarks for funding of the City's higher priority projects such as FM 60 and the Barron Road Interchange while eliciting additional support from other Texas Delegation members and Executive Branch staff. Additionally, while in Washington, visits were again made to the highest levels of the Federal Aviation Administration in support of the radar initiative for Easterwood Airport. Although this was a Texas A&M Congressional Issue, efforts were made to support this worthwhile project on behalf of not only Texas A&M University, but for the entire region as well. These projects continue to have strong support of the City of College Station's Congressional Delegation including United States Senators Hutchison and Cornyn and Congressmen Carter, Brady, Edwards and Burgess as well as numerous other top Congressional members in key positions within the U.S. House and Senate Transportation Committees.

Dean International Chief Operating Officer Stanford Lynch accompanied Council Member John Happ and seventeen members of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce to Washington D.C. May 3-6, 2004 to provide assistance and be a resource when necessary to the Chamber Delegation regarding critical transportation projects and issues that were important to the City of College Station and the region. Although

the legislative trip was general in nature, there were many opportunities that availed themselves for Councilman Happ and Mr. Lynch to provide input to not only the Chamber delegation members, but those that we met with regarding critical transportation issues including but not limited to high speed rail, aviation, safety, Trans Texas Corridor, and the FM 60 and Barron Road Interchange projects.

**Texas Department of Transportation Austin Trips** - Dean International, Inc. worked diligently and interacted with the Council, Management and Staff, the community and many related transportation entities in a positive and constructive manner to assist the City in achieving its transportation public policy goals and objectives. In order to solidify the City's position as a leader in the region, Dean International worked with the Transportation Committee, Management and Staff to assemble a Brazos Valley Delegation that made a presentation to the Texas Transportation Commission at its meeting on Thursday, March 25, 2004.

The Delegation informed the TTC members and the Executive staff of the important transportation issues that face the Brazos Valley Region and to let them know what the region, including the City of College Station is doing to solve these critical transportation related problems. In addition, the delegation hosted a reception for the Texas Transportation Commission members, our Legislative members, the TxDOT Executive Director and his key executive staff members the evening before on Wednesday, March 24, 2004. With all but one of the Commissioners in attendance it was a great opportunity for the nearly eighty Brazos Valley Delegation members to inform the TTC and TxDOT Austin administration of what the City of College Station and the other members of the Brazos Valley Region are doing to be proactive, working with the transportation related agencies and community representatives, to meet the future multi-modal transportation challenges of the region.

**Other Intergovernmental Meetings** - To meet the City's objectives for improved and efficient intergovernmental relations, numerous important meetings have been conducted with agencies at the federal, state, regional, and local levels within the last eleven months. Attached is a summary list of transportation related agencies that we have met with in meetings from January thru November 2004.

#### **Transportation Related Agencies and Organizations**

- United States Department of Transportation
- Federal Aviation Administration, National and Regional Offices
- Federal Railroad Administration, National and Regional Offices
- Federal Transit Administration, National and Regional Offices
- Federal Highway Administration, National and Regional Offices
- United States Senator John Cornyn
- United States Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

- United States Congress Members Joe Barton, Chris Bell, Kevin Brady, Michael Burgess, John Carter, John Culberson, Chet Edwards, Ralph Hall, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Sheila Jackson Lee, James Oberstar, Tom Petri, Pete Sessions, Jim Turner, Don Young, and numerous others from the Texas Delegation
- Office of Texas Governor and Administrative Staff
- Texas Secretary of State
- Office of Texas Lt. Governor
- Office of Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives
- Numerous Texas Senators
- Numerous Texas House Representatives
- Texas Department of Transportation, Headquarters, Austin
  - Executive Director and Top Management Staff
  - Engineering Operation
  - Transportation Planning and Programming Division
  - Texas Turnpike Authority
  - Aviation Division
  - Transit Division
- Texas Department of Transportation, Bryan District
- Brazos County Commissioners Court
- Brazos Valley Council of Governments
- City of Bryan
- Bryan-College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce
- Research Valley Partnership
- Texas A&M University
  - Board of Regents
  - Office of the Vice President of Administration
- Texas Transportation Institute
- The District (formerly the Brazos Transit System)

**3rd Annual Brazos Valley Transportation Summit** – *Dean International will assist the City of College Station in the development of a two-day transportation summit for the purpose of bringing together municipalities, counties, public/private entities, and individuals within the State and region to discuss and address the multi-modal transportation needs of the Brazos Valley. Dean International will assist the City of College Station in the development of the agenda, securing speakers, encouraging attendance, and providing recommendations for securing financial support for the City's efforts.*

The City of College Station successfully hosted the 3rd Annual Brazos Valley Transportation Summit on April 22 & 23, 2004 at the George Bush Library and Conference Center. Bringing together transportation specialists from across the State, from Washington D.C. and the Brazos Valley region, the speakers and attendees were presented ideas and discussed the latest regarding new and innovative ideas to

address transportation issues important to the City of College Station and the Brazos Valley. By all accounts, the Summit was again a great success.

Dean International provided its expertise to assist the Council, Management, and Staff in the preparation of the Summit agenda, identified and recruited many of the keynote and panel speakers, prepared numerous presentations and talking points for various speakers and the Council members, and assisted the Staff in the development of the sponsor packages, acquired sponsors, and assisted in the overall program. This year's Summit revenues of \$12,661.00 exceeded expenses by \$2,000.00, which is the first year that the Summit has fully paid for itself.

