



**CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority**

AGENDA ITEM #13 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
- B. Briefing from the Texas Transportation Institute on Express Lane Operations

Reference: Executive Director's report

Contact: Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director



PROJECT UPDATES

MoPac Improvement Project



- CH2MHill mobilized a major subcontractor to assist in project delivery. A second subcontractor will be brought on for the undercrossing construction near downtown.
- Boring activities for all of the large drainage pipe associated for the undercrossings near downtown are complete.
- All drilled shaft foundations for bridge widenings are complete.
- Easements and environmental clearances have been obtained for the relocation of the city 42" waterline. Construction is scheduled to begin in May.
- The Lake Austin Blvd. ramp is temporarily closed to facilitate construction near the downtown interchange. Minimal traffic impacts have been noted and/or reported.
- Paving operations are scheduled to resume mid-May.
- The installation of sound wall columns and panels continues on the south end of the project. Installation will progress northward.



MoPac Courtesy Patrol driver interviewed by KXAN about having helped more than 1,000 drivers (April 30).

183 North Mobility Project



- Work continues on technical memoranda for social, economic, and environmental impact evaluations.
- Coordination continues with TxDOT on tie-in at the RM 620 interchange and other design refinements.
- The design exception package has been prepared and planned for submittal to TxDOT this month.
- 60% schematic design has been submitted to the Mobility Authority for review. Mobility Authority comments are being addressed in preparation for 90% schematic design submittal scheduled for TxDOT review on June 1, 2015.
- The traffic operational analysis is complete.
- Initial draft Environmental Assessment submittal is planned for early 2015 with a Public Hearing planned for late 2015.

MoPac South Environmental Study



- The team has been responding to community concerns about the project, particularly related to the direct connect ramps over Lady Bird Lake. To provide for additional community input, the study timeline has been extended, including the addition of an Open House in late summer.
- The project team is looking at several concepts related to access to downtown and number of

Express Lanes. These options are under evaluation in terms of geometry, environmental impacts, and operational issues. The options and information will be presented at the Open House.

- UT's Center for Traffic Research (CTR) will be contracted to conduct a study of the downtown street system for 2020 (opening year). They will study the *no build* scenario and compare it to operations of the one-lane and two-lane Express Lane concepts, with and without connections to downtown.
- More than 300 people visited the online Context Sensitive Solutions survey, which was officially closed on May 12th. The information is now being reviewed and will be used to influence project design so that it reflects the community's cultural, environmental and historic values.

Authority and TxDOT staff will review the plans in May and June. Remaining fieldwork includes geotechnical borings for pavement and bridge design and a design survey at FM 1626 to capture recently completed construction.

- Stakeholder meetings and Context Sensitive Solutions efforts are underway. More than 100 members of the community attended a May 7 meeting with the Bliss Spillar Neighborhood Association. A follow-up meeting with this group is planned for early June.
- The development of construction plans is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year with letting for construction early next year.

MoPac Intersections Environmental Study

- The draft Environmental Assessment was submitted to TxDOT for review by the Environmental Division, which will ultimately make an environmental determination.
- The document is anticipated to be available for public review in June with a Public Hearing planned approximately a month after release of the document.
- Stakeholder outreach and public communication will continue as the project approaches the target Public Hearing date.
- Once the project is environmentally cleared, TxDOT will assume responsibility for final design and construction.

Bergstrom Expressway Project



- The Apparent Best Value Selection for the design/build contractor is expected May 2015. Construction should launch late 2015.
- On Feb. 25 the Mobility Authority's Board of Directors authorized the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) from teams interested in providing public involvement services necessary to implement the Bergstrom Expressway Project. The RFP was issued on April 3. Four responses to the RFP were received on April 24. The selection committee reviewed and scored responses and made a recommendation of firm selection to the Executive Director. Approval from the Board is anticipated in May and NTP in July 2015.
- The remaining procurements for construction inspection, survey, and materials testing teams will launch in May and June of 2015.
- A baseline public opinion survey was conducted in May 2015 with report of findings to be complete in June.
- Justin Word presented project information at the Greater Austin Contractors & Engineers Association (ACEA) Central Texas Infrastructure Design and Construction Symposium.

SH 45SW Environmental Study



- The Mobility Authority's design team is completing the 30% design plans; the Mobility

- Wes Burford presented project information at the American Concrete Institute Central Texas Chapter Luncheon.
- Project programming activities continue as the team works to finalize project funding agreements with TxDOT and FHWA.
- The team is currently addressing FHWA comments in efforts to re-submit final versions for approval.
- Financing activities continue as we develop updates for the TIFIA Program, finalize the Investment Grade Traffic & Revenue Study and complete an application for a SIB Loan request from TxDOT.
- ROW Acquisition continues in efforts to meet the commitment to the D/B Contractor.

Maha Loop/Elroy Road, Phase I Project



Kellam Road open to traffic

- Placement of rock riprap, filtration material, and plantings are ongoing.
- Placement of matting and seeding is complete for east ditch.
- The turn lanes on SH 71 are complete; the change order to add signals is negotiated and under review for approval; signal poles are ready for delivery (were pre-ordered).

290 Toll (Manor Expressway)



- CTMC is finalizing the non-conflict utility relocations required by the project to obtain Final Acceptance.
- CTMC is submitting final documentation to achieve Final Acceptance.
- A baseline public opinion follow-up survey was conducted this month with a report of findings being completed in June.

Oak Hill Parkway Project



- Efforts with TxDOT and the City of Austin continue for potential regional detention facilities.
- The design level schematics for both concepts moving forward into the alternatives analysis phase are continuing to be refined as the engineering aspects are reviewed.
- A Value Engineering Study including agency stakeholders was held the week of April 13 and efforts will be ongoing to determine which recommendations should be incorporated.
- The team continues to contact and meet with stakeholders with concerns regarding regional water detention and right-of-way acquisition; this effort will continue for several months.
- The Mobility Authority, ATKINS and Rodriguez Transportation Group sponsored a Williamson Creek Cleanup as a part of the Keep Austin Beautiful Clean Sweep on April 18th. The Oak Hill Parkway project team members challenged their teammates, co-workers, family and friends

to give back to the Oak Hill community and the environment by volunteering to clean trash out of Williamson Creek near the Y in Oak Hill. Our Clean Sweep team of 27 volunteers spent 54 volunteer hours cleaning a total of 510 pounds of trash from a half-mile section of the creek on a Saturday morning. The team persevered through the challenges of weather, uneven creek terrain and lots of poison ivy to get the job done!

- The team continues to work towards additional issue-specific workshops in advance of the next Open House. A water quality workshop is anticipated to be scheduled in June.

SH 71 Express



- Coordination meetings between McCarthy and the Toll Integrator continue.
- Atkins and Schneider Electric continue to review design submittals and attend comment resolution meetings.
- McCarthy continues to progress design activities from 60% to Final Design.
- Earthwork activities at the SH 130 interchange continue.
- McCarthy continues substructure work on the Onion Creek and SH 130 bridges.
- McCarthy has commenced construction of the joint communications trench.
- A baseline public opinion survey was conducted this month with report of findings being completed in June.