

The construction of the Highway 121 project was completed in May. The highway now provides a much needed north-south route from our county seat to the City of Fort Worth. This new freeway will help ensure continued growth of Johnson County. The travel time from city to city has been cut by about half. It was determined that the route would be a toll road with the North Texas Tollway Authority having responsibility for the project. NTTA projects are not a part of the state highway system and receive no direct tax funding. The highway will extend 27.6 miles from the Fort Worth central business district to U.S. Highway 67 in Cleburne. This project had been in the planning stages for decades and is now a reality. The economic impact to Johnson County is expected to be quite significant.

The County provides a full range of services authorized by statute. Such services include general governmental services such as recording and licensing, sustaining the District, County and Justice Court systems, maintaining public facilities, ensuring public safety, preserving public health and welfare, aiding conservation, and maintaining County roads and bridges.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Johnson County, because of its continued growth, is faced with many challenges in delivering services to its citizens, while maintaining a conservative financial approach. The Commissioners Court has been committed to meeting increasing needs for services and facilities. The following initiatives reflect the County's commitment to ensuring that its citizens are able to live and work in an enviable environment.

For the Year

Johnson County has completed the construction of the new sub-courthouse in Alvarado. The Justice of the Peace, Constable and a satellite office for the County Tax Assessor has always shared a building that was determined to be too small several years ago. Now, this new building easily accommodates the functions of all three departments with room to grow. It is very attractive and is a good addition for the City of Alvarado and the residents. This project was funded with no need to issue new debt.

This year saw the completion of the radio tower project. These four towers will relieve operational overloads for the communications needs of County law enforcement, City of Cleburne Police, Fire/EMS Departments and other public radio communications traffic. The system provides clear, reliable radio service for all public safety and other public communications needs.

Johnson County has taken a significant technological leap forward in public safety through the installation of a dual polarization, high definition weather radar at the Emergency Operations Center. Public safety units and our weather forecasting partners at the National Weather Service now have increased clarity on specific storm and weather features. This allows for potential of increased warning times for tornadoes and the ability of public safety units to respond more quickly and effectively to weather related events.