Some of the most notable of the Speakers at the past Summit events include Congressman John Carter; Congressman Chet Edwards; Acting Administrator, Research and Special Programs Administration Samuel G. Bonasso; Deputy Regional Administrator, NHTSA Sheila Gibson; Regional Administrator, FHWA Dan Reagan; Deputy Administrator Southwest Region, FAA Mike Nicely; State Senator Steve Ogden; State Representatives Fred Brown, Robert Cook, and Arlene Wohlgemuth; Texas Transportation Commission Member Ric Williamson; Texas Department of Transportation Executive Director Michael Behrens; Assistant State Comptroller Billy Hamilton; TxDOT Bryan District Engineer Bryan Wood; Texas Transportation Institute Deputy Director Dennis Christiansen; Harris County Judge Robert Eckels; Port of Houston Authority Chairman James Edmonds; Fort Hood Director of Logistics Colonel Robert Hauser, along with numerous other State, regional and local county and city agency representatives.

Planning is well underway for the 4th Annual Brazos Valley Regional Transportation Summit to be held on March 23-24, 2005. This year's Summit agenda is being planned to take the Summit to a higher level with increased attendance and participation from key transportation leaders from across the State and nation. The Summit will again cover two days of topical speakers who will address the most current transportation issues and ideas such as the status of the five time extended Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA LU), the 79<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session, the Texas "T-Bone" Corridor and its potential economic development and multi-modal affects on the region, the creation of regional mobility authorities (RMA), the conversion of free highways to toll roads, aviation, transit, and numerous other issues of importance to the Brazos Valley Region.

Invitations have been extended to Senators Cornyn and Hutchison, all of our Texas Congressional Delegation members especially newly elected District 17 Congressman Chet Edwards, the Office of the Governor, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst, the new Fort Hood Garrison Commander, Colonel Victoria Bruzese, State Senator Steve Ogden, Brazos Valley State Representatives, newly appointed Texas Transportation Commission Members, Hope Andrade and Ted Houghton, TxDOT Executive Director Michael Behrens, Texas Transportation Institute Deputy Director Dennis Christiansen, Harris County Judge and THSRTC Chairman Robert Eckels, Port of Houston Authority

Board Chairman James Edmonds and numerous other officials in the transportation field.

In recognition of the value of the previous Summits and in an expression of its appreciation of the City's efforts in the transportation arena, TTI has again agreed to become a co-host and collaborator with the City to assist in taking the Summit to a higher level of effectiveness. We are also collaborating with the Texas A&M University School of Engineering and the Bush School of Government and Public Service to encourage the Texas A&M Students to attend the Summit and to prepare transportation related papers, with the top three in each school being awarded monetary recognition at the Summit.

**Surface Transportation Projects** - *Dean International, Inc. will facilitate and assist the City in identifying the potential funding sources (i.e., local, regional, state, federal, and private sector) to implement the City's priority surface transportation projects. After potential funding sources have been identified, Dean International will assist the City in securing funds to implement specific projects. After potential funding sources have been identified, Dean International will assist the City in securing funds to implement specific projects. The City Council will identify for Dean International no more than three clearly defined high priority transportation projects to pursue for funding.*

Dean International has recently worked with the Management and Staff to review the previous project evaluations along with the City's current and future transportation projects. A reevaluation of those projects was performed to ensure that the previously identified projects have either progressed in the development and that construction has been completed or that the projects were still considered a priority for the City. Dean International staff also worked with the City Transportation Planning and Engineering Staffs to address the MPO project prioritization process and methodology by which it prioritizes projects. With the change in the MPO Executive Director, it is important that the City ensure that its highest priority projects remain top priority within the MPO's project planning and implementation.

The City Council and the Management having identified two high priority projects, Dean International has assisted the City in securing the needed earmarked funds to implement the FM 60 (University Drive) and the Barron Road Interchange projects. Dean International, in coordination with the Management and Staff, prepared and submitted per the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee request for projects the Transportation Project Evaluation Criteria for both the FM 60 and Barron Road Interchange Projects that were sponsored by Congressman John Carter, Congressman Kevin Brady and later Congressman Chet Edwards.

Numerous meetings have been held with the City of Bryan, Brazos County, the TxDOT Bryan District, the MPO, and the BVCOG to continue and perfect support for the projects. Dean International has maintained continuous contact during the five TEA-21 Reauthorization extensions not only with Congress members Carter, Brady, and

Edwards, but with their staff members, our Texas Delegation members on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Michael Burgess and Nick Lampson as well as Senators Cornyn and Hutchison. At every opportunity the City's Congressional Delegation are kept aware of the current status of the projects and that the City's interests are presented to those in control of the reauthorization process such as House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Don Young; Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman Tom Petri; Aviation Subcommittee Chairman John Mica; Rail Subcommittee Chairman Jack Quinn and executive staff members of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

As was mentioned earlier, the story that the City of College Station must continuously present is its leadership role in the Brazos Valley Region regarding transportation. The story has been well received by the officials with whom we have met at all levels of government. As the City Council and the Management continue to lead the Brazos Valley region, the benefits of the effort will become more visible and the opportunity to receive favorable consideration for approvals and funding of infrastructure projects important to the City will continue.

The City Council and Management have developed a clear focus for its transportation objectives. The expectations for success both within the community, regionally, at the State level, and in Washington D.C. have been properly and realistically expanded. The City and Dean International must continue to press the issues on multiple fronts regarding multiple projects simultaneously to accomplish the City's objectives and to be in a position of affecting the TEA-21 reauthorization process for its benefit. With a renewed focus and attention to the transportation goals and objectives that the City Council has set for the City of College Station and the Brazos Valley Region, the Council can continue to raise the awareness of its transportation needs and promote its transportation priorities at every level of government.