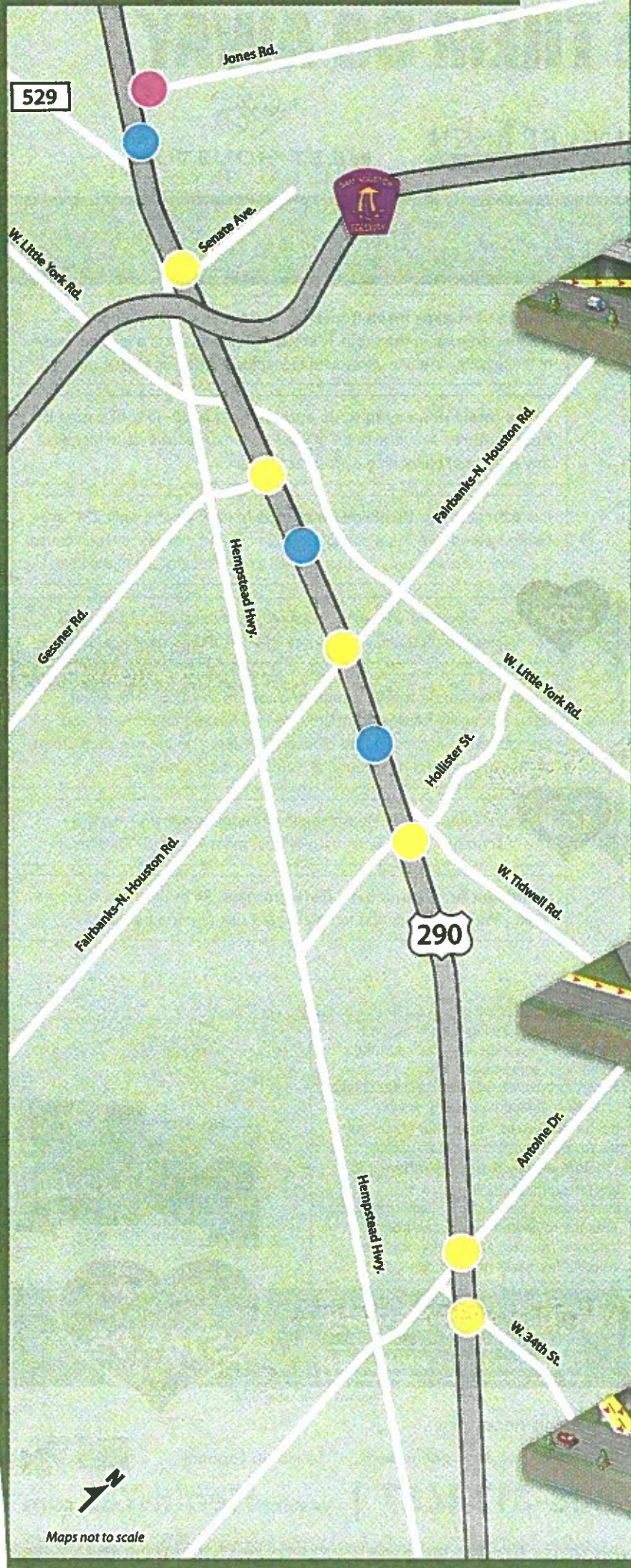


Transportation Report | Hwy. 290 interim traffic management projects

Congested Hwy. 290 traffic receives relief in top gridlock areas

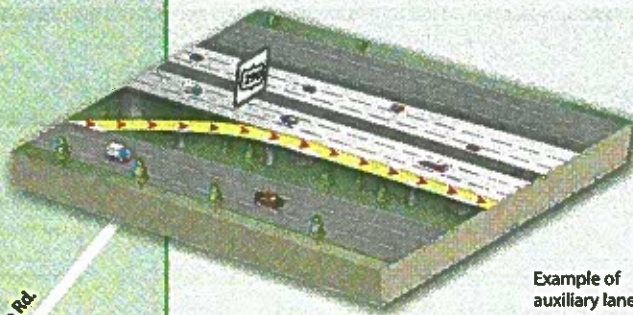


Maps not to scale

Auxiliary lanes

To help allow for easier movement between Hwy. 290 main lanes, auxiliary lanes will be created between the following Hwy. 290 exits and entrances:

- West Little York Road and Fairbanks-North Houston Road
- West Tidwell Road and Fairbanks-North Houston Road
- Jones Road and FM 529



