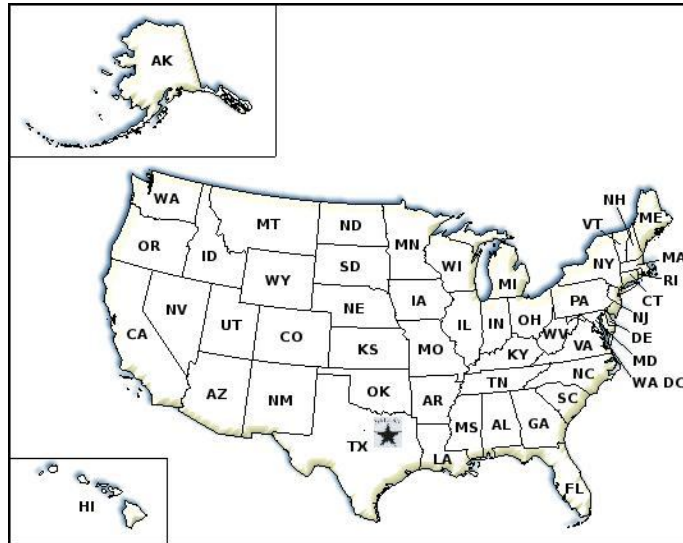


## DREGIONAL REPORT – DALLAS, TEXAS, USA



### Project Management Update from North Texas

*By Ann R. Miller, PMP  
International Correspondent for PMForum & PM World Today  
Dallas, Texas, USA*

#### PMI Dallas Chapter – October Events

| Date         | Event   | Speaker                                | PDUs |
|--------------|---|--|------|
| Oct 01, 2009 | <a href="#">Monthly Meeting: Culture: The Software of Our Minds</a> | Barbara Anderson, PMP                  | 1    |
| Oct 10, 2009 | <a href="#">PM202 Project Scope Management</a>                      | PMI Dallas Chapter Education Committee | 8    |
| Oct 17, 2009 | <a href="#">Plano Breakfast Meeting: OPPORTUNITY unstuck!</a>       | Tom Sheives, PhD, PMP                  | 1    |



## North Texas Regional - Leadership in Capital Projects (LinCP) Forum

- Starts:** Thursday October 15, 2009, 12:00PM  
**Ends:** Friday October 16, 2009, 12:30PM  
**Event Type:** Conference  
 Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas  
**Location:** 221 Las Colinas Blvd E  
 Irving, TX 75039 US  
**Price:** <http://www.LinCP.com>  
**Website:** <http://www.LinCP.com>  
**Industry:** Construction  
**Keywords:** Leadership, Capital Projects Forum, Integrated Project Delivery, capital projects, architects, engineers, contractors, owners, integrated project, Leadership in Capital Projects (LinCP) Forum, key stakeholders on Capital Projects together for money saving Owners, **Project Managers**, Administrators, Consultants, Executives, involved in the planning, design, or construction of higher educational, governmental, health care, or other institutional capital projects or programs  
**Intended For:**  
**Organization:** Synergy Builders and Leadership in Capital Projects (LinCP) Forum

This unique event brings together the key stakeholders critical to delivering Texas' capital projects. Owners, contractors, and project designers, engineers and consultants will address the current issues and concerns around Project Delivery Methods, leading to a more sustainable industry and improved project conclusions.

This Forum's "hot" topic is **PROJECT DELIVERY METHODS**

## Woodall Rodgers Park Project in Dallas Receives Federal Stimulus Funds

The Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation will receive \$16.7 million in federal stimulus funds toward constructing a deck plaza over the Woodall Rodgers Freeway in downtown Dallas. The Woodall Rodgers deck plaza is a “shovel-ready” transportation enhancement project that will create approximately 1,000 immediate jobs and will stimulate additional economic development and job growth in the future.

The project will provide a vital pedestrian and bicycle connection between both sides of the existing freeway, connecting Downtown Dallas, the Arts District, and the Uptown and Victory residential districts. The Woodall Rodgers Park will be a 5-acre urban park built on top of the deck plaza structure. (artist rendering below)



“The stimulus money will go towards a project that will be central to the Dallas’ identity for generations to come,” said Linda Owen, president of the Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation. “We are excited and grateful for the boost in funding that will help us achieve even more of our goals for the Park.”

The stimulus funds were awarded by the Texas Department of Transportation Commission with a vote to approve a list of projects selected for transportation enhancement funds. The funding for highway and bridge construction under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stipulated that three percent of those funds be set aside for transportation enhancement projects.

Since its completion, the Woodall Rodgers Freeway has served as a barrier between Uptown and Downtown Dallas. The deck plaza mitigates the harsh environment and will re-knit the urban fabric to enable safe, useful pedestrian connections across and along the freeway. A bridge structure will be constructed across the freeway between existing bridges on St. Paul and Pearl Street.

“The pedestrian and bicycle enhancements will serve as a major catalyst for improved mobility, safety and economic development,” said Owen. “The project will transform our city’s geography and quality of life.”

