

Spring
Weekly

Reader

Volume 9, Issue 35, May 3, 2012

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com



LBJ Walks the Ramparts

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 3 – City of Plano

Employee of the Year

May 10 – Lieutenant Governor

David Dewhurst

May 17 – Jim Faulk – Executive Director,

World Affairs of Dallas/Ft. Worth

May 24 – Van Taylor –

Texas House of Representatives –
District 66

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 01– Samuel Huffines, Sr.

May 05– Gary Basham

May 05– John Priest

May 06– Christopher Parr

May 09– Jason Rice

May 13– Gerald Brence

May 20– Kelly Palmer

May 21– Robert Epstein

May 27– Mary Jo Dean

May 27– Lynn Schwartz

May 29– Randy Wright

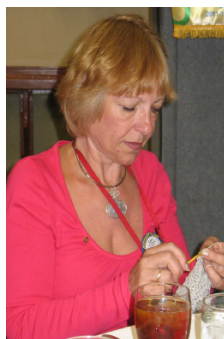
WELL that was a bust. *Sainted Editor* got off scot-free! Where was his comeuppance?! *Lori Phantom*

Crocheter Simon-Roberts (that's OK, *Ken* is

going to change his name to **Roberts-Simon** in a surfeit of symmetry) let the original Poison Penner off with no zingers (promised by *Ken*). Indeed, she excoriated her poor husband instead! It's a good thing that *Too Tall* has a sense of humor or that household would be in trouble. (*Sainted Editor* thanks her anyway for her efforts as substitute editor and photographer! And **Randy** for his exceptional audio talents.)

B, formerly known as *Prince*, tri-belled us to attention at 12:19. He called upon **Joe Foor** for the Invocation and **Herb Hoxie** for the Pledge.

Scary Bob put extra effort into his stentorian



recitation then asked *Sainted Editor*, "Is that loud enough?" *Lori* had remarked on his subdued presentation in the previous meeting, and he wasn't going to stand for any insinuations about his virility!

John thanked the "Mystery Greeter" and called **SERGEANT JENKINS** to account. **SKIP** greeted **Shirley Hsia** from *Park Cities* and **Larry Fuller** from the *East Dallas Club*. With

appropriate trepidation, **SKIP** asked *Ean* to introduce his guest, but *Ean* said he needed no introduction after having delivering the Invocation. *Randy* introduced **Tim McCord** so vigorously with advertisements that **SKIP** fined him first \$1 then \$2 and finally \$5. **Bruce** was AWOL so **Lee Dunlap** introduced his guest, **Lynn McLean**, CEO of *Children's Advocacy* and new recruit.

Mark Waterbury returned from a long (but apparently excused) absence to collect his 6-year Perfect Attendance pin.



Susan Shuler was advertised to speak about **Derby Day Festival**, but she wasn't talking about Soap Box but rather a benefit Fun Run of 5 K (3.11 miles) starting 7 am at *St. Andrews Methodist Church* on Cinco de Mayo. Susan and *John's* clinics will both benefit from the proceeds. Find out more at

www.wetimeraces.com/Derby.htm



John thanked all who had attended the 5810 District Assembly except **LB THE RADIANT**, who, having worn a white shirt, caused *Plano Rotary*

Club to lose the **Best Dressed Competition** when all 7 other Plano attendees wore yellow Soap Box Derby tees.

It was *Randy* who rose to proselytize for our non-**SOAP BOX DERBY**, **May 12**. Presumably an explanation will be forthcoming as to why the event is no longer a qualifier for Akron, but, in the meantime, we have a Fun Run instead.



We will build no new cars but use those we've stockpiled instead, and kids will be charged \$5 to compete in them. So this is the service to the youth of the community of which we'll crow. It's not clear what we'll charge those who show up with their own cars. But what is clear is that we will need lots more volunteers to assist **Kenny Wilson, Jim Cooper, and David McWhorter.**

Randy recruited "team captains" from each of our tables to sign at least three shifts up for volunteer duty. Two of the tables claimed to have "lost" their sign-up sheets, but that dodge was quered by Randy's extra copies. He told the "captains" that if they were not persuasive enough, they could sign up for three shifts and spare their table companions.

After John had ascertained there to be no more "lengthy announcements," he called forth **Alan Feigenbaum** to introduce the day's speaker,



Andy Rittler, Director of Corporate Affairs (sounds like an interesting position if the employees cooperate) of the *LBJ Infrastructure Group, LLC*. "He oversees the day-to-day operations of government and media relations, public affairs, and implementation of stakeholder communications and community outreach for the Northeast Dallas County Infrastructure Project."

