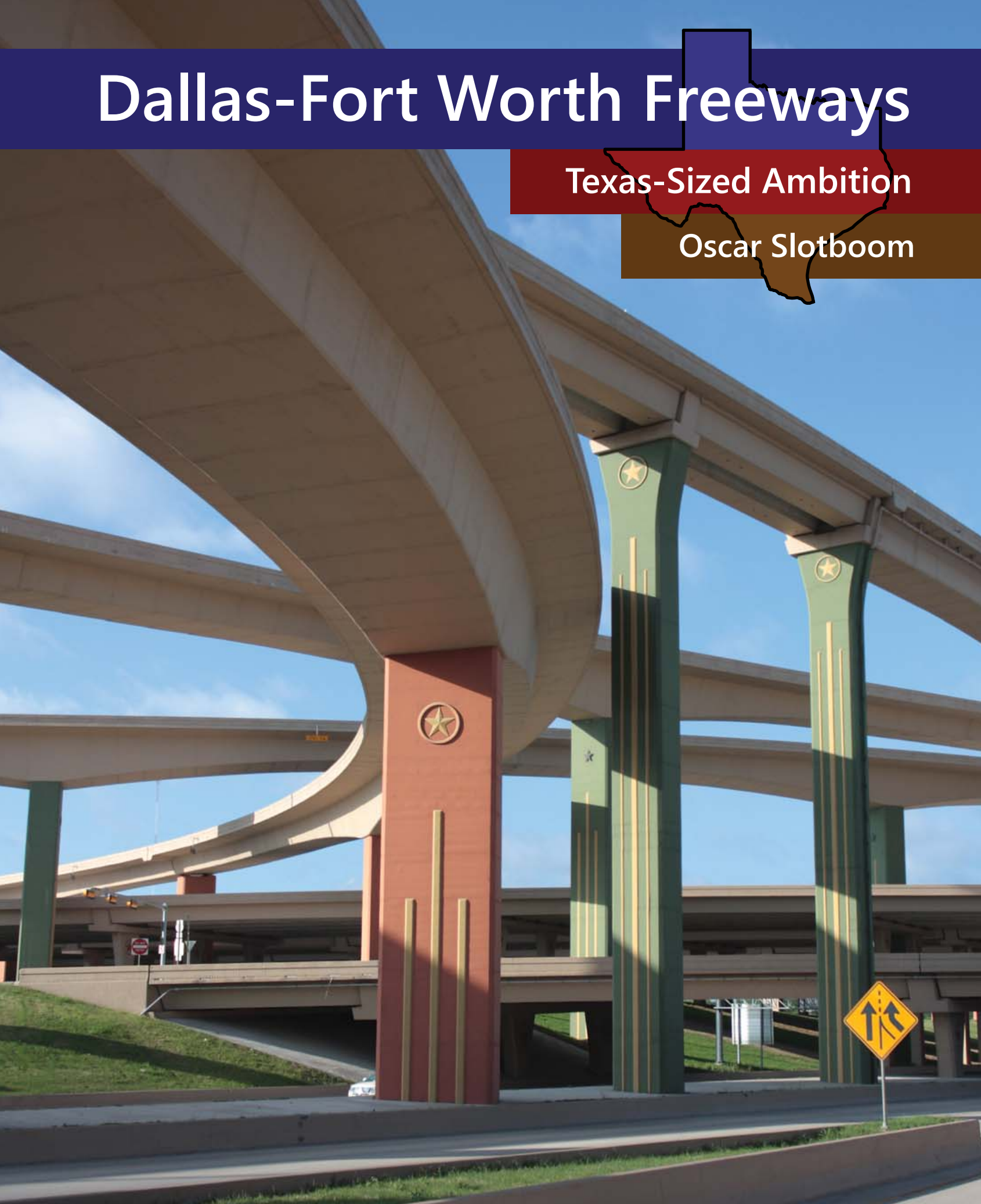


Dallas-Fort Worth Freeways

Texas-Sized Ambition

Oscar Slotboom



Dallas-Fort Worth Freeways

Texas-Sized Ambition

Oscar Slotboom

Copyright © 2014 Oscar Slotboom

Published by Oscar Slotboom

ISBN

Hard cover print edition: 978-0-9741605-1-1

Digital edition: 978-0-9741605-0-4

First printing April 2014, 100 books

Second printing August 2014, with updates, 60 books

Additional information online at www.DFWFreeways.com

Book design, maps and graphics by Oscar Slotboom. Image preparation and restoration by Oscar Slotboom. Book fonts: main text, Cambria except chapter 5, Optima; captions, Calibri; notes and subsection text, Publico. Illustrations on pages viii, 44, 64, 76, 149, 240, 250, 260, 320, 346, 466 and 513 by M.D. Ferrin based on preliminary sketches by Oscar Slotboom.

