NORTH TEXAS – The Dallas and Fort Worth districts recently hosted the annual winter weather prep presentation for members of the media.

From salt stockpiles to snowplows, crews demonstrated how TxDOT prepares for snowy and icy conditions through its plans, procedures, and equipment. Public information officers were on hand to answer questions.

New this year, American Automobile Association (AAA) spokesperson Daniel Armbruster demonstrated how to pack a winter vehicle emergency kit with some essential items.

As we all learned from the unprecedented winter weather event in Feb. 2021, conditions on roadways can change rapidly, and unfortunately, even with proactive measures, the fast-changing severe Texas weather can be unpredictable. If we all think ahead and develop a plan now, it can help keep as many of us as safe as possible.

More on the BACK PAGE...
**December 2021 Let Projects**

| CSJ Number | HWY | Limits | Type of Work | Cost Est. (M) | Bid (M) | Percentage | Contract
|-------------|-----|--------|--------------|--------------|--------|-----------|----------|
| 0040-06-106 | IH 45 | North of US 287 to Ellis County line | Full depth concrete repair | $4.20 | $3.87 | -7.82% | Corpus Christi Contr., LLC
| 0172-06-115 | IH 35E | US 287 to IH 20 | Base repair, overlay, and pavement markings | $2.14 | $2.10 | -1.83% | Peachtree Constr., LLC
| 0172-06-098 | IH 35E | FM 2757 to FM 741 | Restore existing pavement & add shoulders | $3.07 | $3.07 | 0.19% | A. R. Galls & Sons, LLC
| 2374-04-085 | IH 20 | West of Coit and Hill Rd to Hampton Rd. | Construct 3% to 4 lane frontage road | $72.38 | $79.84 | 10.31% | Austin Bridge & Road Services, LP

**January 2022 Projected Letting Projects**

| CSJ Number | HWY | Limits | Type of Work | Cost Est. (M) | Completed Date
|-------------|-----|--------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 0044-04-094 | IH 35E | FM 3187 to Buckeye Rd | Reconstruct interchange, reconstruct and widen 2 to 4 to 6 lane frontage road | $43.58 | 12/01/2021
| 0172-05-120 | IH 35E | FM 3173 to US 259 | Install median barrier | $2.78 | 12/08/2021
| 0172-07-001 | IH 35E | FM 2893 to south of Old Highway 287 | Install median barrier | $2.78 | 12/29/2021
| 0172-06-102 | IH 35E | South Of Old Highway 287 to IH 45 | Install median barrier | $2.78 | 1/05/2022
| 0195-05-096 | IH 35E | US 277 to FM 3181 | Full depth concrete repair, pavement markings and diamond grating | $2.44 | 1/12/2022
| 1908-01-046 | IH 35E | FM 2445 to IH 35E southbound frontage road | Full depth concrete repair, pavement markings and diamond grating | $2.44 | 1/12/2022
| 3180-01-013 | IH 35E | SH 112 BL to IH 35E southbound frontage road | Full depth concrete repair, pavement markings and diamond grating | $2.44 | 1/12/2022
| 0195-03-105 | IH 35E | US 77 to IH 355/35G | Resurfacing | $7.22 | 1/14/2022
| 0195-03-104 | IH 35E | IH 355 to US 380 | Resurfacing | $7.22 | 1/14/2022
| 0195-03-102 | IH 35E | IH 355 to IH 35/35G | Resurfacing | $7.22 | 1/14/2022
| 0195-03-111 | IH 35E | 0.4 miles South of Corinth Pkwy to US 77 | Resurfacing | $7.22 | 1/14/2022
| 0196-07-014 | SS 366 | West of Old Plano Rd to State St | Construct extension of existing Mykle Warren Park deck plaza, structure only | $42.28 | 1/24/2022
| 0198-03-327* | VA | Various Locations in the Dallas District | DWS rehabilitation | $1.28 | 1/25/2022
| 2200-01-020 | SL 260 | At Studry Oaks Dr. | Improve pedestrian signals | $1.28 | 1/25/2022
| 2200-01-018 | SL 260 | At Spencer Rd | Improve pedestrian signals | $1.28 | 1/25/2022
| 2355-01-006 | FM 2451 | Midland Dr to SH 34 | Restore existing pavement and add shoulders | $8.05 | 1/31/2022
| 2355-02-008 | FM 2451 | SH 34 to FM 146 | Rehabilitate existing pavement and add shoulders | $8.05 | 1/31/2022

