



THE 635EXCHANGE

Volume 5 | Spring - Summer 2023



Gus Thomasson Road north view at I-30 rendering



I-30 at Gus Thomasson Road, east view rendering

Gus Thomasson Bridge at I-30 Full Reconstruction Underway

Pegasus Link Constructors has reached the phase in construction to officially begin the full reconstruction of the Gus Thomasson Road intersection at Interstate I-30. Gus Thomasson Road is one of the many intersecting cross streets that are being reconstructed along the 11-mile 635 East Project. Located southwest of the project in Mesquite, the project team closed the intersection at the end of June, followed by removal of the old bridge to make way for the new intersection and kick off construction.

The Gus Thomasson closure will last up to nine months with one major objective: to convert the overpassing Gus Thomasson bridge into an at-grade underpass, eventually leveling with both directions of Gus Thomasson on its north and south ends of I-30.

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Here's What You Need to Know:

- All lanes along northbound and southbound Gus Thomasson Road at I-30 will be closed until spring 2024.
- Alternate detours are in place for drivers to utilize the eastbound and westbound I-30 frontage roads, as well as Motley Drive or Galloway Avenue to get through the long-term closure.
- Do you live or work around the area? Construction along I-30 and I-635 will be ongoing at the same time as bridge construction. Get signed up for traffic alerts by texting the message "635 East" to 1-833-HWY-6353 to begin receiving construction updates on your mobile device. Or, send us an email at info@635east.com to sign up for e-blasts or submit any questions you may have.

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Gus Thomasson Bridge Construction



Full removal of the old Gus Thomasson bridge took place over one weekend in June.



A full I-30 mainlane closure was required to remove the old lanes of Gus Thomasson Road.



Construction of I-30 mainlane bridges at the Gus Thomasson intersection.

Skillman Bridge 2023 Progress

In Dallas' Lake Highlands neighborhood, striking new white arches can be seen on the horizon providing an eye-catching addition to the backdrop of an evolving corridor. Steel for the new Skillman aesthetic bridge have been in place for a few months now, awaiting its new status as the grand entrance to Lake Highlands at the I-635 intersection.

The project team has been making headway with steel work at Skillman since the top of the year, installing prefabricated steel segments through the summer. In June, the final pieces of the arches were installed.

Up next, Skillman bridge deck construction will begin and continue work through 2024, to build the part of the bridge that will incorporate lanes to be utilized by drivers crossing the Skillman intersection when construction is complete.

Once Skillman is fully built in late 2024, the new bridge will stand out as an attractive and functional landmark featuring a steel double-arch, steel crossbeam supports and cable stays from the arch to the bridge deck. Dynamic, color-changing lights will serve their own dual purpose of boosting aesthetics and safety and keeping the pedestrian pathways well lit.

Keep up with progress at Skillman by viewing the Project's Earthcam at: 635east.com



June 2023 aerial view of Skillman Street



Oct. 2022



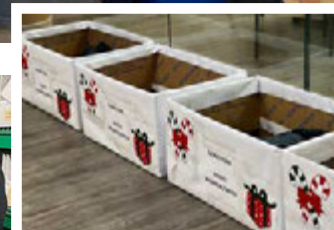
April 2023



July 2023

In the Community

The first half of 2023 has been busy as the 635 East team continues its outreach in the community. Timed around the winter holiday season, Pegasus Link Constructors employees provided several boxes of personal items, monetary donations and service time to OurCalling, a nonprofit dedicated to providing various resources to aid the homeless population of Dallas County, which include laundry services, hot meals, filling orders for clothing, blankets and counselling.



In January, PLC had a chance to share plans for construction at Gus Thomasson Road during a Business Meet-and-Greet hosted by the City of Mesquite Economic Development Committee.

The project team joined many other infrastructure employers in May to connect and engage with local high school students preparing for their careers. Jointly hosted by the Texas Department of Transportation and Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas, the event featured student interaction to learn about career options in the industry and a demonstration for traffic control using a parked Automated Traffic Management (ATM) truck used to place lane closures in construction zones, courtesy of Pegasus Link Constructors.



