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OAK CLIFF

I-35E deck park gets green light from city

Council vote allows TxDOT to start building this summer

By **JULIE FANCHER**
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The Dallas City Council on Wednesday unanimously authorized funding for a new deck park over Interstate 35E in hopes of physically reconnecting north and east Oak Cliff, areas torn apart decades ago by years of highway building.

The council vote will allow the Texas Department of Transportation to move forward with building the foundations and part of the deck park as part of the Southern Gateway highway redevelopment project. Construction is expected to begin later this summer.

The park is to eventually cover 5.5 acres from Marsalis Avenue to Ewing Avenue. It was among recommendations from the Texas Department of

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City of Dallas

An activity lawn and pavilion are planned for a unanimously approved deck park to be built over Interstate 35E adjacent to the Dallas Zoo.

CITY COUNCIL

Dallas backs \$1B in bonds

13-2 vote advances plan for November election on expanded package

By **TRISTAN HALLMAN**
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Despite some sticker shock, the Dallas City Council will move forward with a \$1.025 billion November bond package.

With a 13-2 vote Wednesday, the council gave its support for a bond package that exceeds the \$800 million cap the council had previously agreed upon. The resolution represented a major step forward for the tortuous bond process that has loomed over City Hall for more than a year.

Council member Mark Clayton, who had been a critic of the process, said after the vote that he felt "really good" about the package.

"I really feel like it rounded into good form," Clayton said. "The best thing about the compromise is that not everybody gets everything they want, but most people got enough to go

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Money allocation

Streets	\$500 million
Parks and trails	\$178 million
District-specific funds	\$84.8 million
City facilities	\$82 million
Flood protection	\$65 million
Economic development and housing	\$65 million
Fair Park	\$50 million

TRAVEL BAN

U.S. sets new rules on visas

Applicants required to have 'close' ties to family or business

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Wednesday set new criteria for visa applicants from six mainly Muslim nations and all refugees that require a "close" family or business tie to the United States.

The move came after the Supreme Court partially restored President Donald Trump's executive order that was widely criticized as a ban on Muslims.

Visas that have already been approved will not be revoked, but instructions issued by the State Department say that new applicants from Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen must prove a relationship with a parent,

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ARTS

A glowing review for Dallas' cultural economy



Jeffrey McWhorter/Special Contributor

Concertgoers took in the sounds of the Kickin' Brass Band during a recent Arts District Block Party outside the Dallas Museum of Art. A new study says the economic impact of the Arts District tripled over a five-year period.

Study cites dramatic rise in financial benefits to area

By **MICHAEL GRANBERRY**
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Arts impact on North Texas

■ "Of the 52,848 jobs supported, 40,368 are directly tied to arts organizations." As a point of comparison, Katherine Wagner, the CEO of the Dallas-based Business Council for the Arts, noted that Fort Worth-based American Airlines employs about 30,000 people.

■ Those jobs translated into \$1.3 billion in annual salaries.

■ North Texas' "cultural audience attendance numbers" totaled more than 13.97 million in 2015.

A new study conducted by Americans for the Arts and released Wednesday night reports that North Texas' arts and culture industry is dramatically on the upswing.

Research for the study, titled "Arts & Economic Prosperity 5," was gathered locally by the nonprofit Business Council for the Arts. The study states that North Tex-

as' arts and culture industry "generates \$1.47 billion in economic activity and supports 52,848 jobs annually."

The North Texas region, the study reports, is now the

third-largest arts economy in the nation, trailing only the metropolitan areas of Washington and Philadelphia — though New York and Los Angeles declined to take part

in the study.

The study's findings coincide, of course, with the dire news surrounding the AT&T Performing Arts Center, which not that long ago reported a capital debt in excess of \$150 million. ATTPAC has since taken steps to reduce the debt.

