

WFAA
By Cynthia Vega

DFW Connector project at halfway point

GRAPEVINE - The city of Grapevine is celebrating a milestone today. Construction on the DFW Connector Project is more than half done and ahead of schedule.

Businesses along historic Main Street are among those celebrating the progress report.

For the last year and a half, they have endured construction along the nearby Main Street Bridge leading into town as well as construction along State Highway 114, which runs east and west below the bridge.

The city held a ribbon cutting ceremony today, announcing that construction on the Main Street Bridge is complete, widening it from five lanes to eight. It will reopen in March, once utility crews finish their work at either end.

Perry Leonard, who owns Black Tire and Service, looks forward to the reopening of the bridge. He also looks forward to the widening of nearby State Highway 114. Both are expected to ease congestion for drivers. Leonard said closures in the area have hurt area businesses overall, but the new construction could improve the bottom line, bringing in new business.

The DFW Connector project is the largest stimulus project in the country. The \$1-billion project is a joint effort between TxDOT and Northgate Constructors. It's adding lanes to State Highway 114 and 121 along an eight-mile stretch to ease congestion on the north side of DFW International Airport.

At its widest point, the project will create 24 lanes for traffic.

The project is expected to be completed in 2014, but that could happen sooner if construction remains ahead of schedule.