

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address December 6, 2013

“Interstate 35E”

Hello, this is your congressman, Michael Burgess. It's been a long time coming, but construction activity on Interstate 35E is now visible. I am glad that the day has finally arrived. With the increase in traffic and congestion in our highway, I am pleased by at least a little bit of good news.

Last week, at my 11th annual Transportation Summit, I partnered with Texas Department of Transportation to talk with leaders at the local, state, and federal level. Transportation is always a popular topic of discussion in North Texas and for obvious reasons. We've got one of the world's busiest airports, thousands of miles of roads and highways, rail lines, and a large intermodal facility west of Alliance Airport. Certainly, we in North Texas recognize the importance of transportation, and its role in this region's continued growth.

When I first got to Congress, I served on the Transportation Committee. I was a part of drafting the 2005 Transportation Reauthorization Bill. Policy changes in that bill continue to have lasting benefits. By using things like design-build and environmental streamlining, we can meet the infrastructure needs in North Texas more safely and more efficiently building roads and delivering the projects in less time.

The ground breaking for the Interstate 35E happened in early October of this year. The project will reconstruct the highway from Dallas to Denton and add a third lane each way. It will also expand the Lewisville Lake Bridge and reconstruct the current Farm Road 407 bridge to run under the highway. I am happy to say that with Texas Department of Transportation, we were able to maximize scarce transportation dollars for the expansion of this vital freeway.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. For more information about this issue and other issues before the United States Congress, please visit my website at burgess.house.gov. May God bless you and your family, and as always, may God bless Texas.