The new study, with data confined to the 2015 fiscal year, reports that the "economic impact of the Dallas

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SENATE HEALTH CARE BILL

Savings touted by GOP have flip side

Premiums could fall, but patients' share of costs would jump

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Republicans are touting lower premiums under their health care legislation, but that reflects insurance that would cover a smaller share of medical bills.

The fine print is getting lost in the translation.

Consumers might pay less up front every month, but those who break a bone or get hospitalized for a serious illness could be on the hook for a bigger share of the bill.

Premiums under the Senate bill would be an average of about 30 percent lower in a few years, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office

said in its analysis this week. Overlooked is that the lower premiums envision a switch to "bronze" plans that now come with a \$6,000 individual deductible, much higher than the current standard "silver" plan with a \$3,600 deductible.

Another caveat: Not everybody would see lower premiums.

Insurers would be able to charge older adults up to

five times more than other people, compared with a three-fold difference under current law, the health care overhaul passed under then-President Barack Obama.

Also, the GOP would give lower-income people less financial help from the government, which means many might not be able to afford coverage. Lower-income

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Partly cloudy, hot



Metro, back page

METRO & STATE

No drugs, alcohol at Balch Springs party

No teens were drinking or using drugs at an April 29 party, despite a 911 call that ultimately led to a deadly confrontation between a Balch Springs officer and 15-year-old Jordan Edwards, an official says. **1B**

Dallas replacing 3 on DART board

Three Dallas-appointed DART board members who voted to fund the commuter rail line that would have crossed the northern suburbs were ousted Tuesday. **1B**

WORLD

Pope aide charged with sex offenses

Australian police charged a senior cardinal at the Vatican and top aide to the pope with multiple counts of historical sexual assault offenses. **7A**

BUSINESS

Southwest reduces service to Cuba

Dallas-based Southwest Airlines is pulling back on its service to Cuba, with plans to end flights to two smaller cities on the island in September. **1D**

NATION

Man rams Arkansas 10 Commandments

A man yelled "Freedom" as he crashed his vehicle into Arkansas' new, privately funded Ten Commandments monument early Wednesday. **4A**

SPORTSDAY

Rockets deal doesn't rock Mavs' plans

The Houston Rockets swung a deal to acquire point guard Chris Paul. What does it all mean for the Mavericks? Not much at this point, writes Eddie Sefko. **1C**

Also: NFL confirms Cowboy Irving's suspension. **4C**

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File Photo/Ting Shen

Flood control is among the priorities for the bond package. Council member Mark Clayton said compromise helped the plan get passed. "Most people got enough to go to their district and say the most critical needs were addressed," he said.

Streets and parks lead bond items

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How they voted

For: Tennell Atkins, Rickey Callahan, Dwayne Caraway, Mark Clayton, Kevin Felder, Jennifer Staubach Gates, Sandy Greyson, Scott Griggs, Adam McGough, Adam Medrano, Omar Narvaez, Mike Rawlings, Casey Thomas

Against: Philip Kingston, Lee Kleinman

spend \$800 million.

Last week's increase of the package to more than \$1 billion seemed to quell some anxiety over which projects would go on the ballot.

As the package stands, streets are a big-ticket item, followed by parks, city facilities, flood control, economic development, housing and Fair Park.

Much of the package will finally address deferred maintenance. Residents will also see new projects, such as downtown parks, new connections in the city's trail system, new fire stations, two new libraries in northeast Dallas and new recreational facilities.

But not everyone is totally



File Photo/Smiley N. Pool

Streets are a big-ticket item in the \$1.025 billion bond package, followed by parks, city facilities, flood control, economic development, housing and Fair Park.

happy with the package. Council members Casey Thomas and Tennell Atkins, who represent the southern edges of Dallas, want more money for economic development. Rickey Callahan, who represents Pleasant Grove, wants a senior center.

Callahan also said the council's desire for fiscal responsibility faded over the months as council members put more money into the city's core. The council at one point was considering a package of less than \$800 million.

"We started doing our window shopping and we started to see the nice things in the window that we wanted to buy and we wanted to have," he said.

