

# City of Weslaco

*"The City on the Grow"*



Miguel D. Wise, Mayor  
John F. Cuellar, Mayor Pro-Tem, District 2  
Robert J. Garza, Commissioner, District 1  
Rene Rodríguez, Jr., Commissioner, District 3  
Gerardo "Jerry" Tafolla, Commissioner, District 4  
Lupe V. Rivera, Commissioner, District 5  
Joe A. Martinez, Commissioner, District 6

Leonardo Olivares, City Manager

## Press Release

**Release on:**  
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### **Westgate Drive Improvement Project Set to Let November** *City of Weslaco Transfers Local Share to TxDOT*

Weslaco—The City of Weslaco conveyed its local contribution to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) today for Westgate Drive improvements. With a payment in full for \$530,496.86, the project is on schedule for a November 2010 letting.

"So far the City has contributed nearly a half million dollars to complete preliminary engineering, right of way acquisitions, and utility adjustments," said Mayor Miguel D. Wise. "With our payment today, the City contributes another half million dollars toward actual construction. Since the combined federal and state contribution matches our own 2 to 1, we are leveraging every taxpayer dollar."

In a project valued at \$3 million, the City plans to expand the existing two-lane road to five lanes, including one dedicated left-turn lane, from U.S. Expressway 83 to Mile 9 North/Sugarcane Drive. Federal and State agencies, working through the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization, will contribute approximately \$2 million toward construction costs.

"Especially in times like these, a half million dollars is a lot of money, but we made a commitment to our citizens and our funding partners to see this project through," said Wise.

"The City must continue to invest in its infrastructure," the Mayor added. "We already are seeing a return on that investment, with new subdivisions, commercial development, and school campuses along North Westgate Drive. This road expansion project will allow safer, easier passage for more traffic to that entire side of town."

"It has been a bumpy ride, not just literally, driving down Westgate, but also the journey to getting that stretch of road finally improved," said Mr. Gerardo "Jerry" Tafolla, District 4 Commissioner. "As representative for that district, and as a commuter who uses that road every day, I want to thank all those who helped realize this project. I can't wait to see five lanes of black asphalt stretching from the Expressway to Sugarcane!"

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[Suggested Cutline: *From left to right*] County Commissioner A.C. Cuellar, Precinct 1 Hidalgo County, District Director Mario Jorge, Texas Department of Transportation, and Mayor Miguel D. Wise, City of Weslaco, smile broadly at the check presentation of \$530,496.86 in local funds for the Westgate Drive improvement project, set to let November 2010.