

R.I.P. TTC? NOPE...JUST A NAME CHANGE

Written by: Amanda Teegarden – January 8, 2009

A Houston Chronicle headline on January 6, 2009 claimed the "Trans-Texas Corridor plans dropped after public outcry."

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Executive Director Amadeo Saenz, Jr. is quoted saying, "The Trans-Texas Corridor, as a single-project concept, is not the choice of Texans, so we decided to put the name to rest."

Putting the controversial Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC) name to rest is not the same as saying the controversial transportation plan is dead. So what's up in Texas?

Dallas News quotes Saenz stating, "Make no mistake: The Trans Texas Corridor as we have known it no longer exists," he said. However, "each of the dozens of projects that were linked together under the rubric of the TTC - including the Loop 9 project in Dallas and the I-69 project in the south - will remain as stand-alone projects, he said."

The regional stand alone projects are to connect to other regional stand alone projects.

Further, Saenz vowed, "that TxDOT will continue to seek private partnerships for some of the individual toll projects that were once part of the TTC."

TX Governor Rick Perry, while in Iraq this week, is quoted saying, "the state will continue to look at public-private partnerships to build roads, including toll roads."

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nb/fortbend/news/6196406.html>

One of those private partners is Cintra Concesiones of Spain, (Cintra Zachry) with whom Texas has a signed 50-year Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA) for development of certain portions of the land-grabbing TTC.

According to a report on the TxDOT website, "Under that same CDA, SH130 Concession Company will design, build, finance, operate, and maintain Segments 5 and 6 of State Highway 130. When complete, this project will be a part of a new, 91-mile tollway providing needed relief to congested I-35 through Central Texas."

Sounds like the original TTC plans are still in place.

If the name "Trans-Texas Corridor" is to be put to rest, but the projects will continue in a series of smaller regional projects with connectivity to each other, what are the new corridor projects called?

Try this mouthful - Strategic Corridors: Innovative Connectivity in Texas.

TxDOT gets an "A" in creativity; however it's still the same ol' corridor.