**Estimated Total**

| | | | | | $108.44 M |

**Estimated Total**

| | | | | | $42.75 M |

**Completed Construction Projects (From December 1-31, 2021)**

| CSJ Number | HWY | Limits | Type of Work | Cost Est. (M) | Completed Date
|-------------|-----|--------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 0197-02-124 | US 175 | E of Melkby Bridge Rd to Kaufman County line | Ramp, med, & inlet existing frontage roads | $2.15 | 12/03/2021
| 0172-05-115 | IH 35E | At Walnut Grove Rd | Construct interchange | $27.62 | 12/23/2021
| 0198-03-360* | VA | In the Dallas District | Construction of rumble strips and pavement markings & markers | $1.65 | 12/08/2021
| 0049-04-011* | VA | In the Dallas District | Seal coat, pavement markings & markers | $1.31 | 12/01/2021

**Estimated Total**

| | | | | | $42.75 M |

**Dallas District Projects Map**

Colored and numbered boxes correspond with the charts on page 2 and show projects that have let in December 2021, or have recently been completed.
Dallas District PIO Patrick Clarke and Fort Worth District PIO Val Lopez answered questions from the media at TxDOT’s winter weather prep event, held at the Dallas district headquarters. Staffers from WFAA, KRLD, Univision 23, KERA, CBS 11, FOX 4 and Spectrum News TX were in attendance.

**KEY MESSAGES TO REMEMBER:**
- TxDOT always urges drivers to stay home and only travel if necessary during a winter weather event.
- If you must drive, reduce your speed and following distance.
- Use caution when approaching turns, bridges and shaded spots. Bridges and overpasses are the first places to freeze.
- When you must stop, brake gently and use slow, steady pushes to test traction.
- Don’t use cruise control.
- Give TxDOT crews plenty of room to operate and slow down when approaching them.

**TxDOT WINTER WEATHER PREPARATION**

**HOW DO THE CHEMICALS WORK?**

**Granular De-Icer**
- A granular de-icer – salt for instance – lowers the freezing point of water from 32 °F to about 15 °F (depending on how much you use).
- When salt makes contact with ice, melting begins immediately and spreads out from that point, creating a salt/water mix (brine) that continues melting the ice, undercutting the bond between the ice and the road.

**Melting Ice Takes Time**
- The temperature and the amount of ice or snow on the road determine de-icing material amounts and melting rates. As temperatures drop, the amount of de-icer needed to melt a given quantity of ice increases significantly.

**WHICH MATERIALS ARE USED ON THE ROADS?**

**Before an ice/snow event**
- Liquid salt-based anti-icers help prevent ice formation

**During an ice/snow event**
- Various salt-based granular de-icers are used to help melt ice already formed on the road

**AFTER SNOW/ICE EVENT**
- Stockpiles/supplies are replenished (multi-day storm)
- Roadways are swept/cleaned of excess aggregate
- Winter plan effectiveness is evaluated and adjusted
- Roadway repairs are scheduled (potholes, guardrails, structures, etc.)
- Equipment is serviced and prepared for the next winter storm

**IMPACT NUMBERS:**

Check weather forecasts, call our 24-hour hotline at 1-800-452-9292 or visit DriveTexas.org to see the latest conditions and closures on your planned route. Call 9-1-1 if you find yourself stranded or facing an emergency.

For more winter weather tips and a full list of suggested items in your winter vehicle emergency kit, visit at txdot.gov and search “snow and ice.”

**SOURCE:** Texas Department of Transportation

**Credit:** DEAN HOLLINGSWORTH/TxDOT Information Specialist