



**CENTRAL TEXAS**  
**Regional Mobility Authority**

## AGENDA ITEM #16 SUMMARY

Quarterly Briefing on the following projects:  
Bergstrom Expressway, Oak Hill Parkway,  
MoPac South, 183 North, and SH 45  
Southwest.

Strategic Plan Relevance: Regional Mobility

Department: Engineering

Associated Costs: N/A Briefing Only

Funding Source: Toll Equity Grants, Rider 42, STP MM (CAMPO)

Board Action Required: No

Description of Matter: The Director of Engineering will provide a summary of project activities from July through September, 2013 for the following projects:

- Bergstrom Expressway
- Oak Hill Parkway
- MoPac South
- 183 North
- SH 45 Southwest

Reference documentation:

GEC Quarterly Activities Reports and Board Presentation

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**CENTRAL TEXAS**  
**Regional Mobility Authority**

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

**Quarterly  
Progress  
Report**

**October 2013**

BERGSTROM EXPRESSWAY

OAK HILL PARKWAY

MOPAC SOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

MOPAC INTERSECTIONS ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

183 NORTH MOBILITY PROJECT

SH 45SW ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY



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# Bergstrom Expressway

## INTRODUCTION

This report documents and describes the Bergstrom Expressway Project (US 183 South) for the period through October 17, 2013. This Project is currently in the environmental clearance phase of development which requires the completion of an Environmental Assessment consistent with the regulations contained in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The Environmental Document is currently being developed in house by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Austin District staff and supported by the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, with the Public Outreach being led by the Mobility Authority. In addition, the Project has been authorized by legislation to use a Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA) project delivery method. This process promotes innovative financing methods that will allow the Project to be funded and constructed much earlier than traditional methodologies.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project corridor begins just south of the Manor Expressway and extends to SH 71 East; the corridor includes seven grade separations, and connects to three major interchanges at the Manor Expressway, Airport Boulevard, and SH 71 East. The corridor includes two pedestrian bridges and a continuous shared use path connecting local communities. The Project can be considered the Gateway to Austin from the Airport and is depicted in the location map below.



The US 183 South Corridor from US 290 East to SH 71 East is one Austin's most significant arteries. Since US 183 was constructed in the mid 1960's, the roadway has been a four-lane, divided highway with minor improvements. As the primary route to and from the Austin Bergstrom International Airport and points beyond, it attracts numerous motorists per day. In recent years, this vital corridor has grown increasingly congested as the region's population has expanded. The situation is projected to get even worse in the future. Meanwhile, funding challenges at the federal and state levels have made it increasingly difficult to finance the corridor.

As part of the NEPA process, the identified needs are to reduce congestion, improve safety and utilize innovative funding and financing processes to expedite project development and construction. Along with the NEPA process, the Mobility Authority is utilizing a Public Involvement and Outreach Program that includes hosting "brown bag" lunch and one-on-one meetings to obtain agency and stakeholder buy-in along the corridor. The Environmental Assessment document is currently being prepared by the TxDOT Austin District. The Mobility Authority, with Atkins under their General Engineering Consultant contract, is supporting and coordinating closely with TxDOT as the document is being developed.

### RECENT ACTIVITIES

The Project Development process is currently focusing on four major elements: Environmental Assessment (EA), Schematic Development, Public Outreach and Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS).

The Mobility Authority is currently working with TxDOT and other agencies to identify ways to expedite the environmental processes and clearance date.

The first Project Open House was held in September with over 100 attendees. The second Open House, held on March 7, 2013, was another great success with over 70 attendees and an additional 200 online participants. The third Open House and CSS Process was held on October 10, 2013 with over 50 attendees and an additional 65 online participant (online participation available until November 10<sup>th</sup>). TxDOT will host the Formal Public Hearing (required by NEPA) in mid-2014 which will show the proposed final design and include the results of the CSS process.

As part of the Project efforts, the results of a Value Engineering (VE) Study completed for the corridor have been incorporated into the design and continue to be incorporated into the NEPA Document. Cost saving are currently estimated to be in the range of \$50 to \$75 million. The Public Involvement team has presented the updated design to the public through the outreach program established to focus on the community and stakeholders along the corridor. Below are photos from the latest CSS Open House held on October 10<sup>th</sup>.



