



**CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority**

AGENDA ITEM #11 SUMMARY

Executive Director's report.

Strategic Plan Relevance: Regional Mobility

Department: Executive

Associated Costs: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Board Action Required: No

Description of Matter:

Executive Director's Monthly report

A. Project Updates

Reference documentation:

Executive Director's report

Contact for further information: Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director



CENTRAL TEXAS
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REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOVEMBER 19, 2014

Mike Heiligenstein – Executive Director

TIFIA Investment Briefing Scheduled in Washington, D.C.



Chairman Wilkerson, Vice Chairman Mills, myself and staff will meet with the U.S. Department of Transportation TIFIA representatives on Thursday Nov. 20 to begin the process of negotiating a master credit agreement under the TIFIA loan program. This credit agreement would be the first in the country under the MAP-21 legislation. If negotiations are successful, the arrangement would not only provide an approximate \$250 million subordinated TIFIA loan for the Bergstrom Expressway project but would also establish parameters for borrowing for future projects such as MoPac South, Oakhill Parkway and 183 North currently under environmental study. This meeting is the start of the negotiation process that is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2015.

Bergstrom Expressway Open House



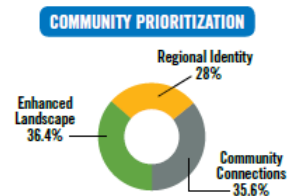
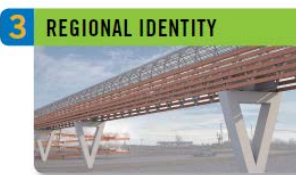
Bergstrom Expressway Open House at East Austin College Prep

Representatives from The Mobility Authority and TxDOT on Thursday, Nov. 13 hosted community members for an Open House on the Bergstrom Expressway Project.

Attendees had the opportunity to review designs for the 12-lane (six-tolled, six non-tolled), 8-mile facility along 183 South that will quadruple the corridor’s capacity and provide a seamless connection to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.



Citizens also reviewed Context Sensitive Solution designs and learn more about the refinements made to the build alternative as a result of community input, including bike lanes, intersection improvements, oak tree preservation plans, and direct connect ramps to SH 71.



TxDOT will host a Public Hearing on the project’s Draft Environmental Statement on Wed. Nov. 19th at 6 p.m. at the Delco Activity Center.

MoPac Improvement Project Tree Giveaway

To help celebrate Texas Arbor Day, 185 residents who live next to the MoPac Expressway received free five-gallon trees today as part of a giveaway sponsored by Mobility Authority. The trees were distributed through a partnership with the non-profit group TreeFolks. The Mobility Authority provided the trees as part of a larger outreach effort aimed at thanking residents for their patience during construction of the MoPac Improvement Project. The tree giveaway followed the distribution of more than 600 “Care Bags” with gifts including wildflower seeds, a MoPac flashlight, and a voucher for the free tree.



MoPac man with Tree Folks' Greg Mast

The Care Bags and tree giveaway are examples of the ways we're reaching out to residents to express our appreciation for their patience and understanding during construction.



The 185 residents who requested trees were able to choose from four different species including Texas

Redbud, Mexican Plum, Texas Red Oak, and Burr Oak. The Texas Red Oak was the most popular with 63 being requested.

The trees were delivered to residents by TreeFolks, a local non-profit group, that will also offer residents advice about where to plant the trees and how to care for them.

“Our mission is to encourage the planting and care of trees throughout Austin so we can maintain and enhance the urban forest,” said Thaïs Perkins, Executive Director of TreeFolks. “We are excited to have the Mobility Authority support this vital work.”

Perkins says trees provide shade and reduce the heat island effect that drives up temperatures in urban areas. The result can be less energy consumption and lower power bills for residents. Trees also help prevent erosion and contribute to cleaner air and water.

In addition to the tree giveaway, the Mobility Authority is sponsoring the TreeFolks City Shade Program, which involves the recruitment of local volunteers to plant trees in parks and other public places around Austin.

Also, the Mobility Authority will be sponsoring a TreeFolks event in spring 2015 that will provide more than 500 one-gallon trees to residents who live in neighborhoods near MoPac.

183A / US 183 Intersection Improvement Construction Begins

Notice to Proceed for the reconstruction of the US 183 and 183A Intersection will be given Tue. Nov. 18. Construction is anticipated to begin immediately. Stakeholder outreach and public communication will be ongoing. The project is expected to be completed in the fall 2015.

Upcoming Meetings

Nov. 19 - Bergstrom Expressway Public Hearing, 6 p.m.
Delco Activity Center, 4601 Pecan Brook Dr.

