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Small section of FM 1938 opens in Westlake

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WESTLAKE - A small segment of FM 1938 opened to the public last week, giving drivers a tease of what's to come later this year.

The street, also called Precinct Line Road, opened Feb. 6 from Texas 114 south to Dove Road, said Michael Peters, public information officer for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). It's now possible for drivers heading west on Texas 114 to exit at Precinct Line Road, cross the bridge and head straight to Dove Road.

"Prior to the Precinct Line roadway completion to SH 114, our residents on the east end of town had to stay on the SH 114 frontage road to Trophy Club Drive and make a u-turn to access Precinct Line Road," said Ed Helton, director of street services in Trophy Club. "Now they can use the overpass, making for quicker and easier travel."

Helton said Trophy Club employees who live south of town will have a shorter and quicker commute to and from work.

"This project is important for Trophy Club, as well as the many people who travel through this corridor," he said. "We are pleased to see it come to fruition."

Residents in Westlake's Vaquero subdivision can go south on Precinct Line Road to their neighborhood.

The road ends at Vaquero Club Drive, for now.

South of the road block, some concrete pavement has been poured and the existing Randol Mill Avenue that forms the border of Southlake is clearly visible in the distance. But that crucial connection isn't scheduled to open until late summer when the first phase of FM 1938 is completed. The 2.2-mile project cost \$15.2 million.

Ultimately, the road will be six lanes with a center divider from Texas 114 to just south of Dove Road. From there, it cuts down to four lanes to Randol Mill Avenue.

As part of the road opening last week, the old Precinct Line Road was closed and will be torn up, Peters said.

Part of the transition with the traffic switch includes closing Bull Way, Fidelity's southern entrance off of Precinct Line Road/FM 1938 during a time when Fidelity is increasing the number of employees at the Westlake facility.

To alleviate traffic congestion, Fidelity requested permission from Westlake town staff to use their emergency access easement located on Dove Road.

"Fidelity changed one of their driveways temporarily to help with the western side of that section," Tom Brymer, Westlake's town manager said.

Brymer said city officials are working closely with TxDOT, the contractor and Fidelity to address traffic concerns.

"Given the amount of traffic in the area, things are going well," Brymer said.

Phase 2 of the FM 1938 project will be widening the existing Randol Mill Avenue to a four-lane divided road from the bend at the border to Southlake Boulevard. Funding sources haven't been identified and the project isn't scheduled to be bid until 2015, Peters said.

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