But Callahan ultimately voted for the package. Only

Lee Kleinman and Philip Kingston opposed it.

Kleinman said the plan would put taxpayers under too much new debt. Kingston said the package had been "larded" with projects not explicitly approved by the council. He urged residents to call their council members to demand up-or-down votes on citywide projects, something that has yet to happen.

Kingston said votes on individual projects would allow for the "testing [of] citywide projects with actual democracy."

"I hope that's not a novel concept," he said. "That's how we've built programs in the past."

Council member Jennifer Staubach Gates said she understood Kingston's frustration because the package was larger than she wanted it to be.

But she said she strongly supported the package because "it's going to be improving the majority of all citizens' life in the city of Dallas and helping us grow in the city."

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Arts industry shows dramatic growth in D-FW

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Arts District has tripled in five years, going from \$128.6 million to \$395.8 million. That alone is more than a 207 percent increase. The city as a whole showed an increase of almost 300 percent.

Katherine Wagner, CEO of the Dallas-based Business Council for the Arts, said the study shows that, in the North Texas area, "the arts and culture sector is extraordinarily strong."

As for ATTPAC's debt appearing to contradict the glowing numbers reported in the study, Wagner said that this particular study "doesn't use any construction costs." The ATTPAC debt is a capital debt, not an operational debt, so that would not be reflected in the data.

Arts District factor

The study, which examines cities, counties and states nationwide, occurs every five years. ATTPAC opened in 2009, one year before the last study, so this is the first study that examines more than five years of data for the complet-



Ben Torres/Special Contributor

Visitors gathered in April to attend the opening of the Fredrik Brodén exhibit Twenty-One: The Faces as Landscape at Tractorbeam's gallery in downtown Dallas.

ed Arts District.

"We are thrilled with the results," Jennifer Scripps, director of the city's Office of Cultural Affairs, said of the study. "Everybody expected an increase between 2010 and 2015 — so many arts venues have come online, right? But

the quantity of the percentage increase was just staggering."

What the study shows, Scripps said, is that "more people are taking advantage of more artistic offerings, that it's really part of life in Dallas now. So, the question becomes: 'How do we build on

this? How do we maintain the momentum?'"

She contends that the study also bodes well for Dallas' smaller arts organizations, "because only half of the Dallas number is in the Arts District, which is staggering, right? Meaning, it's a huge number

Highlights of the study

IMPACT ON DALLAS

■ Total economic activity "tied to Dallas arts and culture" was \$891 million, up 277 percent from \$321 million reported in the 2010 study.

■ Dallas arts organizations supported 33,554 jobs, a 308 percent rise over 2010.

■ Dallas arts and culture generated revenue of \$97 million to local and state government.

IMPACT ON THE DALLAS ARTS DISTRICT

■ The economic activity of the Arts District, the study contends, has "tripled in five years," going from \$128.6 million to \$395.8 million.

■ Revenue generated for local government from Dallas Arts District arts organizations and audiences was \$19 million in 2015.

■ Dallas arts organizations and audiences support 14,932 jobs.

for the Arts District, but it also shows that half of our artistic vitality is *not* in the Arts District."

Wagner noted the lack of participation by New York and Los Angeles, and that some

other markets chose to participate as cities (San Francisco and Chicago, for instance) and not metropolitan areas, the route Dallas-Fort Worth pursued.

Explaining the data

Lily Weiss, executive director of the Dallas Arts District, said in a statement that the neighborhood's jump in numbers can be attributed to "more public programming and events at arts venues across the district, free [general admission] to the Dallas Museum of Art, the AT&T Performing Arts Center and its resident companies coming fully online, the opening of Dallas City Performance Hall and more."

Nationwide, the study reveals "the nonprofit arts industry produces \$166.3 billion in economic activity every year," resulting in \$27.5 billion in federal, state and local revenue. In addition, the study reports, "it supports 4.6 million full-time equivalent jobs and generates \$96.07 billion in household income."

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