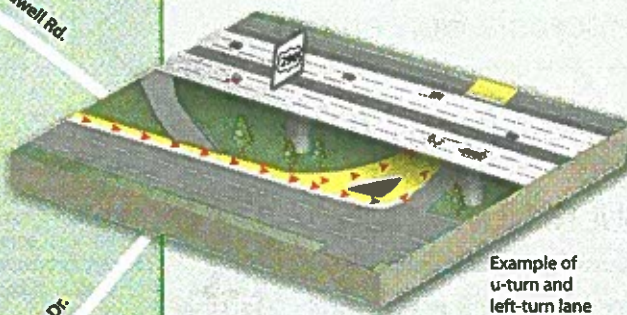
Example of auxiliary lane

U-turn & left-turn lanes

A designated u-turn and left-turn lane will be created and allow for an extra frontage road lane for traffic. Currently, a median separates the u-turn and left-turn lanes. This will be pushed back, and the two lanes will be combined into one single lane. Here, the motorist can either execute a u-turn or proceed farther and turn left.

The following Hwy. 290 intersections will have this combined u-turn and left-turn lane for both east and westbound Hwy. 290:

- Senate Avenue
- Gessner Road
- Fairbanks-North Houston Road
- Hollister Street
- Antoine Drive
- West 34th Street

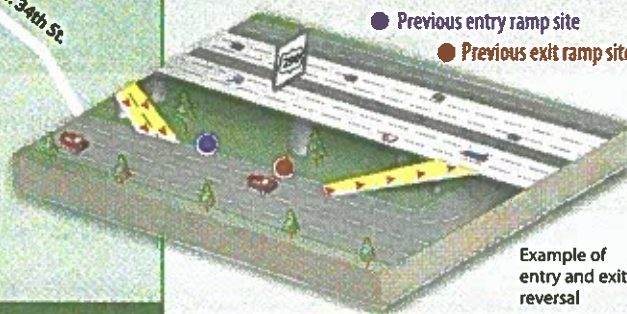


Example of u-turn and left-turn lane

Entry and exit reversal

Although this portion of the project is still pending approval, TxDOT plans to widen the Jones Road westbound frontage road, creating a two-lane exit ramp. Plans also include moving the existing exit ramp back 1,000 feet and moving the entrance back 800 feet.

- Previous entry ramp site
- Previous exit ramp site



Example of entry and exit reversal

By Kimberly Stauffer

In the interim between paperwork and ordering an army of construction equipment, the Texas Department of Transportation has planned a series of Hwy. 290 traffic system management projects that will add modifications like combined left-turn lanes, u-turn lanes and auxiliary lanes, which are designated lanes between highway entrances and exits that cut down on traffic and allow easier movement between lanes.

The first set of projects have been approved and will begin later this year. Between West Little York Road and Fairbanks-North Houston Road and between West Tidwell Road and Fairbanks-North Houston Road, TxDOT plans to widen the existing pavement on both inbound and outbound sides to create auxiliary lanes between every entrance and exit. The same construction will occur between Jones Road and FM 529. Crews will remove the existing lane stripes and repaint them to create auxiliary lanes.

At Senate Avenue, the busy main street for Jersey Village, TxDOT will push back the median separating the u-turn and left-turn lanes and build a designated u-turn and left-turn lane, thereby adding an extra lane of traffic.

The second set of projects has yet to be approved, but includes plans to widen the westbound frontage road of Jones Road to accommodate a two-lane exit ramp as well as push back the existing exit by about 1,000 feet and the entrance by about 800 feet. This entry and exit reversal is a vital part of the Hwy. 290 renovation, as it will help manage traffic flow by allowing people to exit long before the intersection, giving them time to move between lanes.

Designated u-turn and left-turn lanes will also be built on the highway's eastbound and westbound sides of Senate Avenue, Gessner Road, Fairbanks-North Houston Road, Hollister Street, Antoine Drive and West 34th Street.

"Folks on the street always ask where the big earthmover is," said Mike Zientek, senior public involvement representative for the Hwy. 290 program. "This is good. It's something folks can see."

Area residents like William "Bill" Rowden are eager to see dirt turned.

"As far as the timeline, I'm as frustrated as anybody. My favorite saying is, 'We've been at this for 15 years and the most dirt that's been moved is with a broom,'" said Rowden, chair of the Cy-Fair Chamber Mobility Committee. "I'm frustrated, but I understand the problems. To get a project of this magnitude approved and ready to go, it takes a huge effort and many years."

"Everyone here is going to be impacted, but at the same time, when it's finished we will have really good mobility," he said.