

New road opens in western Denton

U.S. 380 connected to Airport Road with Western Boulevard
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By Lowell Brown / Staff Writer

City and business leaders gathered Wednesday afternoon to mark the opening of a new road they hope will lure more industry to Denton's west side.



DRC/AI Key

Denton Mayor Mark Burroughs points to Western Boulevard on Wednesday while speaking at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new road that connects Airport Road to U.S. Highway 380.

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"This is going to be a vital connector," Mayor Mark Burroughs said during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Western Boulevard, a two-lane road connecting U.S. Highway 380 and Airport Road. "It opens up the industrial heart of the new growth area of our city for industry."

The \$4.8 million road cuts a north-south swath through two miles of former ranch land, opening up hundreds of acres of industrially zoned land to development, said Linda Ratliff, the city's economic development director. The long-planned road, paid for with city bonds, also will serve as a vital route when part of Masch Branch Road is closed for a Denton Municipal Airport runway expansion, Ratliff said.

Western Boulevard, which could someday grow to six lanes, offers much-needed relief for drivers, said Jim Fykes, who manages the Peterbilt plant on Airport Road. Previously, companies staggered shifts and formed bus and van pools to counter stop-and-go traffic in the area, Fykes said.

NEW ROAD

The city of Denton held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday to celebrate the opening of Western Boulevard, which connects U.S. Highway 380 with Denton Municipal Airport and businesses along Airport Road.



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Officials said they're hopeful for the area's future, even though plans recently fell through for a 1,200-acre industrial park there. Industrial Developments International canceled its contract for the acreage, blaming the recession.

"I'm hoping that when the economy changes that IDI or somebody like them will be back," Ratliff said.

Also on hand Wednesday was Philip Baker, vice president and chief operating officer of Rayzor Investments. The Rayzor family donated right of way for the road.

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