Image Ownership: All images credited to a source other than the author are property of the credited owner and may not be used without the permission of the owner.

Disclaimer: No warranty or guarantee is made regarding the accuracy, completeness or reliability of information in this publication. Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of all information presented. Only original sources deemed as reliable have been used. However, any source may contain errors which were carried through to this publication.

Manufactured in the United States of America by Lightning Press

Cover image: the High Five Interchange, US 75 Central Expressway and Interstate 635 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway, photographed by the author in June 2009

Back cover image: the Fort Worth downtown Mixmaster interchange, Interstate 30 and Interstate 35W, photographed by the author in September 2009

Contents

	Foreword	v
	Explanatory Notes	vi
1	Putting North Texas Style into Freeway Openings and Celebrations	1
2	Planning, Controversy and Cancellations	45
	Planning.....	45
	Controversy	64
	Cancellations.....	70
3	Central Expressway, the Original	77
	The Rise of Technology.....	106
4	Central Expressway	119
	Rebuilding Central Expressway.....	120
	The High Five.....	136
	Telecom Corridor.....	142
5	Stemmons Freeway and the John F. Kennedy Assassination.....	151
	The Presidential Limousine on Stemmons Freeway	152
	The Dealey Plaza Freeway Signs	159
	The Zapruder Film and the Stemmons Freeway Sign.....	166
	The Mystery of the Sign Disappearance.....	170
	The Dallas Trade Mart	177
6	Dallas Freeways.....	181
	Interstate 35E North, Stemmons Freeway.....	181
	Interstate 635, Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway.....	204
	Interstate 30 East, Robert L. Thornton Freeway East	217
	The Dallas North Tollway	229
	Spur 366, Woodall Rodgers Freeway	244
	SH 190 and SH 161, Bush Turnpike	261
	Interstate 35E South, Robert L. Thornton Freeway South	277
	Interstate 345 (signed as US 75)	286
	Interstate 45, Julius Schepps Freeway	290
	US 175, S.M. Wright and C.F. Hawn Freeways	295
	Loop 12 West, Walton Walker Boulevard	303
	SH 121, including the Sam Rayburn Tollway.....	309
	Other Dallas Freeways.....	315
	The Cookie-Cutter Interchanges.....	321
	The Trinity Parkway.....	328

7	Freeway Adventures in the Big City	347
8	Texas Stadium Freeways.....	371
	Implosion	386
9	Tom Landry Highway	393
	The Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike, 1957-1977	396
	The Stadiums of Arlington.....	410
	Six Flags Over Texas	415
10	Mid-Cities Freeways	421
	SH 114, the John Carpenter Freeway	421
	SH 114 and the Delta 191 Crash.....	430
	SH 183, Airport Freeway and Carpenter Freeway	438
	SH 360, Angus Wynne Freeway.....	450
	Interstate 20 Mid-Cities.....	456
	International Parkway.....	459
11	Fort Worth Freeways	467
	Interstate 35W South, the South Freeway.....	471
	Interstate 35W North, the North Freeway	477
	The Fort Worth Mixmaster	482
	Interstate 30, the West Freeway	484
	The Lancaster Elevated, 1960-2001	491
	Interstates 20 and 820, including the Jim Wright Freeway	503
	SH 121 East, the Airport Freeway	511
	Plans for the Downtown Fort Worth Freeway Loop, 1956-2000.....	513
	The Chisholm Trail Parkway, originally State Highway 121 South	518
	US 287 South, the Martin Luther King Jr Freeway	523
	Other Fort Worth Freeways	525
	About the Author.....	533
	Index.....	534

Foreword

When I began writing *Houston Freeways, A Historical and Visual Journey* in 2002, I originally envisioned writing the Dallas-Fort Worth freeway history book as a companion to the Houston book. But when I completed *Houston Freeways* in 2003, it was not possible to immediately replicate the time, effort and expense to produce another book. So it became a project for my spare time, and in 2004 I relocated to North Texas to begin slowly working toward my goal of the North Texas book.

North Texas freeways turned out to be more interesting, expansive and influential than I had anticipated, resulting in a much longer research effort and larger final product. I broadened the scope of the book to include events and landmarks which are closely associated with the freeways, such as the John F. Kennedy assassination, the Telecom Corridor, the Delta 191 airline crash and Texas Stadium. When I completed the book at the end of 2013 it came in at a whopping 530 pages of main text—far exceeding the 380 pages of main text in the Houston book. With its emphasis on photographs, *Dallas-Fort Worth Freeways* is intended to be fun and entertaining.

The book's subtitle—Texas-Sized Ambition—pays tribute to the North Texas political leadership and business community which had the ambition, foresight and perseverance to build one of the world's most extensive freeway networks. But even more influential was the ambition that the freeways empowered and enabled. This includes: the entrepreneurs and engineers who built the Telecom Corridor along Central Expressway; the real estate developers who built the signature communities and real estate developments along North Texas freeways; the businesses and industries which have made North Texas a perennial economic growth leader; and the stadiums and entertainment venues along the freeways.









