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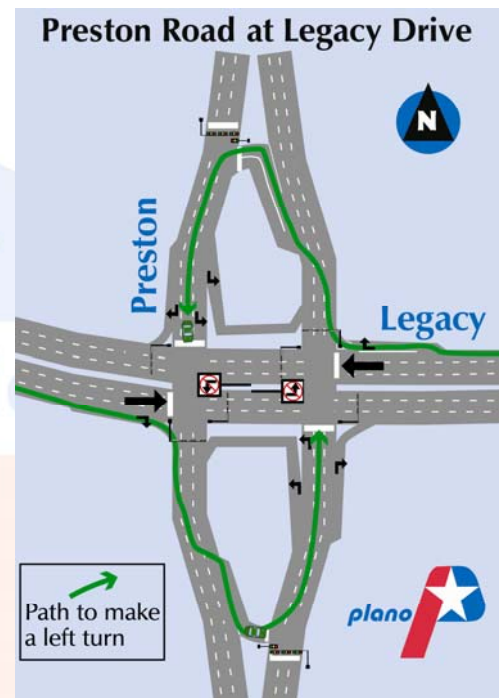
For Immediate Release

July 13, 2010

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Plano Opens Median-Left Turn at Preston/Legacy Intersection

The first median-left turn in Texas will open Tuesday, July 27 in Plano at the Legacy Drive/Preston Road intersection. The transition will occur around mid-morning after morning commute traffic. Once open, direct left turns from Legacy Drive onto Preston Road will no longer be allowed. To make a left turn, traffic will get in the right lane and turn right onto Preston. After turning right, left-turn traffic will merge left into the turn pocket where signal lights will allow a movement similar to a u-turn. A demonstration video is available at www.plano.gov/turn.



Transportation Engineering Manager Lloyd Neal said, “It’s very important that all drivers approaching this intersection be alert because the timing and traffic flow has dramatically changed. To safely navigate the intersection, drivers just need to follow the signs, pavement marking and signal lights.”

The median-left turn will help Plano adjust to the growing traffic filtering through the intersection from high growth areas north. The intersection has particularly become burdened with delays and congestion during the peak morning and evening commute times. More lanes have been added on Preston Road to accommodate moving more traffic, more quickly; while removing the congestion association with the left-turn

movement between Preston's divided thoroughfare at Legacy Drive. The design promises better traffic flow; shorter traffic delays; safer traffic movement and cleaner air.

The intersection opens after more than five years of research and careful study. Originally Plano had planned to build an overpass to replace the intersection. Public meetings with homeowners and businesses in the area revealed an overpass was not wanted. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. was hired as a consultant to evaluate the intersection and make recommendations. Jacobs recommended a modified median-left turn as the best solution. The design is similar to the Michigan left turn used for more than 50 years in the northern states.

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