The Mobility Authority is currently supporting TxDOT in the development of the EA:

- Development of exhibits required by NEPA for the document
- Facilitating and coordinating meeting with other Agencies
- Developing, updating and tracking with Primavera scheduling software
- Evaluating impacts and addressing issues relevant to project development
- Supporting in recovery plans in order to meet critical dates

The Mobility Authority is advancing planning and funding activities:

- Advancing right-of-way & utilities with long lead times including coordination and funding
- Evaluating phasing schemes and financing models
- Developing a Maintenance Responsibility Matrix for CTRMA, TxDOT and City

The Mobility Authority has completed the Design Schematic:

- Completed the (100%) Final Design Schematic
- Completed and addressed design issues and community inquiries
- Completed Design of Value Engineering Study results
- Facilitating and coordinating meeting with other Agencies

The Mobility Authority's Stakeholder and Outreach is comprehensive and currently includes:

- Agencies: FHWA, TxDOT, City of Austin, Travis County
- Businesses: Misc. Land Developers / Property Owners, Freescale , YMCA, AT&T
- Home Owners Associations: Knollwood , Senate Hills , University Hills
- Interest Groups: Gateway Oaks, Heritage Tree Foundation, PODER, El Concilio
- Completed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Outreach Activities

The Mobility Authority's Context Sensitive Solution process is currently focusing on:

- Integrating the facility with the area's built environment to enhance community and in particular the area's economical quality of life
- Integrating the natural environment in order to maximize the facilities scenic, recreation and aesthetic qualities
- Incorporating aesthetics that fit the facilities physical setting and preserve the scenic, aesthetic, neighborhood, historic and environmental attributes of the area
- Including innovative design elements including considerations from the Green Mobility Challenge
- Completed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House, Results to be presented at Formal Public Hearing Mid 2014

**SCHEDULE**

The Environmental Assessment process was launched in late 2011 and is anticipated to be complete in 2015. A detailed schedule discussion, including the tracking of intermediate milestones, will be provided in upcoming Quarterly Reports. Below is a summary of the anticipated timeline that is being communicated to the public.

US 183 South Project (Bergstrom Expressway)														
Activity	Duration (Mo)	Begin	End	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Environmental (EA)	30	12/1/2011	1/1/2015											
Pre - ROW / Utility	36	6/1/2014	6/1/2017											
Litigation	6	1/1/2015	7/1/2015											
Procurement (CDA)	18	9/1/2014	3/1/2016											
Design (CDA)	12	3/1/2016	3/1/2017											
Right of Way (CDA)	24	3/1/2016	3/1/2018											
Utility (CDA)	24	3/1/2016	3/1/2018											
Construction (CDA)	48	3/1/2016	3/1/2020											



# Oak Hill Parkway

## INTRODUCTION

This report documents and describes the Oak Hill Parkway Project for the period through October 15, 2013. This Project is currently in the environmental clearance phase of development which requires the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) consistent with the regulations contained in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The Project is currently being developed jointly by the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Austin District.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project encompasses the area surrounding the existing “Y at Oak Hill” intersection and includes the study of US 290 West from FM 1826 to Loop 1, including SH 71 West from Silvermine Drive to US 290 West. The study area is depicted in the location map below.



Currently this area experiences large-scale congestion while attracting more than 60,000 cars/trucks a day and serving as a corridor for statewide travel. As part of the NEPA process, nine reasonable alternatives have been identified thus far to address the issues currently plaguing the study area. These alternatives, along with a “No Build” scenario, will be screened to assess the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts such that environmental values are considered alongside the technical and economic factors. Another important element of the NEPA process, which is also



consistent with the Mobility Authority's approach to project implementation, is public involvement; throughout the entire Environmental Impact Statement process, input will be solicited from neighbors and drivers of the corridor that could potentially be affected.

The Environmental Impact Statement document is currently being prepared by a consultant team led by Rodriguez Transportation Group, Inc. (RTG) under a professional services agreement with the TxDOT Austin District. The Mobility Authority, supported by Atkins under their General Engineering Consultant contract, is coordinating closely with both TxDOT and RTG as the document is being developed.

### PREVIOUS EFFORTS

As part of the Public Involvement Initiation, several critical elements were advanced in the previous quarter:

- On May 16<sup>th</sup>, a design concept preview workshop was held.
- On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the first Open House was held outlaying the initial concepts for the public, environmental constraints and project timeline. The comment period closed on June 3.
- A virtual open house was launched for the first time as part of the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Open House to reach out to a larger audience and allow those unable to attend an opportunity to provide input.
- Monthly e-newsletters have been distributed to announce the opportunities for public input and to keep the stakeholders informed of activities and progress.

