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### SURRMA TO REIMBURSE PEDC AT MEETING

During their July 21, 2017 meeting, the Paris Economic Development Corporation (PEDC) is receiving a significant portion of their investment back from the Sulphur River Regional Mobility Authority for work completed on a project to widen a 10.4-mile stretch of Highway 24 between Cooper and Commerce, TX.

The Sulphur River Regional Mobility Authority (SuRRMA) is a regional body that allows smaller government bodies (such as counties and cities) to combine their efforts and resources to achieve regional transportation goals such as the recent work on Highway 24. SuRRMA is composed of four counties: Delta, Hunt, Lamar, and Hopkins. This group recognized that while the expansion project may not help all of them directly, a greater ease of transportation through the Highway 24 corridor would improve both personal and commercial traffic to flow throughout the region.

The PEDC entered the agreement with SuRRMA and its member governments during their February 27, 2012 Board meeting, and the funding for the project was secured from all of the participating members by October of that year. Other sources of funding for the project included federal earmarks, Delta County, Lamar County, the City of Paris, and the City of Cooper, Texas. Construction on the project began towards the end of 2014, and the project is largely complete as of this time. The most significant costs for the project were land acquisition and utility relocation. Since the project came under budget, SuRRMA is returning \$681,787.04, or 47.8% of the original \$1.45 million contributed by the PEDC.

In a recent meeting, the PEDC approved a \$2,000 contribution to SuRRMA, for administrative costs in order to assist SuRRMA with its goals. Holland Harper, Treasurer for SuRRMA, outlined four goals that the organization is seeking to achieve: 1. Expansion of US 82 from 2 lanes to 4 lanes from Paris, TX to Bonham, TX; 2. Four lane divided highway off Loop around the south of Paris; 3. Four lane improvements to US 271 from Paris, TX, to Mt. Pleasant, TX; and 4. Rail improvement from Paris, TX, to Bonham, TX. A continued relationship between the PEDC and the member governments of SuRRMA is critical to improving the local infrastructure in Paris, TX.

For more information about Paris, visit [parisedc.com](http://parisedc.com).