

Fort Worth Business Press

Update: Fort Worth loses out on streetcar funds, has hopes for Southwest Parkway dollars

BY LESLIE WIMMER

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The federal grant funds awarded to the city of Dallas for its streetcar project are not meant to be shared with Fort Worth, Michael Morris, director of transportation for the North Central Texas Council of Governments, said.

The United States Department of Transportation on Feb. 17 released a list of economic development projects and cities awarded grant funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Dallas received \$23 million for its planned streetcar system, while Fort Worth received nothing.

Officials from the North Central Texas Council of Governments had checked on whether the funds were meant to be shared because the organization filed a joint application for the grant for a total of \$96 million meant to be split between Dallas and Fort Worth.

The funds are “unfortunately for Dallas only,” Morris said. “No money for the western side of the region, but we hope to find out more in the coming days.”

Morris added that the loss of grant funds for the streetcar project may give Southwest Parkway a better chance at receiving other grant funds in the near future.

Dana Burghdoff, deputy director of planning for the city of Fort Worth, said Fort Worth and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority have filed jointly for a \$25 million grant through the Federal Transit Authority for additional funding for Fort Worth’s streetcar project.

“We hope to hear about that project by June,” Burghdoff said on Feb. 17.

Not receiving the federal stimulus grant funds may slow down the streetcar plans, but initial funding has already been allocated through the Regional Transportation Council.

In late 2009, the RTC allocated \$1.6 million to kick start an initial downtown segment of the project, which will be funneled through the Texas Department of Transportation and matched by \$200,000 each from the Fort Worth T and the city of Fort Worth.

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