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Dallas City Council Approves Contract with Spanish Architect Calatrava to Design New Bridge

Internationally renowned architect Santiago Calatrava will design a new bridge for Dallas across the Trinity River. The Dallas City Council approved the contract today during its regular weekly meeting.

Spanish-born Calatrava will provide design and engineering services for the Woodall Rodgers Extension Bridge across the Trinity River. When complete, the structure will link West Dallas/North Oak Cliff with downtown Dallas.

“This is a great day for Dallas and for the future of Dallas,” said Acting Mayor Mary Poss. “I believe the first Calatrava ‘signature’ bridge will be a uniting force for this city.”

While it will be designed to be highly functional, the Woodall Rodgers Extension Signature Bridge will be the first of several “signature” bridges proposed to be built along the Trinity River corridor. The proposed signature bridges will each have a unique design that combines distinct artistic elements with a functioning structure, often using unconventional materials and enhanced lighting.

The concept of building signature bridges was included in the Trinity River Corridor Project Master Plan to maximize the potential of the project, to create an image that is “Distinctively Dallas,” and to increase the beauty and benefits of the corridor.

“This bridge will become an important landmark that will attract millions of visitors and residents to the Trinity River corridor,” Ms. Poss added. “The bridge will also promote favorable land uses and neighborhood organization in the adjoining areas.”

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“Dallas, The City That Works: Diverse, Vibrant, and Progressive”

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Santiago Calatrava is the winner of many international design competitions, including one for the completion of the massive Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York and one for a bridge across the Grand Canal in Venice, Italy. Also recognized as an artist, designer and engineer, Mr. Calatrava has designed an opera house, office buildings, a high school, a library, a television studio, theatres, warehouses and stadiums throughout Europe, the United States and the rest of the world.

Calatrava will be paid \$5,837,000. The Dallas Foundation has given funds totaling \$4,604,000 to the City of Dallas. (Private citizens and organizations donated these monies to The Dallas Foundation.) An additional \$1,233,000 from Trinity River Corridor Project bond funds will also be used to pay for the design engineering services.

The City's portion of the funds for the construction of the signature bridge was included in the \$246-million Trinity River Corridor Project bond election that was approved by Dallas voter in May 1998. The City's contribution for bridge construction is capped at \$28 million, while Dallas County, state and federal agencies will provide additional funding for the structure.

Design and engineering work is set to begin immediately. A completed design is expected by April 2004. It is anticipated that bridge construction will begin in August 2004. Dallas' first signature bridge should be completed in late 2007.

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