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Morning Telegraph

WEEKEND, JUNE 6-7, 2026

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Bass Pro Way aims to help traffic flow

LEEZA MEYER

The City of Tyler hosted a grand opening of Bass Pro Way in South Tyler with a ribbon cutting on Thursday, concluding the eight-month project.

Mayor Don Warren and city officials joined Bass Pro staff to cut the red ribbon, celebrating the new roadway that links South Broadway Avenue to Cumberland Village. Officials say the new road will improve traffic flow next to the Bass Pro Shops, which is located at 151 Market Square Boulevard.

"The best projects are the

ones that continue serving the community long after the ribbon is cut," Warren said. "I believe Bass Pro Way will be one of those projects."

Jason Adair, Capital Improvement Project engineer for Tyler, said the road will help drivers coming from the south exit Broadway and Highway 69 sooner, reduce Broadway congestion and improve access to nearby businesses and developments.

"When Bass Pro Shops agreed to come to Tyler, part of the agreement was that we would have a road through here, allowing

more access for their trucks and for traffic flow into the store," Adair said. "This was also part of the Master Street Plan (MSP) to add this street as a long-term goal."

The Tyler Area MSP, adopted in 2021, is a long-range plan that identifies locations and types of roadways that are needed to meet projected growth in the area for the next 25 years, according to the MSP website.

The planning discussion began in July 2024 and construction started in September 2025 with the segment now open to the public. The project is funded through

the Half-Cent Sales Tax Fund, the Centennial Parkway extension of Wayfare Communities and the Tyler Water Utilities Fund, Adair said.

"This community is growing, investing in itself and creating opportunities for the future," Warren said. "Bass Pro Way represents a partnership between public and private sectors, and by investing in infrastructure, we're helping create the conditions for businesses to succeed and for our community to continue to grow."

TRAFFIC >> PAGE 3A



Tyler Mayor Don Warren drives his car on Bass Pro Way as the first vehicle to drive on the new roadway after it opened Thursday in Tyler. (Leeza Meyer/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

\$300K grant to fund new trail

Expansion slated for Park of East Texas

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The East Texas State Fair on Thursday announced it has been awarded a \$300,000 Recreational Trails Grant through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to support expansion efforts at The Park of East Texas. The park serves as home to the fair and numerous community events throughout the year.

The grant funding will support the construction of a 1-mile, 6-foot-wide looped decomposed granite trail, along with a trailhead, parking improvements, signage, site furniture, and an entry gate. The project was one of 21 trail projects selected statewide through the Recreational Trails Grant Program.

The investment supports ongoing efforts to expand The Park of East Texas as both a year-round recreational park and a venue for large-scale events, including the East Texas State Fair, Red Dirt BBQ & Music

TRAIL >> PAGE 6A



Residents provide feedback about the proposed extension of Toll 49 as NET RMA hosts a public meeting Tuesday in Tyler. (Leeza Meyer/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

Providing Input

Tyler residents give feedback on proposal to add sixth segment to Toll 49

LEEZA MEYER

The North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA) hosted its second public meeting on Tuesday evening in Tyler to share information and gather input on the proposed extension of Toll 49 from State Highway 110 to U.S. Highway 271, part of the Tyler outer Loop.

After Tyler residents checked in with NET RMA at the W.T. Brookshire Conference Center, they perused a ballroom covered in informational material regarding the history, stages and progress of Toll 49 from 5 to 7 p.m., encouraging them to share their input. Attendees could ask in-person questions to representatives on hand and write down questions and comments to put into a box. The proposed project

is currently undergoing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) study to address concerns around the proposed extension.

"Public feedback is critical," said Randall Dillard, project consultant at NET RMA, which is responsible for the planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance of Toll 49. "It's critical because the engineers in a bubble think all kinds of good things and they're going to make some good decisions, but there are going to be some things that they didn't know about."

Dillard said the purpose of the proposed Toll 49 Segment 6 is to relieve congestion and provide shorter travel times to meet current and future traffic volumes with the exceeding growth in Smith County,

TOLL 49 >> PAGE 3A



A mother advocates for "safety before expansion," citing safety concerns after the loss of her daughter to a crash on Toll 49. (Leeza Meyer/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

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Weather
 High **81** Low **73**

Shows and a heavier t-storm. See the Tyler-East Texas 3-day forecast on Page 5A.

Stocks
 DOW **-695.15**
 NASDAQ **-1,121.53**

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