Dec. 18 – Board of Director’s Meeting



PROJECT UPDATES

MoPac Improvement Project



- The last approved schedule for the MoPac Improvement Project continued to show completion of the project on time. However, more recent information from the contractor indicates completion of the project beyond the contractual date. The Oversight Team is monitoring the schedule closely and working with the Contractor to address slippage in start dates and durations for activities. The contractor is bringing on additional resources (self-performing and subcontractors) to help address production and schedule concerns.
- Final design is complete and plans have been released for construction in all segments. The permitting process with utilities and railroads continue.
- Mowing operations and litter pick-up continue.
- CH2M HILL has been providing a courtesy vehicle (similar to HERO) during peak hours and during construction as well as handling the maintenance of the corridor. They will continue this until final acceptance of the project.
- MoPac Man continues to update the website daily with closure information and has responded to numerous e-mails and tweets. His 800 AM broadcasts are updated weekly with closure information as well as information about the upcoming express lanes.

183 North Mobility Project



- Project preliminary design development and traffic operational analysis has been completed for initial ingress/egress locations along 183N. Modifications are currently being completed to incorporate

operational improvements. Further refinement of possible toll pricing ranges is currently being evaluated.

- Additional improvements will include a consistent 4-lane section from McNeil to MoPac.
- Alternatives Analysis has been submitted; awaiting comments from TxDOT/FHWA.
- The Draft Design Exception package for reduced lane and outside shoulder widths was submitted to TxDOT for review and comments.
- Draft Biological Evaluation document and technical memos have been submitted to TxDOT.
- Initial bicycle and pedestrian accommodations have been evaluated and are being refined.
- Open House #3 is being planned for mid-February 2015.
- Project is on schedule for a Public Hearing August 2015.

MoPac South Environmental Study



- Technical memoranda continue to be prepared for social, economic, and environmental impact evaluations.
- A technical working group meeting to review the alternatives analysis and make a selection is scheduled for December 3.
- Engineers continue to lay out alternatives to help identify operational needs and environmental impacts.
- Traffic analysis for operations and environmental evaluations is ongoing.
- The next public workshop is planned for early 2015.
- Initial draft Environmental Assessment (EA) submittal is planned for early 2015 with a Public Hearing planned for late 2015.

MoPac Intersections Environmental Study

- The schematic design and the majority of the technical memoranda have been submitted to TxDOT for review and comment.
- The funding agreement with TxDOT is being revised to accommodate increased effort related to EA production and providing a public hearing.
- Stakeholder outreach and public communication is planned over the next several months.
- Once the funding agreement is in place, the schedule for completing the environmental study will be reviewed and updated.

SH 45SW Environmental Study



- TxDOT is addressing public hearing comments and finalizing the environmental document.
- An environmental finding is anticipated in early 2015.
- Rodriguez Transportation Group (RTG) is now under contract with the Mobility Authority and has been given notice to proceed.
- Stakeholder meetings and CSS efforts will be initiated as the project design progresses.

Bergstrom Expressway Project



- The Environmental Assessment (EA) was given "Satisfactory for Further Processing" (SFP) by Federal Highway Administration on October 9th, allowing us to schedule the Public Hearing for November 19 and maintaining our anticipated EA finding for Spring 2015.
- Final design schematic is currently under review by Federal Highway Administration, and has been approved pending any modifications that may result from the Public Hearing this November.

- Public involvement activities continue, and the Final CSS Open House took place on November 13, 2014.



- Project programming efforts have continued in order to meet federal requirements such as project management plan, initial finance plan, and the cost estimate review workshop.
- Financing activities continue as we develop the updates to TIFIA application and begin the Investment Grade Traffic & Revenue Study.
- Continuing early Utility Coordination and ROW Acquisition activities for items with long lead times.
- Outreach and status reporting activities continue as the team meets with the stakeholders including public officials, agencies and community organizations.

Maha Loop/Elroy Road, Phase I Project

- Placement of the flexible base is ongoing
- Concrete pours for the slab have begun and should be complete by the first part of December.
- Contractor began placement of sidewalks and excavated for the roadside ditches.
- There is a pending change order related to an unidentified private waterline and adjustment of an air release valve on the City of Austin's waterline. A change order to adjust fence elements to comply with property owner agreement negotiated by Travis County after bid award has been approved.
- Travis County has requested that we begin designing traffic signals for the intersections with SH 71 and with Pearce lane and seek a change order to have them installed if feasible
- Contractor is on schedule for the March 2015 completion.

Manor Expressway

- CTMC is finalizing the non-conflict utility relocations required by the project to obtain Final Acceptance.

Oak Hill Parkway Project



- Efforts with TxDOT and the City of Austin continue for potential detention facilities.
- Work is underway to develop the design level schematics for both concepts moving forward into the alternatives analysis phase.
- Work is also underway to develop a 3D visual rendering to help the public better understand elevations and characteristics of the alternatives

SH 71 Express

- A notice to proceed is expected to be issued mid-November to early December.
- The Field Office, located on Harold Green between SH 130 and FM 973 is currently being set up.
- Joint McCarthy and Toll Integrator meetings will continue when Notice to Proceed is issued.
- Atkins and Mobility Authority met with Schneider Electric to discuss roles and responsibilities on the project. Atkins will provide Schneider Electric toll plans as soon as they are available for review.