

Toll roads may solve 360 woes

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BY NATHANIEL JONES

For Lowe's Farm resident Dan Sides, the decision to turn Texas 360 into a toll road is a "no-brainer."

Either get to where you need to go or stay stuck in traffic, he says.

"Texas 360 highway is a nightmare," Sides said. "It's forced residents to find alternate routes to northern areas of the Metroplex, which causes congestion on smaller residential streets that can't handle the traffic."

State officials have said that there is no money available to finish Texas 360 from Southeast Green Oaks Boulevard south to U.S. 287.

Instead, state officials have plans to add toll roads to the existing frontage roads.

Engineering and environmental studies are currently being done in the area, said Susan Slupecki, spokeswoman for the North Texas Tollway Authority.

The proposed toll road has residents on both sides of the issue. Some have voiced concerns over having to pay extra to shop in Arlington or to go to the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport.

"Actually, they'll have what's there now, but with less traffic," Sides said. "At least there will be an option. "

Last June residents got their first glimpse of a proposal to extend Texas 360 10 miles from Southeast Green Oaks Boulevard in Arlington to Business 287 in Mansfield.

Most of the stretch is two-lane divided highway.

During rush hour, a drive between Interstate 20 and East Broad Street can add an additional 20 minutes to the commute.

But how soon the road will be built is anyone's guess. It is unclear if it will be addressed in the next state legislature.

Sides hopes, newly elected State Representative Barbra Nash can live up to a campaign promise to get highway lanes built for the southeast Arlington and Mansfield highway.

Nash could not return calls seeking calls but has said she has a history of being a peacemaker and that "You have to learn to work with people and be kind."

This article contains information from the Star-Telegram archives.

Nathaniel Jones, (817) 473-4451