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## Smoother Ride Ahead for Motorists

**By Chris Roark, Staff Writer**

(Created: Friday, March 27, 2009 7:34 PM CDT)

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As Flower Mound officials look at the road projects in town that are complete and those upcoming, they're encouraged by the future state of driving conditions.

Town spokesperson Michael Ryan said the traffic woes, which have been a result of years of construction, should soon be on the decline because of where Flower Mound is on its road construction schedule.

FM 2499, a major north-south corridor, is one example of the town's progress that should improve traffic soon. The project, which will make the four-lane road a six-lane divided thoroughfare, has two phases complete. The third phase — the section from FM 1171 to FM 407 — is expected to be complete by January 2010.

FM 1171, an east-west artery, is under construction and should be complete by July 2010. The project will make the two-lane roadway a six-lane divided thoroughfare from FM 2499 to Shiloh Road.

The expansion of Morriss Road from four to six lanes is a pending project.

"So much has just come to fruition or is about to," Ryan said. "When you look at projects like Morriss Road and FM 1171, within two to three years, many major corridors will be improved or expanded."

Ryan stressed the need for these projects to address not just local commutes but also longer-distance travel.

"We look at local commutes," Ryan said. "But, we also spend a lot of time, thought and resources into the regional commutes. We build partnerships, secure the funding and implement long-term planning."

In all, there are 11 road projects on the town's plate, with two of them — International Parkway and Flower Mound Road's expansion to a six-lane divided thoroughfare — being complete.

Others include east-west corridors FM 407 and Spinks Road.

FM 407 will go from a two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided thoroughfare from Chinn Chapel Road to Country Meadows Drive. Construction is expected to begin during the winter of 2010. The town is in the final stages of the design process and is acquiring right-of-way.

Spinks Road will become a four-lane divided thoroughfare and should be complete by June 2010. The town is awaiting funding before starting construction.

Other north-south road projects are Hwy. 377, which will become a four-lane divided thoroughfare. Funding has yet to be finalized, and the project is on a TxDOT schedule.

Phase 1 is underway for Kirkpatrick Lane improvements, which will make it a two-lane concrete road with gutter upgrades and a sidewalk. Construction is expected to be complete by the summer.

The design process is underway for Flower Mound Road expansion and the third phase of Garden Ridge Boulevard. Flower Mound Road will become a four-lane concrete road, and construction should begin by this fall. Garden Ridge will become a four-lane divided thoroughfare from FM 3040 to Spinks Road. Construction is expected to begin in the late fall.

"This is a key period in transition of Flower Mound's transportation corridors that once complete will

greatly improve the quality of life for our residents," Ryan said.