### RECENT ACTIVITIES

The implementation of the Project is currently focusing on actively engaging the public to help us identify the project constraints and initiation of early concept development through the use of citizen workgroups. This quarter's activities include:

- The Comment and Response Report addressing the comments from the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Open House was completed and uploaded to the project website.
- The Purpose and Need Technical Report outlining the Purpose and Need of the Project was submitted to TxDOT/FHWA and was approved in September.
- Three new concepts were brought forth :
  - Concept F was developed in collaboration with the Fix 290 Group and is a parkway concept that includes non-continuous backage roads for local access rather than continuous frontage roads
  - TSM (Transportation Systems Management) Concept which includes simply improvements to the intersections (i.e. signal synchronization, adding turn lanes, grade separation, etc.)
  - TDM (Transportation Demand Management) Concept which involves developing or enhancing alternatives to single occupant vehicle travel (i.e. flex time, 4-day work weeks, ridesharing, transit and bike options, etc.)
- A meeting was held with various City of Austin Department Directors and personnel to introduce the process being undertaken for the project and the various concepts under consideration and to begin collaborating on specific issues such as drainage/detention, regional bike plans and vegetation.
- A design workshop public meeting was held on September 30 to introduce the three new concepts above and to seek input on all of the concepts introduced to date. This input will help to refine concepts to be shown at the public meeting on October 22. A live poll was taken at the

workshop to determine the reaction to the three newly introduced concepts as well as how the project team is performing. 76% of the attendees agreed or strongly agreed the project team is headed in the right direction and 21% were neutral.

- Draft Screening criteria have been developed to begin narrowing the concepts that will move forward into the detailed analysis phase. The criteria will be introduced to the public for comment at the October 22 Open House.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House will be held October 22 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm at Covington Middle School.
- More detailed information and notes from the public involvement activities can also be found on the project website [www.oakhillparkway.com](http://www.oakhillparkway.com).

**PROGRESS STATUS**

The Environmental Impact Statement process is still in the first year of development and is anticipated to take approximately four years to complete. To date, the project team has performed consistent with the project schedule.



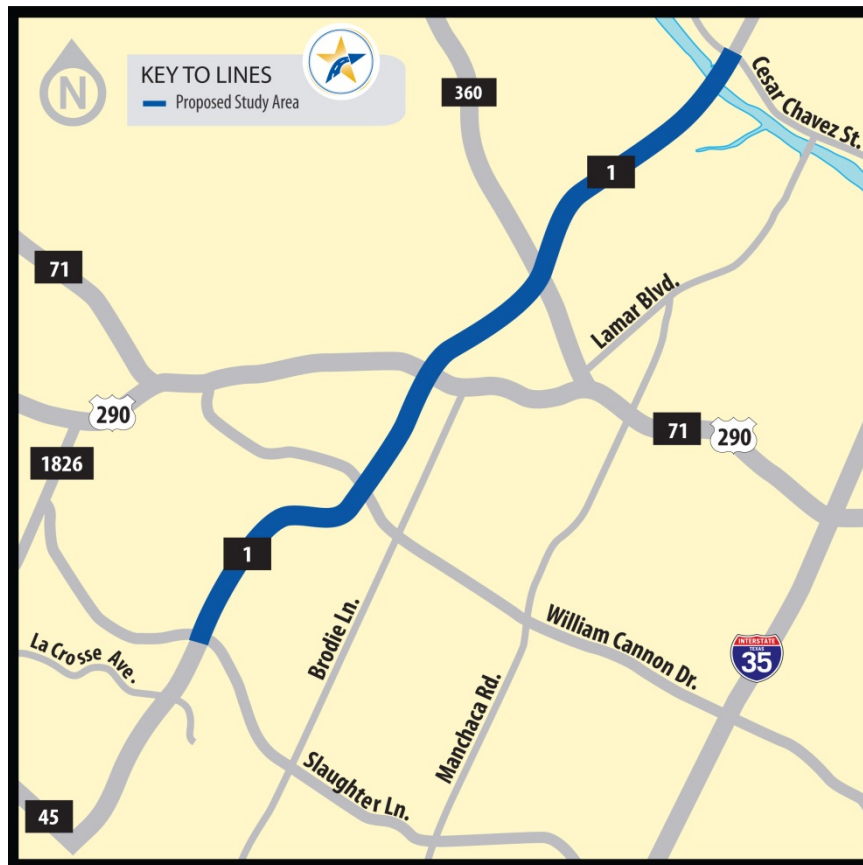


# MoPac South Environmental Study

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mobility Authority has initiated activities on the Environmental Study for improvements to MoPac from Cesar Chavez Street south to Slaughter Lane. Proposed improvements could include adding lane(s) along existing MoPac. Implementation of bicycle/pedestrian facilities and inclusion of park-and-rides will be evaluated as part of the project during the environmental study.

