

**Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2025
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2025
Donna Buhr, Secretary**



The following are the Minutes of the Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2025 Annual Membership Meeting held Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at Berkner High School.

Call to Order

Berkner Park Neighborhood Association President, Gene Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Board Members Present

President, Gene Lawrence; Vice President, Stephen Beyer; Treasurer, Jano Pretorius; Secretary, Donna Buhr

Leadership Team Members Present

Membership Chair, Le Filler; Beautification Co-Chair, Judy Bergstrom; Social Chair, Allison Turner; Newsletter Editor, Delphia Lawrence

Visiting Dignitaries, Speakers, and Guests

Richardson Mayor, Amir Omar
Richardson City Council Member Place 6, Arefin Shamsul
Traffic & Transportation Department Director, Mark Nelson
Assistant Director and City Traffic Engineering, Pritam Deshmukh

Opening Remarks and Introductions

- President Gene Lawrence offered greetings to members and introduction of guests.

Treasury Report presented by Treasurer, Jano Pretorius

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025	\$ 21,600
2025 Deposits to date	3,876
Current Stripe Balance	316
Pending Deposit	-0-
2025 Expenses to date	(\$9,973)
Current Total Funds Available	\$ 15,819

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Annual 2027 membership fee increase

- Propose \$40 annual membership fee.
- The increase reflects today's cost of doing business.
- Increase was previously noted during the Fall Membership Meeting.
- There have been only two fee adjustments over 15 years of BPNA's existence.
- There will be a vote at the Spring 2026 Membership Meeting.
- If approved, the \$10 increase will be effective for the 2027 membership year.

Guest Speakers

Mark Nelson, Director of Transportation and Mobility

Pritam Deshmukh, Assistant Director of Transportation and Mobility

Topic: Traffic & Transportation Update

Director Mark Nelson and Engineer, Pritam Deshmukh provided an overview on traffic and transportation, focusing on four areas – the DART Silver Line, US 75 HOV Tech Lane, Traffic Management, and Capital Projects.

Director Nelson began the presentation discussing the DART Silver Line and the US 75 Technology Lane, followed by Mr. Deshmukh discussing Traffic Management and Capital Projects.

DART Silver Line

The DART Silver Line is a 26-mile regional rail service that serves seven cities with a final connection at DFW Airport. Richardson is served by two Silver Line Stations, Cityline/Bush station and UT Dallas Station. The project has a 2-billion-dollar budget managed by DART.

Community Benefits of the Silver Line include improved mobility & accessibility, enhanced economic development, and supported long-term planning. It improves access to UT Dallas, provides opportunities for transit-oriented, mixed-use development around the two stations, and advances DART vision for quality transit access in the region. It also positions Richardson for continued mobility with future growth and development.

US 75 Technology Lanes Project

The project converts the existing US 75 high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to peak-hour technology lanes from I-635 in Dallas County to SH 121/SRT in Collin County. No tolls will be charged to vehicles using the peak-hour technology lanes. During peak travel times—southbound in the morning and northbound in the evening—only high-occupancy vehicles (HOVs), low-emissions vehicles, and motorcycles are allowed to access the technology lanes. In non-peak hours, single-occupant vehicles (SOVs) are also allowed in the peak-hour lanes.

US Tech Lanes Project Progress

- Most High Masts have been installed and are functional.
- Center barrier is substantially completed from PGBT to IH-121.
- Center barrier from PGBT to IH-635 is under construction.
- Full-color dynamic message signs and new overhead sign installation are in progress.
- IH 635-PGBT HOV closure expected late summer/early Fall 2025.
- Project completion is expected at the end of 2026.

Traffic Management

Traffic Operation & Traffic Signal Overview

- Currently there are 134 traffic signals throughout the city. Of which 10 are located at State Highways.
 - The signalized intersections have a communication network using central software for: Traffic monitoring – Vehicle detection – Incident management – Timing optimization.
- Corridor Progression Plans – There are different timing plans based on the time of day:
 - Morning Peak
 - Mid-Day
 - Afternoon Peak
 - Regional Signal Timing Programs
- Construction Coordination – Mr. Deshmukh stated, there are a “ton of construction projects” where traffic plans are coordinated with the construction area.
- Emergency & Pedestrian Preemption – Traffic signals are designed to work with emergency vehicles. An electronic signal is activated from the vehicle to the traffic signal.

