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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Exchange Parkway Open to Sam Rayburn Tollway**

*Allen, Texas (July 23, 2009)* – The Allen City Council, along with special guests Texas State Senator Florence Shapiro, Collin County Commissioner’s Court Judge Keith Self and members of the Arts of Collin County Commission, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the recently completed roadway extension of Exchange Parkway from Twin Creeks Drive to the Sam Rayburn Tollway, formerly State Highway 121.

“The construction of the Exchange Parkway extension is a great example of the cooperative effort between the City of Allen and Collin County,” Allen Mayor Steve Terrell remarked about the \$4.8 million project which was jointly funded between the two entities. “We are grateful to the County for their continual support and dedication to improving local infrastructure.”

Collin County Judge Keith Self spoke to the assembled crowd about the national recognition Collin County has received, referring to the recent ranking by Forbes.com placing Allen, Frisco, McKinney and Plano in the top 25 places to relocate.

“We are at the most dynamic place in the nation at the point where the four cities touch each,” he said. “That’s in this economy, that’s recent. I’ll take it.”

This portion of Exchange Parkway bisects the 100+ acre Arts of Collin County (ACC) development and will be a key thoroughfare for arts patrons once the project is complete. ACC Executive Director Mike Simpson addressed the eventual impact on the community as well as the local economy.

“This project will become an economic engine for the Collin County area,” he stated. “This project will put 350 people to work for thirty months and we have 80% of the funding in place. There is no more ‘shovel ready project’ than the Arts of Collin County. Once complete, it will change those rankings (by Forbes.com) for our cities to first, second, third and fourth.”

The finished roadway will be open to traffic July 24, with the northbound traffic flow restricted to a right turn only at the service road of the Tollway. Design and construction of an underpass across the Tollway is expected to be complete in the Spring of 2010.



The Arts of Collin County (ACC) is a public private partnership co-owned by the cities of Allen, Frisco and Plano with operational support from Fairview and Melissa and additional financial support from private individuals, corporations and foundations. The ACC Arts Park will include a world-class Performing Arts Hall that will accommodate: touring Broadway shows; national children's performers; symphony concerts; area dance, theater and vocal companies; school activities; and educational, family and corporate events within the county and North Texas.

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