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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025

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City OKs road study, advances downtown work

LEEZA MEYER

The Tyler City Council unanimously voted to approve multiple items relating to infrastructure improvements, public operations and community planning on Wednesday. This included a new contract to allow the city manager to hire Hoar Construction as the head manager of the city's part of Phase 2 of the Downtown Im-

provement Project and an agreement to allow the consulting firm HDR, Inc. to conduct an improvement study on East Grande, Old Omen and Toll 49 roads.

Road improvement study
The council approved a \$200,000 contract between HDR Engineering and the city manager to develop an East Grande, Old Omen and Toll 49 route study for the Tyler Area Metropolitan Planning Or-

ganization to find the best route connections for expansion.

Michael Howell, Metropolitan Planning Organization director, said the study will address overlapping roadway plans between the City of Tyler and the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority, which wants to expand Toll 49.

"Before both entities get too far into their planning and design,

we want to take a moment just to bring everybody to the table, look at the whole area holistically and try to find an optimal solution that would really work," Howell said. "So that both of the organizations can find what are going to be the optimal routes for addressing the traffic needs."

Howell said the engineers will evaluate three possible routes and consider constraints such as rail

lines, flood zones and overhead utility lines and the final report will be just suggestions and not a commitment to a specific route.

"This is really here to support the efforts that's being done by the RMA for that location of Toll 49 because they're still looking at three routes," Howell said. "There's a lot of work that they're doing and

CITY >> PAGE 2A

Trump signs funding measure

ARIS FOLLEY
CO-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — The longest partial government shutdown in history ended late Wednesday night when President Donald Trump signed into law a short-term spending patch that funds federal agencies through January.

Flanked by House GOP leaders around his desk in the Oval Office, Trump signed the bill as he repeated his call for abolishing the Senate filibuster to avoid the risk of another shutdown.

"This is no way to run a country," Trump said in signing the bill ending a 43-day partial shutdown. "I hope we can all agree the government should never be shut down again."

The House sent Trump the legislation just hours earlier, when it voted to clear the measure on a 222-209 vote that fell mostly along party lines.

Two Republicans opposed the measure: Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Greg Steube of Florida. Six Democrats joined Republicans to push the bill to passage: Henry Cuellar of Texas, Don Davis of North Carolina, Jared Golden of Maine, Adam Gray of California, Marie Gluesenkamp Perez of Washington, and Tom Suozzi of New York.

The package would fund the government through Jan. 30 and provide full-year appropriations for the departments of Agriculture and Veterans Affairs, along

FUNDING >> PAGE 3A



Gov. Greg Abbott, center, talks to East Texans about his plans if reelected, which includes a five-step property tax relief plan. He was joined by, back row from left, Reps. Joanne Shofner, Brent Money, Jay Dean, and front row, Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Rep. Daniel Alders (R-Tyler). Also present but not pictured was Rep. Cole Hefner. (Les Hassell/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Gov. Abbott emphasizes property tax relief plan during Tyler stop

LEEZA MEYER

Cheering and camera flashes filled ETX Brewing Company in downtown Tyler on Wednesday as Gov. Greg Abbott made his way in front of a tightly packed crowd, shaking hands with potential voters as he began his 2026 reelection campaign trail.

"Some of you will remember in the last election, I said the time has come for Texas to pass education freedom choice for every parent and every child across the entire state of Texas and I said there was an easy way to do it or hard way to do it," Abbott said. "The legislature took the hard way, and we went on the campaign trail and we elected enough votes to get it done. I'm committed to do the same thing with regard to property tax reform."

Abbott announced his



Gov. Greg Abbott was joined by multiple representatives, including State Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola). (Les Hassell/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

2026 re-election campaign day stopped in Tyler for his fourth term as Texas governor Sunday in an address about his campaign's outline

plan to provide property tax relief for Texans. Abbott was joined by Reps. Daniel Alders, Jay Dean, Cole Hefner,

Brent Money, Joanne Shofner and Sen. Bryan Hughes. Abbott said the venue came from wanting to support and highlight small businesses.

Hughes introduced Abbott and said the governor's commitment to the Texas economy throughout his last term will continue if elected for his next term.

"Millions of jobs (were) added during Gov. Abbott's leadership, making sure Texas is pro people, pro growth and pro family," Hughes said to the crowd.

ABBOTT TOUTS WINS
Abbott began the event by highlighting Texas job creation, tax relief and small business statistics and said his legislative work contributed to the numbers.

"So what we did this session, we knew the small businesses are the back-

ABBOTT >> PAGE 2A

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