

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Preston Rd. median landscaping signals end of project

PROSPER (October 21, 2014) The final portion of the state's construction of Preston Road through Prosper has begun, signaling the end of the almost two-and-a-half year undertaking, says Capital Improvement Projects Manager Michael Bulla.

"In the same way a home or office construction project ends with the landscaping, Preston Road will be completed once the greenery is in place," he said. "This final process has begun and will take about four months to finish. Once done and cleaned up, we can close the books on it from the state of Texas standpoint."

The entire project, from planning, engineering, construction to finalization is under the auspices of the Texas Department of Transportation. TxDOT has utilized a number of contractors and subcontractors to convert what was an increasingly inadequate two-lane blacktop country road into a state-of-the-art six-lane divided concrete highway. Principal contractor was Texas-based Mario Sinacola Companies. A number of local subcontractors, some of them small business start-ups and others long-time TxDOT-preferred businesses, worked on virtually every aspect of the project.

For the final landscaping, All-American Landscaping Company has been chosen to close the loop on the road project. The landscaping company has been hired to add grass, shrubs and trees to the median from Hwy 380 north to FM 455 in Celina.

"The landscape company will start here in Prosper, of course," said Bulla. "Once they get to the northern reaches of Town, the road bed in Celina will likely be completed, and landscaping those medians will closely follow. While the project is of a four-month duration, not all that time will be spent in Prosper."

Of particular note to Town planners, the scheme for the plant array will mirror the manner in which the medians of First Street and Coit Road have been landscaped. In these two roads, a local contractor was employed by the Town to develop a unique combination of "tree clusters" separated by groupings of shrub buffers and distinctive half-moon beds for annuals and native plants.

"We tasked the contractor for First Street and Coit Road with identifying native or adapted plants that are drought tolerant and heat resilient," he said. "The combination of these plants, shrubs and trees will provide long-lasting aesthetics to the roads."

The trees used in all three medians are expected to grow full-size, providing shade, softening the look of the streets, adding to the natural character of the area and giving birds additional space for alighting.

The TxDOT-funded landscaping project is tagged at \$650,000 and is part of the agency's Green Ribbon Landscaping Program. Maintenance of the medians will become the responsibility of Prosper once it is completed, in keeping with the agency's policies. Also, a Town-sponsored lighting project for the medians is on the books.

"There will be some lane closures during the landscaping project," he added. "Motorists should be very cautious when seeing workers or equipment in the medians."

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ABOUT THE TOWN OF PROSPER – The Town of Prosper is a fast-growing suburb with small town charm, located 30 miles north of Dallas at the crossroads of U.S. 380, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway in Collin and Denton Counties. Prosper sits on 27 square miles and is home to more than 15,000 people. A home-rule municipality, governed by a council-manager form of government, the town has full-time fire and police departments, including its own dispatch service. As the Town grows to its projected build-out population of 70,000 residents, Prosper's vision is to remain a "Place Where Everyone Matters."

**PRESTON ROAD
LANDSCAPE PLANT LIST**

Large trees to be planted:

Bald Cypress
Live Oaks

Small trees to be planted:

Vitex
Foster Holly

Shrubs/Perennials to be planted:

Indian Hawthorne
Knockout Roses
Dwarf Yaupon Holly
Purple Diamond Loropetalum
Dallas Red Lantana

Grasses to be planted:

Weeping Love Grass
Giant Liriope