He ran political campaigns and fundraising in four states (for business interests) as the Southern Regional Political Director. His day job was in building and contracting in Austin. After five years, he switched to Dallas as the Central Region Political Director for the *National Federation of Independent Businesses*. He came to the LBJ project in May of 2009 after 3½ years as **John Cornyn's** North Texas Region Director.



Cleaner?

Faster. Safer. Cleaner.

Andy exhorted those of us who knew him not to "tell anyone next to you about me until I'm done." It wasn't the most compelling opening line we've heard.

He asked for a show of hands of all those who have driven LBJ recently, and was rewarded with an almost unanimous response. "And how many of you enjoyed the experience?" he asked; one person applauded.

He pummeled us with a presentation that began with a traffic count as of 1969: 180K cars per day used LBJ then. Forty years later it had risen to 270K. At that rate, it would become ½ a million by 2020. It's clear that would bring us all to a halt unless the roadways were to be upgraded. Now that that is in progress, ridership has fallen to 240K with the rest finding alternate routes.

The Project has a long history beginning in 1987.



Using the results of the study done in that year, a public-private project was developed to ensure the completion of the project in record time. TxDOT owns and oversees the Project from headquarters co-located with the *LBJ Infrastructure Group*.

www.lbjexpress.com

The stakeholders (leaving out the riding public...what's new?) are *Cintra, Meridiam*, and (oddly) the pension funds for the Dallas Police and Firefighters! All are invested for the long run; over 50 years. The \$2.7B construction fees come from Private Activity Bonds and a DOT 30-year loan. So the taxpayers are invested almost \$½M in this (\$1 for every daily rider in 2020).

It represents a great public works project, employing directly or indirectly 2,000 people scattered over 100 companies (90% DFW- or TX-based). And in a nod to political correctness, 12% has gone to "disadvantaged business enterprises."

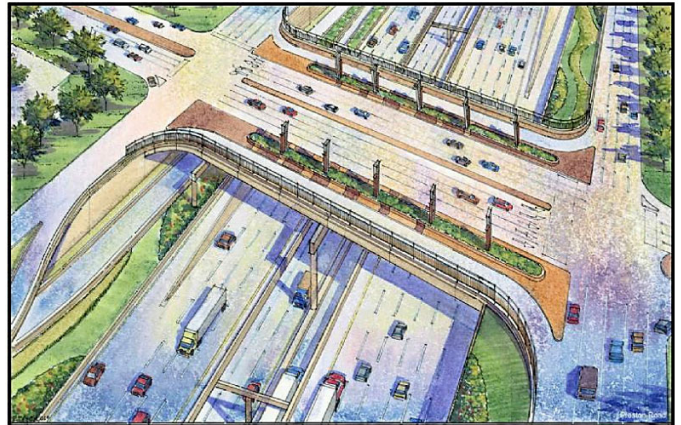
While we may have heard that LBJ was to become a tunnel (a rejected bid by another group), it is actually to become a 3-lane "managed roadway" (read tollway) with four free, cantilevered lanes plus a 2-lane frontage road in each direction. (See the diagram on the next page.)

The toll will vary with demand. If traffic flow falls below 50 mph, it will rise to as much as 55¢ per mile. The span of 13 miles might cost between \$2 and \$10 if free or congested, respectively. It is scheduled for completion in **December 2016**. But it will be done in stages: the eastern parts by the end of 2013 and I-35 to Josey by April 2015.

He promised a time-lapse video of the Montford overpass and frantically clicked his remote, but nothing happened. Someone thoughtfully suggested, "It's at night?" Andy laughingly confirmed that as he strode to his laptop to beat it into submission. There followed the video and one of the Rosser overpass. To see animation of the complete route from I-35 north and LBJ east, point your browser to

