

News Release

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Victory for Scenic Dallas in 2003 Texas Legislative Session

AUSTIN—A two-year extension of the Green Ribbon project funding landscaping improvements on Texas highways was passed during the 2003 Texas Legislative session. The bill was sponsored by Texas State Representative Garnet Coleman (D-Houston). Scenic Dallas and Scenic Texas strongly supported the legislation.

Coleman's legislation was part of the General Appropriations Bill that funds the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The legislation calls for a .5% or better allocation of a new highway project's total cost to landscaping improvements in most urban areas. Over the past two years, Green Ribbon funds brought \$1.8 million in highway landscaping funds to the Dallas area.

While the results of the 2003 Texas Legislative Session fell short of the goals of Scenic Texas, the organization's local chapter, Scenic Dallas, remained optimistic. "While legislation to stop new billboard construction statewide was defeated, we raised awareness in communities across Texas about the impact of such advertising," said Scenic Dallas Executive Director Ilene Perkett.

Scenic Dallas is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to fighting visual pollution, and to preserving and enhancing of our city's visual environment. Scenic Dallas, established in 1999, is committed to making Dallas beautiful. Our mission is to support public policies which promote scenic conservation and beautification and limit actions which have a harmful visual impact on Dallas and nearby communities.

(Contact Information)

Ilene Perkett

972.980.7200 (voice) www.scenicdallas.org/leadership_contact_us!