



NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Celso Martinez, 972-623-8836

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Prosper wins three major grants for critical projects

PROSPER (October 24, 2014) The Town has received word of three major grants that will translate into additional parkland, improved access to Preston Road from Prosper High School, and the completion of the long-anticipated West Prosper Roads Project, says Hulon Webb, Prosper's Executive Director of Development and Community Services.

"The two road projects are critical in several ways," he said. "Connecting Coleman St. from Prosper High School to Preston Road is essential for safety and traffic flow, and the West Prosper Roads Project is a key element of the development that we're seeing there. Of course, additional parkland is a bonus for us as we continue to add families."

Under the Collin County Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan, the County sets aside funding for parkland acquisition projects that meet certain criteria. Cities and towns apply for these funds by proposing to use the funds for specific parks, trails and open spaces that will be used for the common good.

Prosper requested funding for the acquisition of over 18 acres of land adjacent to the as-yet-undeveloped Cockrell Park on the Town's northeast side. Seeing the value of increasing the existing park by more than twice its current size, the County agreed to award \$450,000 toward the purchase. The grant represents just under 50 percent of the total cost of the tract. Prosper bond funds and other sources will make up the difference.

"The land is virtually pristine," he said. "There is a running creek within the acreage and it remains in essentially its natural state. There is still some wildlife residing in it and native plants flourish throughout the space."

Plans for the parkland are still being developed, but a connection to Cockrell Park as well as a trail leading to Whitley Place are already envisioned.

In addition to the parks grant, the Collin County Commissioners have access to discretionary funds remaining from the County's 2007 bond program. Prosper requested funding from that source to complete construction of Coleman St. from Prosper High School to Preston Road, a path that has been discussed for several years by the Town.

"The County grant of \$1.4 million will allow us to finish Coleman Street," said Webb. "We are already improving Coleman from Prosper Trail to the high school, and these funds will allow us to take it all the way to Preston." The section between Prosper Trail and the high school will be completed in time for the start of the 2015-16 school year.

Finally, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) has recommended awarding \$4 million to Prosper for construction of the critical West Prosper Roads Project. This project will improve and expand roads in the southwest corner of Town. The RTC recommendation goes to the state for final disposition.

"These roads are the lynchpin of the development in that sector," said Webb. "Windsong Ranch, Kroger Marketplace, and quite a bit of residential development are all dependent on having improved roads in that vicinity."

In fact, in addition to the RTC's recommended \$4 million, Terra Verde Group, Windsong's developer, is contributing almost \$3.3 million, M/I Homes is funding almost \$500,000, Prosper EDC is putting in \$500,000, and the Town is adding over \$4.2 million to the \$12.5 million cost of the project.

Roads affected include Fishtrap, Gee, Teel and FM 1385, all hugging that corner of Prosper. The improvements will also have a positive effect on the pending west side fire station and planned elementary school for the area. Completion of the project is expected in late 2015.

"These are all important projects for us," said Webb. "And the participation of all of these stakeholders, especially Collin County, the RTC and our other partners is very much appreciated."

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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."