The project has been selected as one of the recipients of the Texas Legislature’s Rider 42 funding allocation projects. As a Rider 42 objective, the project will utilize enhanced public engagement strategies and tools. The environmental study and community outreach program launched in April 2013.



This report describes the status of the MoPac South project and documents the activities accomplished through the third quarter of 2013.

**RECENT ACTIVITIES**

The following activities have been accomplished by the Mobility Authority and its consultants during the reporting period.

**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

- Jacobs continues preparation of the environmental assessment, primarily data collection and public involvement activities, as well as schematic efforts.
- There are ongoing environmental submittals to TxDOT.
- Several environmental field surveys have been conducted as part of the data collection including; underwater investigations for threatened mussels, karst surveys, and vegetation; no protected species have been found.
- A detailed constraints map has been developed for the entire corridor.
- Design survey and right of way determination continues for use alternatives analysis and schematic design.
- CDM Smith continues to collect historical and model traffic data for use in environmental alternatives analysis, operational analysis, and traffic and revenue evaluations.

**ADJACENT PROJECT COORDINATION**

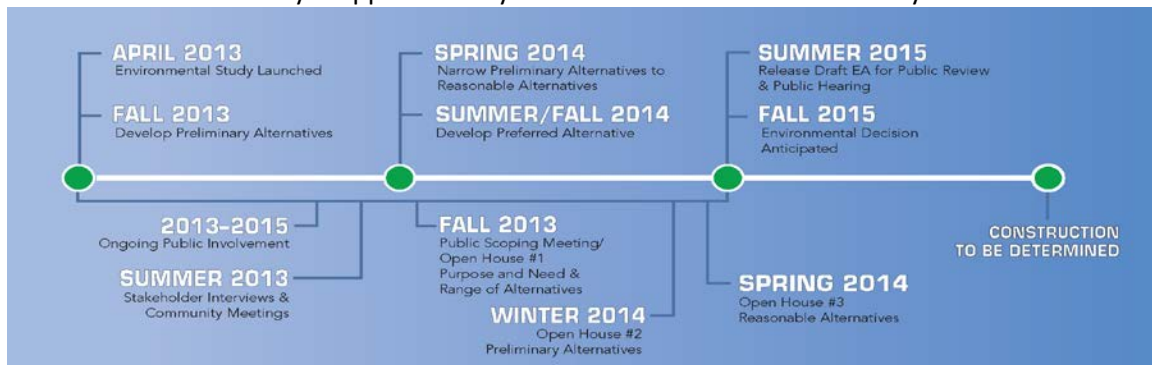
- Ongoing coordination is occurring between the teams of MoPac South, 183 North, SH 45SW, and Oakhill Parkway, regarding approach to traffic modeling and agency coordination.
- MoPac South team members will continue to attend the SH45 SW and Oakhill Parkway public meetings to provide information as needed.
- A meeting was held with Capital Metro on September 19 to discuss transit opportunities for this and other projects.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- Stakeholder meetings and elected official briefings continue since August 2013. The MoPac South team has met with numerous stakeholder groups to gather ideas and provide information related to the project.
- The project website ([www.MoPacSouth.com](http://www.MoPacSouth.com)) launched in September 2013.
- The first open house will be held on November 7 at Bowie High School.
- Development of Context Sensitive Solutions approach, which will be included in the upcoming meetings, but will launch with its own series of workshops early next year.

**SCHEDULE**

The Environmental Study is approximately five months into its two to three year schedule.



# MoPac Intersections Environmental Study

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mobility Authority, in coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), will prepare a Categorical Exclusion (CE) for proposed improvements to the intersections of Slaughter Lane and La Crosse Avenue with MoPac. The environmental study launched in May of 2013. If the proposed improvements are environmentally cleared, the project will be turned over to TxDOT to design, construct, and maintain.



This report describes the status of the MoPac Intersections project and documents the activities accomplished through the third quarter of 2013.

### RECENT ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been accomplished by the Mobility Authority and its consultants during the reporting period.

### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- Jacobs continues data collection, geologic and biologic field surveys, design survey and utility information collection to use in the preparation of the categorical exclusion.
- Horizontal and vertical alignments have been developed to determine possible alternatives.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Stakeholder meetings and elected official briefings continue since August 2013.
- Fact sheets, exhibits, and maps have been prepared.
- A Store Front “Meet and Greet” Open House will be held on October 24 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Parkside Village, 5701 Slaughter Lane, Austin TX 78749 (Suite B between BurgerFi and Matthew Horne Dentistry).

### SCHEDULE

The study is four months into an approval process which is anticipated to take approximately one year.