Traffic Calming – The City adopted its “Traffic Calming Policy” to address concerns related to speeding and cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets.

- Upon receipt of a neighborhood traffic concern or request, the City installs a “Data collection and assessment” electronic device to monitor the requested area.
- When a speeding concern is reported, the city will deploy a “**Speed Compliance Observation and Performance Evaluator (SCOPE)**” unit. The SCOPE unit is a compact device designed to detect vehicles, track their speeds, and log speed data. It is only used for collecting speed-volume data.
- Once data is collected for at least two weeks, the Transportation and Mobility (T&M) Team will analyze the data and provide recommendations to address identified problems.
- The T&M team follows a step-by-step process to address traffic calming measures and recommend appropriate solutions.
- Contact the Traffic Operations Team at 972-744-4330 for inquiries or to submit a request.

Traffic Mobility Impacts include:

- Strong state and regional economy, population growth, high employment base, and affordable fuel result in more vehicles using the system.
- Optimizing efficiency of system is a daily challenge.
- Pavement built out – technology to assist efficiency.
- Regional system – interagency cooperation.
- Embrace multimodal options to meet demands – transit, walk, bike.

Capital Projects

Capital Improvement Program – The Capital Improvement Program focuses on key projects to upgrade and maintain existing roadways to improve traffic flow and safety. The program includes four primary areas – Identify needs - Program Development – Implementation – Future planning. The Traffic and Mobility team make communication with the public an important part of the program and provide periodic updates on project plan statuses.

Common Construction Challenges include:

- Franchise Utilities.
 - Accurate location of lines.
 - Timely relocation of facilities that will be impacted by the project.
- Coordination with TXDOT and other entities.
- Contractor staffing and material procurement.
- Staging locations for materials and equipment.
- Traffic control.
- Driveway parking and garage access.

Tracking current Projects

- Residents can track the status, budget, and contact information for ongoing capital improvement projects using the City’s online tools.
 - **Capital Project Tracker** - An interactive map that allows filtering projects by bond program, type or status - [Capital Projects Status Map](#)

Recognition Award presented by President Gene Lawrence, assisted by Mayor Amir Omar and City Council member, Arefin Shamsul.

- **Certificate of Appreciation** presented to Allison Turner, BPNA Social Chair.

Neighborhood Matching Fund Beautification (MFB) Update

President Gene Lawrence provided an update on the neighborhood beautification project:

President, Gene Lawrence and Beautification Co-chairs, Judy Bergstrom and JJ Wampler attended an October 21, 2025, meeting with the Richardson Parks Department to discuss possible MFB projects for the Berkner Park Neighborhood. The goal is to provide a project with the best value for our neighborhood.

It was decided that landscaping the 1600/1700 block of East Spring Valley would be the best MFB project. It will be a multi-year phased project:

- Phase #1 will be to plant ten decorative trees.
- No firm installation timeline has been set, but expected to be late Q1 to early Q2, 2026.
- The trees will be watered with water bags provided by the city at no cost to BPNA.
- The city will pay the cost for a subcontractor to maintain the water bags.

Neighborhood or Member Concerns

There are no updates for the on-going neighborhood concerns:

- Richardson East Shopping Center Businesses
- Sears Building Retail Businesses
- Bates & Butler Drive Berm

Important Updates & Announcements by President Lawrence

- Holiday Dinner Party: December 12, 2025, at Aboca's Italian Grill
 - Happy hour at 6 p.m.
 - Dinner served at 7 p.m.
- Interested in Crime Watch Patrol?
 - Contact Clayton Rinderknecht – email: clayton.rinderknecht@gmail.com

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Refreshments donated by Allison & Bobby Turner