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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The City of Denton and the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) joint groundbreaker on the Downtown Denton Transit Center and DCTA A-train Downtown Station

Denton, TX – On Monday, March 22nd at 9:30 a.m., the City of Denton and the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) will break ground on the Downtown Denton Transit Center and adjacent DCTA Downtown Station of the A-train rail line through Denton County. The ceremonial groundbreaking will take place at 604 E Hickory, at the intersection of Hickory and Railroad Avenue.

During Fiscal Year 2004-05, the City of Denton received \$3.1 million in congressional funding from a priority project request it made to its congressional delegation. The request was for a Federal Transit Administration Grant that would allow for the development of a bus multimodal transit facility in Downtown Denton, now known as the Downtown Denton Transit Center. This project requires a 20% match in local funds, which will be provided by DCTA through an Interlocal Agreement with the City. When the Transit Center is completed, the City will turn it over to DCTA for use by their bus operations.

The Transit Center will consist of the adaptive reuse of an existing City of Denton facility that will provide approximately 8,800 square feet of conditioned office and public meeting space. The eastern half of the facility will include general office space for DCTA bus operations staff and a joint use training and public meeting room. The remainder of the facility will include a public waiting area for transit passengers, a ticket office, ticket kiosk, restrooms and retail space to be finished out in the future by the private sector. Construction will begin soon after the ceremonial ground breaking with a completion target date of December 2010. This will allow DCTA time to transfer bus operations from the existing Connect Central at Williams Trade Square to the new facility prior to

the initial classes for the spring semester at the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University.

“This groundbreaking event is a significant occasion because these two facilities will have a significant and positive impact on Denton residents for many generations,” said Denton Mayor Mark Burroughs. “These projects will work as a catalyst for redevelopment of the Downtown area, and particularly around this location we anticipated Transit Oriented Development to occur rather quickly.”

The A-train will serve the Downtown Denton Transit Center with the rail platform being constructed just to the west of the facility. Construction of the 450foot platform will begin in June 2010. The platform canopies, amenities and station icon were designed to complement the transit center and reflect the architectural features unique to Downtown Denton.

The DCTA A-train passenger rail system will connect Denton County with the DART system and the rest of the North Texas region, creating an economic development mechanism for Denton County and the region as a whole. The A-train project, a central element of DCTA's service plan includes phased construction of 21 miles of regional rail, five rail stations, an adjacent bicycle/pedestrian trail, and a regional rail operations and maintenance facility. The A-train project will be complete in the summer of 2011 when revenue service opens to downtown Denton.

“This groundbreaking represents tremendous progress DCTA and its partners have made to accelerate transportation alternatives and fulfill the promises of our Service Plan,” stated Charles Emery, DCTA Board Chairman. “When the A-train rolls into this station in the Summer of 2011, we will be ahead of our initial Service Plan commitment.”

The existing parking lot of the Transit Center and A-train Station will be renovated to allow for approximately 60 parking spaces for transit patrons, DCTA employees, a passenger drop off area, and bike storage. The bus lane, bus shelters and the terminus of the Rail Trail Hike and Bike Corridor will be located along the western side of the parking lot and Transit Center. Additionally, the project will include a 45-foot clock tower and landscaped public plaza area at the intersection of Hickory Street and Railroad Avenue. This tower will serve as a focal point for the transit center and was designed to serve as an outdoor performance venue for local musicians and artists, and to compliment the DCTA rail platform.

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