

**DEAN INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
**PUBLIC POLICY CONSULTANTS**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To: Mayor Ron Silvia**

**CC: John H. Happ, Jr., Chairman, Transportation Committee**  
**Members of the College Station City Council**  
**Tom Brymer**  
**Glenn D. Brown**  
**David A. Dean**

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

**Date: March 30, 2005**

**RE: Summary of 2004-2005 Transportation Accomplishments**

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Per your request, the following memorandum is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the City of College Station, with support from Dean International, Inc., during calendar year 2004 and the past three months, January-March 2005, as well as a summary of the goals and objectives achieved relating to services provided to meet the City of College Station's needs in the area of transportation. In addition, the final section of the memorandum describes additional support that Dean International, Inc. could provide to help further assist the City of College Station with regard to the Town Center development, flood plain and park land management support, a flood plain mitigation plan, railroad quiet zoning initiatives, and lake management issues that could benefit the City.

Also per your request, Dean International, Inc. will continue to provide transportation-related public policy services to the City on a month-to-month basis until the attached 2005 Services Agreement is signed. Upon execution of the Services Agreement, the contract shall be retroactive to April 1, 2005.

Since the end of calendar year 2004, the City Council, Management, Staff and Dean International have continued to work on many issues of importance to the City of College Station. Transportation continues to play an important role for the City and its citizens and especially over the past year, the City Council and the City Management have achieved much for the City regarding infrastructure planning, design, and the funding opportunities for strategic projects within the City.

## **2005 Progress Report:**

### **Washington, D.C. trip February 1-3, 2005**

Dean International assisted the City of College Station in planning and executing its annual strategic mission to Washington, D.C., February 1-3, 2005 to petition executive and legislative branch leaders for assistance. Mayor Ron Silvia, Council Members Nancy Berry, John Happ and Susan Lancaster, along with City Manager Tom Brymer and manager of Special Projects and Legislative Affairs Don Fazzino, supported by Dean International staff, completed this very productive trip to Washington D.C. with numerous substantive meetings. Congressional meetings included U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Representatives Poe, Bonilla, Petri, Edwards, Carter and Brady, and six Congressional staff members. The Council Members and Management were able to thank the City's Congressional Representatives for the inclusion of Congressional earmarks in the Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriations bill for the City's higher priority projects such as FM 60 and the Barron Road Interchange, while eliciting additional support from other Texas Delegation members for their continued inclusion in the reauthorized Transportation bill. Additionally, while in Washington, visits were made to the highest levels of the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, and the Federal Maritime Administration.

### **Status of City of College Station Federal Transportation Bill Projects**

As a result of continued meetings and contact with Congressman Chet Edwards, he understands the priorities of the City of College Station projects and earmarked \$3,000,000 for Widening FM 60 and \$3,000,000 for Widening Barron Road/SH 6 Interchange in H.R. 3, The Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU). H.R. 3 is the transportation reauthorization legislation that passed the U.S. House of Representatives on March 10, 2005. The U.S. Senate is beginning work on their version of the transportation bill, the Safe Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005 (SAFETEA). Four different Senate Committees have jurisdiction over this legislation, and so far, only the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has passed the bill out of Committee. After all four relevant committees mark-up the bill, it will come to the Senate floor for debate and passage. Since the current legislation expires on May 31, 2005, it is likely the bill will have to be extended again and final negotiations of the transportation bill language between the House and Senate in conference committee will conclude in June/July 2005 at the earliest. The legislation then awaits signature by President Bush before it can be implemented. It is necessary that Dean International, Inc. continue to monitor the progress of the legislation and ensure House and Senate support for the designated funding for the City of College Station.

## **IH-69 Development**

Due to new developments regarding the proposed alignment of and rapid development of the IH-69 Corridor planning, which will link Mexico through South Texas to the Port of Huron, Michigan and on into Canada, the City of College Station and Brazos Valley should expect to gain from the proposed route that widely skirts around The Woodlands and Conroe to the northwest and is expected to pass through Grimes County. With a major NAFTA trade artery only miles away, there is much that the City of College Station can do to benefit economically and financially from the proposed corridor project. The City may want to reconsider the potential for future freight rail relocation out of the urban area within the City and/or the Texas A&M University campus as the planning process proceeds for the IH-69 Corridor. This could offer an opportunity for the City to propose commuter rail service to Houston in the near term and the Texas T-Bone high-speed rail in the future. These all need to be considered and planned to properly and efficiently cross the IH-69 Corridor in its final configuration. The City must continue to be proactive in its support of the planning by TxDOT and the FHWA while all the time protecting its transportation and economic interests.