The Woodall Rodgers Freeway Deck Plaza is funded and developed through a public, private partnership including the Texas Department of Transportation, the City of Dallas, the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the private sector’s Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation. It has been in the planning stages since 2004.

Utility construction began last month providing the infrastructure necessary to begin work on the deck plaza. The additional stimulus funding is expected to accelerate the deck construction which is slated for late summer or early fall 2009.

#### About Woodall Rodgers Park

The Woodall Rodgers Park is a 5.2-acre, \$80 million deck park that will create an urban green space over the existing Woodall Rodgers Freeway between Pearl and St. Paul streets. Like the Washington Mall in D.C., the park will provide connectivity to the city’s flourishing Arts District, bringing world-class cultural offerings together as a central gathering space for Dallas and its visitors to enjoy.

Plans for the park include jogging trails, a dog park, a children’s playground, a restaurant, a performance pavilion, a water sculpture, an area for games and much more.

The park is being designed by The Office of James Burnett in conjunction with the engineering firm of Jacobs Carter Burgess. Bjerke Management Solutions is the project manager.

For more information, please visit [www.woodallrogerspark.org](http://www.woodallrogerspark.org).

## Dallas County Commissioners to Seek Outside Manager for Future Building Projects

In January 2007, Dallas County commissioners were miffed about all the change orders they were being asked to approve for an underground parking garage project. Commissioners Maurine Dickey, John Wiley Price and Ken Mayfield told county staff [they wanted an independent project manager](#) on all future large construction projects, including the new jail tower in the Lew Sterrett complex.

On previous projects like the garage and the George Allen civil courthouse renovation/addition, the architect also served as the project manager -- an arrangement Mayfield likened to a fox guarding a hen house. But staffers never did get an independent project manager for the south tower jail or the new forensic sciences building. And now, more than two years later, [both projects are mired in cost overruns and construction defects like leaky roofs.](#)

The commissioners' reaction: "I told you so!" They are vowing to make sure all future construction projects get an outside project manager.

"We need our own independent firm with no tie to the architect or contractor," Mayfield said, "to make sure we're getting what we ordered." Mayfield said some of the south tower jail construction defects are design related -- even more reason not to allow the architect to also oversee the project, he added.

"They're looking out for their own interests," Mayfield said.

Both Mayfield and Dickey blame Dan Savage, the former assistant Commissioners' Court administrator, who they said refused their requests to use an outside project manager on the jail and forensic sciences buildings. Some of the new jail's problems are idiotic and could have easily been avoided, Dickey said. For example, the contractors installed stainless steel walls but used regular screws that are now leaking rust all down the walls, she said.

"You don't ever put the architect in charge of project management," Dickey said. "The extent of the things going wrong there are unbelievable."

On both the George Allen and south jail tower projects, commissioners had to hire [project manager Earl Dedman](#) after the fact to come in and fix the problems. Commissioners say they wish Dedman had been overseeing the projects from the beginning.

"Earl has been playing catchup ever since," Price said.

The new \$36 million jail infirmary is the county's next big project. Price said it will definitely have an outside project manager.

**About the Author:*****Ann R. Miller, PMP******Author***

*International Correspondent  
Based in Dallas, Texas, USA*



**Ann R. Miller, PMP** is a strategic project management advisor, consultant and educator, having worked in the field of project management for the last 25 years. She is also an instructor for the University of Texas at Austin's project management Continuing Education Program. Ann is an expert in project execution, program governance, project portfolio management, PMO implementation, and PM-related professional development. She has extensive experience with aligning project portfolios with business strategy and with developing a "culture of discipline" in organizations by establishing and evolving project governance for more effective execution. She has helped develop project team competencies – through training, coaching and mentoring – and is recognized as a thought leader and project champion. She was previously vice president of the Project Leadership Group (2000-2006); partner with The Angel Group (1983-1999); regional manager with ABT Corporation (acquired by Niku in 2000 and by Computer Associates in 2005 - 7 years); manager with Arthur Young (merged into Ernst & Young in 1989; consulting acquired by Cap Gemini in 2000 - 5 years); consultant with Price Waterhouse (merged into PriceWaterhouseCoopers in 1998, consulting acquired by IBM in 2002); and senior software engineer for DEC (acquired by Compaq 1998; merged with HP 2002). She is an experienced user or expert of various PM Methodologies (PMI® PMBOK, SDLC, EVA, CMMi, RUP, Agile, Scrum, SOA, ITIL); P/PM Tools (MS Project Server (EPM), 6DTech Project Catalyst, CA Clarity, WBS ChartPro, Planview, Primavera); and Desktop, Contact Management and Communications tools (Sharepoint, Second Life). Ann has a Bachelors degree in Philosophy from Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas and is bilingual in English and Spanish. Ann has been active in the PM profession for many years, has made numerous presentations at professional events and conferences, is a member of the Austin and Dallas PMI chapters, and is past president of the PMI Dallas Chapter (1997-98). She is also active in the Dallas arts community. Ann Miller lives in Dallas, Texas and can be contacted at [amil0419@yahoo.com](mailto:amil0419@yahoo.com).