# 183 North Mobility Study

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In August 2013, the Mobility Authority launched the Environmental Study for improvements to US 183 North from RM 620 to MoPac. Proposed improvements could include adding lane(s) along existing US 183, as well as direct connectors from US 183 and MoPac.

The project was selected as one of the recipients of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Surface Transportation Program - Metropolitan Mobility (STP MM) funding program. The environmental study and community outreach program launched August 2013.



This report describes the status of the US 183 North Project and documents the activities accomplished through the third quarter of 2013.

**RECENT ACTIVITIES**

The following activities have been accomplished by the Mobility Authority and its consultants during the reporting period.

**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT / PROCUREMENT**

- Study launched in August 2013 with a series of kick off meetings.
- CP&Y began preparation of the environmental assessment, primarily data collection and public involvement activities, as well as schematic efforts. Many submittals are upcoming.
- The first Technical Workgroup Meeting is anticipated to occur in December 2013.

**ADJACENT PROJECT COORDINATION**

- Ongoing coordination is occurring between the teams of MoPac South, 183 North, and SH 45SW regarding approach to traffic modeling and agency coordination.
- Meeting held with Capital Metro on September 19 to discuss transit opportunities for this and other projects.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- Ongoing development of public involvement plan, key stakeholder list, and outreach tools.
- The first Open House is anticipated to occur in January 2014.

**SCHEDULE**

The environmental process is anticipated to take two to three years. The schedule for this project is in development.

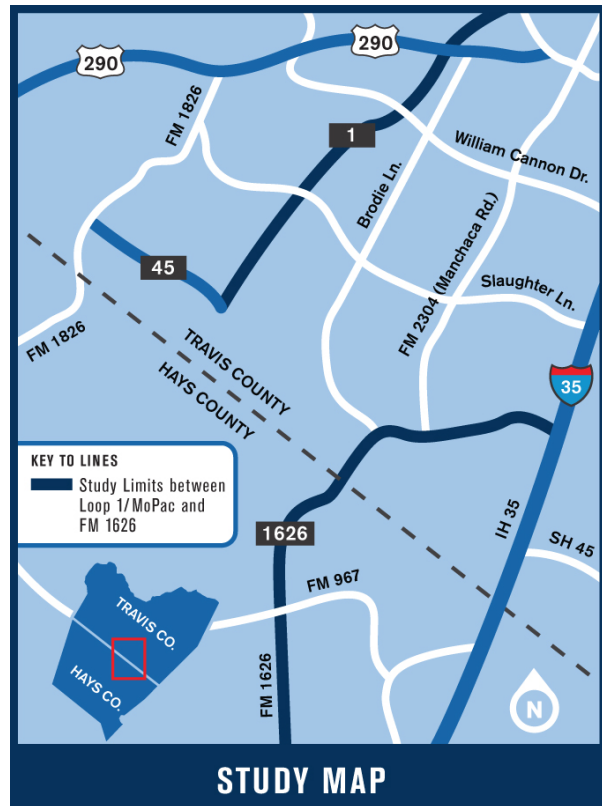


# SH 45SW Environmental Study



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is working with the Mobility Authority, Hays and Travis counties, and regulatory agencies to study a possible solution for improving mobility in the rapidly growing area of northern Hays and southern Travis counties. This combined effort includes an environmental study of an area between MoPac and FM 1626. The study will consider environmental impacts, constraints, the needs of drivers, and concerns of surrounding neighbors. The study, which will result in an Environmental Impact Statement, launched in June 2013.



This report describes the status of the SH 45SW Project and documents the activities accomplished through the third quarter of 2013.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been accomplished by the Mobility Authority and its consultants during the reporting period.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- TxDOT and their consultants continue preparation of a State Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- An Origin and Destination study launched in October 2013.

## ADJACENT PROJECT COORDINATION

- Ongoing coordination is occurring between the teams of MoPac South, 183 North, and SH 45SW regarding approach to traffic modeling and agency coordination.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- Key messages and outreach tools were finalized in the third quarter of 2013.
- The project website (www.SH45SW.com) and phone hotline (512-593-4202) launched in September 2013.
- Stakeholder meetings and elected official briefings continue since August 2013.
- The first Open House was held on October 7 at Bailey Middle School. Over 240 citizens attended, including Travis County Commissioner Gerald Daugherty. A Virtual Open House launched concurrently on the project website. Official comment period ends on October 18. The next Open House is anticipated in January.
- An Environmental Listening Workshop will be held on November 14 at Elm Grove Elementary.

**SCHEDULE**

The environmental process is anticipated to take two years.