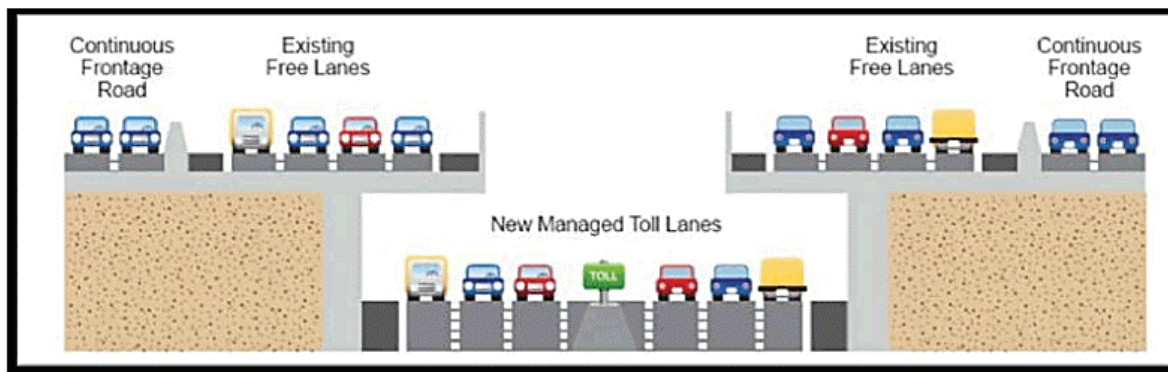
www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMc-ZPW02nQ

Andy agreed, "it looks like the surface of the Moon" at present, but, he promised, the bridges will be returned to normal by this time next year. The utility companies are giving them the biggest headaches. The bridge at Preston (below) is congested even before they begin.



The Project includes provision of emergency services to stranded drivers. Andy urged us all to take care around those vehicles. One texting driver took off the door of one of their trucks!





Shopping opportunities along LBJ are being offered via LBJ Marketplace:

www.lbjexpressmarketplace.com

It offers this website with deals and specials in economic partnership with LBJ Express. It even has mobile apps as if your iPhone isn't full already.



Some \$1½M has been subverted to encourage AP (Advanced Placement) courses in local high schools to ensure a “skilled workforce.” And, in a further bid for youthful interest, **facebook**, **twitter**, and even **Pinterest** accounts have been created.

Andy touted “e-updates” to “*know before you go*” the status of LBJ closures and detours.

FLASH wanted to know the incentives for subcontractors, and Andy told him “*we’ll stop screaming at them*” if they’re on time and budget. With close to \$3B on the line, they’ve written major penalties into all contracts. He vowed 4 lanes would be open while they work.

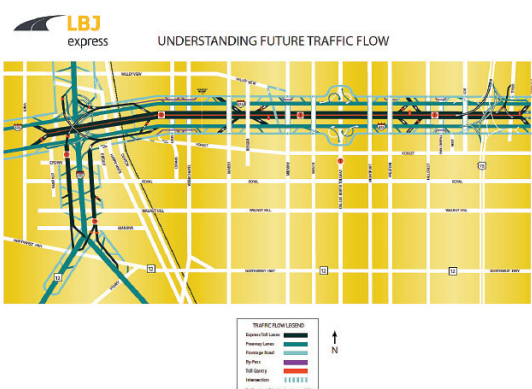
On second thought, he amended that to “*during business hours.*” Nights and weekends it may go down to one lane.

To a question about the precedent for “managed lanes,” Andy noted that it has worked elsewhere. The questioner asked about refunds for speeds below 50 MPH and was told “no.”

Nancy Humphrey inquired about disposal of all the debris. Andy asked if her backyard were available, but the actual answer is recycled concrete.

Kelly Palmer wanted to know about protection for endangered species. Andy said that he didn’t “*care much about squirrels,*” but that they are replanting trees uprooted by the Project so migratory birds are not adversely affected. The replacement is three to one in wetlands.

CAPTAIN KIRK took over for an absent Prince John and thanked the speaker, cautioning him to not use our Rotary Medallion at the tollbooths. He surmised that “*Democrats will worry about the birds*” while Republicans would call in airstrikes on the bridges. Kirk led us in the Four-Way Test and dismissed the troops at 1:01.



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*Know someone who would
make a great Rotarian?*

*Invite them to be your guest
at Rotary!*

The 4 Way Test:

Of the things we think, say, and do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill & better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest

Kevin Hanigan

Guest Of

Keith Sockwell

Visiting Rotarians

Randy Sandifer

Richard Taylor

Ken Chute

Home Club

Allen

Plano Sunrise

Longview

Member NEWS

AWARDS:

Harold Sullivan Award:

Randy Wright

Athena Award:

Rebecca Caso

Fred Moses Award:

Richard Butterly

Business Executive of the Year:

Gary Base

Kersey Can Holder:

Vance Bryson

Citizen of the Year:

Beth and Duncan Webb

Rotary Make Up Website:

www.rotaryclubone.org

New Member Proposals:

John Parker

Classification: Insurance

Proposed by: Ean Sullivan

Bill Wray

Classification: Law

Proposed by: Jeff Fraunheim