I would like to thank the people who provided key assistance for the book-writing effort over the years. Anne Cook at the TxDOT Travel Information Division in Austin was always available to find my photo requests year after year. Cathy Spitzenberger at the University of Texas at Arlington Library Special Collections gathered thousands of negatives for my review and searched the collections for my obscure requests. Jerome Sims at the *Dallas Morning News* made the newspaper's images available, providing photos which greatly enhance the freeway history. Chapter 7, "Freeway Adventures in the Big City", was made possible by City of Dallas archivist John Slate who made the film available for high-definition scanning. The staff at the Dallas Central Library Texas/Dallas History & Archives Division provided assistance in my photo searches. Justin Cozart and Johanna Dowdle-Gratama assisted with the proofreading and fact checking.

Dallas-Fort Worth has been one of the most successful regions in the United States in the post-World War II era. Freeways have been one of the leading contributors to that success. *Dallas-Fort Worth Freeways, Texas-Sized Ambition* documents the story of North Texas freeways, and hopefully serves as inspiration to current and future leaders to make North Texas freeways the best they can possibly be.

Oscar Slotboom, February 2014

Definitions and Explanatory Notes

Map Legend

	Freeway		Interstate Highway, prefix IH		Location and direction of view
	Toll Road		US Highway, prefix US		
	Major highway (not limited access)		State Highway, including Loop and Spur routes, prefixes SH, Loop and Spur		
	Street				

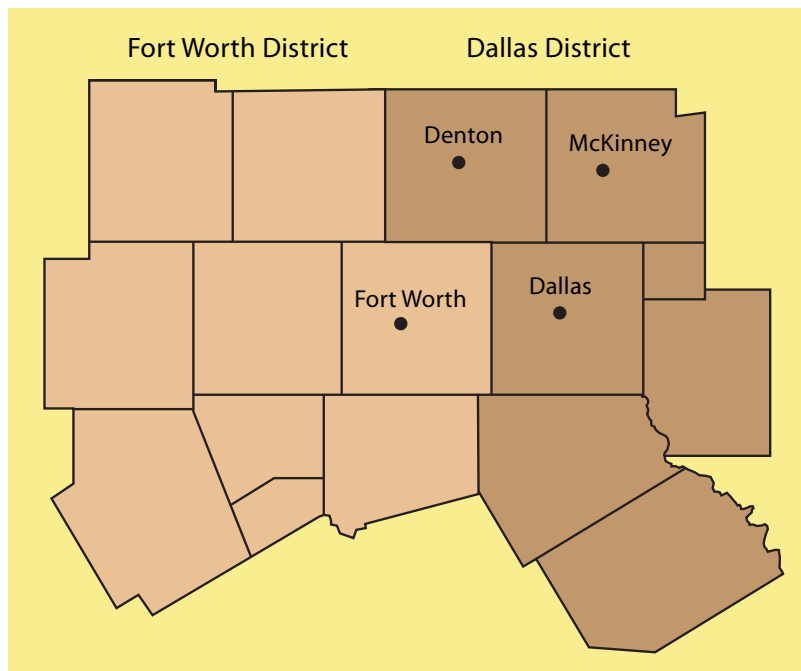
The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Texas Transportation Commission

The terms “TxDOT” and the “Texas Transportation Commission” are used to refer to the present-day entities and historical predecessors which used different names. The current and previous names for these entities are listed in the table. The term TxDOT is used for all organizations and decision-making authorities within the department, including the Texas Transportation Commission, policy-making authorities at the Austin headquarters, the Dallas District Office, the Fort Worth District Office and private firms acting on behalf of TxDOT.

1917-1975	Texas Highway Department State Highway Commission
1975-1991	State Department of Highways and Public Transportation State Highway and Public Transportation Commission
1991-current	Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Texas Transportation Commission

The Texas Transportation Commission is the governing body of TxDOT, responsible for establishing policy and determining project priority and funding. The Texas Transportation Commission consists of five members appointed by the governor with confirmation by the Texas Senate. Prior to 2003 the commission had three members. Commission members are appointed for six-year terms, but in recent years the length of member service has varied due to reappointments and early departures.

North Texas is served by two TxDOT district offices, the Dallas District which includes Dallas, Collin and Denton Counties, and the Fort Worth District which includes Tarrant County. District offices are generally responsible for maintenance, managing construction projects and the pre-construction planning for new projects.



Note on Grammar Standards

British standards are used for the placement of punctuation adjacent to quotations. When a comma or period is not part of the quoted expression, the punctuation is placed outside the quotation marks. Periods are omitted from common abbreviations including Mr, Mrs, and Blvd.

Dedicated to

Everyone who helped build North Texas Freeways