## **4th Annual Brazos Valley Transportation Summit**

The City of College Station successfully hosted the 4th Annual Brazos Valley Transportation Summit March 23-24, 2005 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 topics 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 consulting and administrative 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.

Some of the most notable Speakers at the Summit included Congressman Chet Edwards; Advisor to the Board, Spanish National Railways, Dr. Manuel Diaz Del Rio; Regional Administration, Federal Highway Administration, Dan Reagan; Brazos County Judge, Randy Sims; Grimes County Judge, James Dixon; Washington County Judge, Dorothy Morgan; Leon County Judge, Byron Rider; Burleson County Judge, Mike Sutherland; Deputy Director, Texas Transportation Institute, Dennis Christiansen; Harris County Judge, Robert Eckels; Chairman, Port of Houston Authority, Jim Edmonds; U.S. Projects Manager, Transrapid International-USA, Inc., Larry Blow; Special Representative of the Chairman, Union Pacific Railroad, Joe Adams; Director, Office of Intermodal Development, Federal Maritime Administration, Richard Walker; Executive Director, Alamo Regional Mobility Authority, Tom Griebel; Executive Director, Harris

County Toll Road Authority, Mike Strech; along with numerous other State, regional and local county and city agency representatives.

### **2004 Year in Review**

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 during the past 2004 calendar year:

#### **Washington D.C. Delegation Trips**

Dean International assisted the City of College Station in planning and executing the 2004 annual strategic mission to Washington, D.C. 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. 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 also those that we met with regarding critical transportation issues including, but not limited to, high speed rail, aviation, safety, the 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, 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. Below is a summary list of transportation-related agencies that we have met with in meetings.

### **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**

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 topics 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. The Summit's revenues of \$12,661.00 exceeded expenses by \$2,000.00, which is the first time that the Summit has fully paid for itself.

## **Surface Transportation Projects**

The City Council and the Management identified two high priority projects, and Dean International assisted the City in securing the needed earmarks in the House-passed Transportation Equity Act a Legacy for Users (TEA LU) 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. Through these efforts, \$3,000,000 was earmarked in the Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriations bill signed by the President in December 2004. Additional funding will be sought in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress when it addresses the reauthorization transportation bill in 2005.

The City Council Transportation Committee and the Management also identified a potential problem regarding proposed improvements by the TxDOT Bryan District to the **Union Pacific (UP) at grade railroad crossing of George Bush Drive at the Wellborn Road intersection**. The proposed TxDOT five schematic designs for the grade separation of the UP railroad required extensive right-of-way from both the City of College Station and Texas A&M University and would mean the loss of the retail establishments along the south side of George Bush Drive. The City, Staff and Dean International were able to work with TxDOT to suggest a revised design that greatly reduced the right-of-way required for the improvements. TxDOT did not utilize the specific design, but took the City's design suggestions and developed a revised schematic that accomplished the same result saving the majority of the retail establishments on the south side as well as Texas A&M University property on the north side of George Bush Drive.

## **Additional Support**

The City of College Station through its City Council Transportation Committee and the Management have identified several potential projects, both related to transportation and others that are not directly related, that they may want to pursue in the near future. The following is a summary of some of the project-related issues that could be pursued with the assistance of Dean International, Inc. at the direction of the City Council and the Management.

As the City of College Station further progresses with plans to build a City Center and to plan its floodplain management and development of its hike and bike trails within its park system, it is important to recognize that Dean International, Inc. has extensive expertise to assist the Management and Staff. Dean International staff can assist with channel and lake design to reduce siltation, lake operation and management ideas, low cost lake maintenance landscaping, planning of trail systems as well as planning for floodplain mitigation by developers that would save the City money while beautifying and preserving a valuable City asset.

The City Council Transportation Committee and the Management have also identified the need to review the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Master Transportation Plan to determine if changes need to be made to address the changing environment regarding transportation. Dean International Inc., in cooperation with the Management and Staff, can assist in that review and make recommendations regarding transportation planning and prioritization.

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 transportation reauthorization process for the City's 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.