In late spring, teammates joined forces at the Pull for Pompe fundraising skeet shoot benefitting those who suffer from acid maltase deficiency, also known as Pompe disease. The annual family-friendly event is organized by the Precast Concrete Manufacturers Association (PCMA) with the funds raised going to the Acid Maltase Deficiency Association (AMDA).

Bexar Concrete, a member of the PCMA, has been a valued partner that provides beams on several jobsites across Texas in Austin, Dallas and Houston. Pegasus Link Constructors' JV parent company has served as a proud sponsor for the past 12 years.



Project Progress



The Project Earthcam at the I-30 / I-635 Interchange captures an up close view in June of the project's new direct connectors.



A close-up in the evening of the Skillman Street bridge via the Project Earthcam.



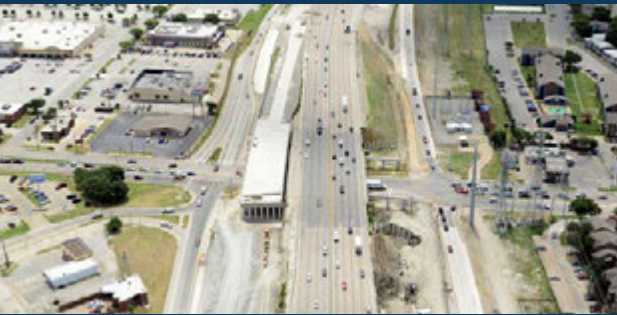
Royal Lane/Miller Road is being prepped to switch existing traffic onto the bridge's newly built section.



Paving has started for the westbound I-635 mainlane bridge at Jupiter Road.



Beams set for the new I-635 frontage road bridges at Northwest Highway.



New I-635 westbound bridge is developing at the Centerville Road/Ferguson Road intersection.



The new northbound and southbound I-635 mainlane bridges at La Prada Drive are taking shape.



New northbound and southbound I-635 frontage roads and updated exit ramps are being constructed between La Prada Drive and Oates Drive.



Progress at Gus Thomasson Road since the demolition of the bridge at the end of June.



Abrams Road and Forest Lane new bridge sections await lane striping to accommodate traffic through the intersections.



Galloway Avenue over I-30 and its east-to-west U-turn is one of the detours being used for the long-term temporary closure of Gus Thomasson Road.



West view of Shiloh Road and Garland Road, with new I-635 frontage road bridges developing.

DBE Spotlight: Reginald Loftin, Photographer



From the aerial photos seen on www.635east.com, to social media, presentations, marketing materials and this exact newsletter, one of the things each have in common are the vibrant, unique, breath-taking project photographs that grace its content.

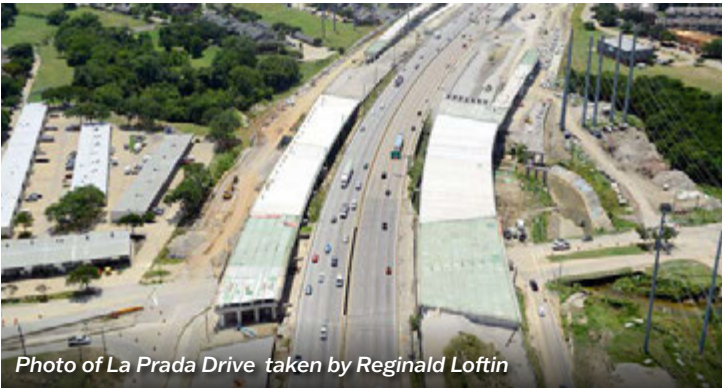


Photo of La Prada Drive taken by Reginald Loftin

Meet the man behind the lens: Reginald Loftin, owner of the company, Reginald Loftin Photographer, a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firm.

Loftin’s experience in construction photography started when DART invited him to take progress photos of the first light rail system in Dallas almost four decades ago.

