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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
ROADWAY IN NORTHEAST TRAVIS COUNTY RECEIVES MUCH NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

**Travis County Commissioners Ron Davis and Sarah Eckhardt announce a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the Howard Lane I Roadway Improvement Project
Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 10:30AM at 1900 Howard Lane (formerly Gregg Lane)**

Austin, TX – Travis County Precinct 1 Commissioner Ron Davis and Precinct 2 Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt are pleased to announce the completion of the construction of the Howard Lane I Roadway improvement project. The improvement project is located in northeast Travis County and it traverses both Precincts 1 and 2. The project limits are from Dessau Road to Cameron Road, basically following the same alignment of what is currently known as Gregg Lane for about 2.7 miles. The new 4-lane curb & gutter roadway replaces existing Gregg Lane which was a two-lane road with roadside ditches.

In addition to widening the roadway, the improvements include a continuous center turn lane or raised median with turn lanes, and a bicycle lane and concrete sidewalk on each side, in compliance with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Plan. A two lane bridge was also added parallel to the existing two lane bridge to serve the west bound and east bound traffic respectively. Additional improvements include a dedicated right turn lane at Dessau, an underground storm sewer system, and water quality facilities.

A wastewater line relocation and waterline upgrade and extension, paid for by the City of Austin, were also part of this project. Additional public utilities relocation and improvements were done by Austin Energy, AT&T, and Atmos Energy, paid for by the respective utility owner.

“With the completion of this project, motorists now have an east-west connection when traveling between Mopac and Cameron Road and we are now working toward extending this road connection further east,” stated Precinct 1 County Commissioner Ron Davis, “And the project was completed under budget and within the construction contract period.”

The project was funded with money from Certificate of Obligation (CO) funds, and from the 1984 and 2005 Bond Projects Funds. The total construction cost was about \$9,000,000, with an additional \$2,800,000 spent on design and Right-of-Way acquisition.

“The Howard Lane project is another fine example of collaboration across governmental organizations and cooperation with the private sector, both commercial and residential”, stated Precinct 2 County Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt. “The roadway, bicycle lanes and sidewalks included in this project will greatly enhance mobility, quality of life and economic prospects for residents and businesses alike. We’re grateful to all the taxpayers of Travis County for the financial ability to improve the experience of residents in Precincts 1 and 2.”

To accommodate motorists, the road remained opened to traffic throughout construction.