Since then, he acquired a large list of contracts with major organizations taking event photographs, capturing video and documenting progress within the transportation, construction and public works fields.

Loftin graduated college in 1986 from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M Commerce), with two degrees: Radio Television Production and Commercial/Advertising Photography.

Before finding his niche in construction, he worked various jobs in advertising doing commercial photography, fashion and video production to develop educational material for children at Color Dynamics Studio, which was the set of popular children’s television show, Barney & Friends.

Being from Wolfe City, Texas, Loftin connects his love for the outdoors and country lifestyle to his interest in construction photography. His seasoned experience doing photography in other industries harnesses versatility in his work, which he says adds to his competitive edge.

“The certification I have as a DBE puts another feather in the cap to use,” he says in regard to what sets him apart. “It’s like going to the grocery store. The fact that I am a minority-owned business, and experienced with different kinds of video and photography, [they] get everything they need in one package.”

Loftin stays busy with several high-profile contracts to some of the metroplex’s largest infrastructure projects and companies, including the 635 East Project.

The aerial photos that project followers know and love so well were all taken on a helicopter that Loftin rides each month to capture the best angles of the project.

To see some of Loftin’s latest work, visit his website: <https://reginaldloftinphotographer.pixieset.com/>



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New Connections: Frontage Road Openings of Early 2023

Continuous frontage roads will be, without a doubt, one of the many perks that the 635 East project will deliver to drivers who live and work along the corridor. Implementing bypass lanes at some cross streets and Texas U-turns at all intersections, the roadway additions are sure to greatly improve traffic flow and alleviate congestion as each gradually open to the public within 635 East’s remaining years. Many of these new roadway sections will open before the project’s anticipated completion of 2025.

The following are what were opened to the public in the first few months of the year.

Westbound I-635 frontage road between Skillman Street and Forest Lane

This traffic switch lengthened the westbound I-635 entrance ramp from Skillman, and provided a lane option separate from the mainlanes connecting Skillman traffic with those trying to access Forest Lane.

Westbound I-635 frontage road between Walnut Hill Lane/Kingsley Road and Plano Road

The opening of this stretch of pavement allowed crews to also open the new exit to Plano, as well as the new entrance from Walnut/Kingsley.

Eastbound I-635 frontage road between Northwest Highway and La Prada Drive

A large stretch of frontage road opened to the public, that allowed a continuous connection between Northwest Highway and La Prada Drive. This new connection provides drivers an option

to travel locally between Northwest Highway, Centerville Road, Ferguson Road, and La Prada Drive without having to access the mainlanes. The exits and entrance ramps between these cross streets were also shifted, providing safer distances to merge with traffic trying to exit and enter I-635.

Westbound I-635 frontage road between La Prada Drive and Centerville Road/Ferguson Road

The most recently opened out of the others on the list, this new roadway section shifted the entrance ramp from La Prada Drive further west.



PLC Job Opportunities

Pegasus Link Constructors I-635 East team is actively seeking applicants for the following positions:

- Scheduler
- CDL Drivers
- Construction Engineers
- Carpenters (ongoing)
- Laborers (ongoing)
- Mechanic (Hourly, Non-Exempt)
- Fuel Servicer (must be Hazmat and Tanker certified)
- Experienced Paving Superintendent (Nights)
- HSE Representatives (Health, Safety & Environmental)

Pegasus Link Constructors is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Please apply in person at our project office: **12170 Abrams Rd., Suite 125, Dallas.**

For questions about any of our employment opportunities, please call **469-687-8040.**

New Look, Same Great Information

Our project website 635east.com recently underwent some construction too!

For all those who continue to tune in, thank you for using it as a resource for learning about the 635 East project, seeing construction progress and helping plan your commutes in advance.

Remember:

We always have a full list of upcoming scheduled lane closures: txdot.gov/635east/closures.html

Sign up for weekly traffic alerts by emailing us at info@635east.com.

Subscribe to text alerts by sending “635 East” to **833-HWY-635E.**



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