



CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
October 17, 2012
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Community Leaders to Tackle Traffic Congestion with Oak Hill Parkway

(Austin, Texas) – What should be done to improve long-term mobility in congestion plagued Oak Hill? That’s the question the Texas Department of Transportation and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority will be looking to answer over the next few years as they work with drivers, neighborhood residents and various stakeholder groups to consider a wide range of options as part of a new environmental study called the Oak Hill Parkway.

The project team kicked off the study on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 with the support of community leaders including State Representative Paul Workman and Travis County Commissioner Karen Huber.

“Our community has been enduring backups at the “Y” in Oak Hill for far too long,” says State Representative Paul Workman. “Congestion has hurt our quality of life and led to environmental degradation and lost economic opportunity. The time has come to fix the problem once and for all.”

Travis County Commissioner Karen Huber notes, “The pressures on our statewide water resources are immense, and the needed mobility improvements that occur in Oak Hill must do everything within reason to protect these precious natural resources that are so important to our future and to our high quality of life.”

The study name, Oak Hill Parkway, was selected after holding an Envisioning Mobility Workshop with members of the community in August 2012 and then conducting a community wide vote.

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“The project name represents a new beginning,” says Greg Malatek, Austin District Engineer for TxDOT. “While we won’t ignore study work done over the past three decades, we will essentially be starting over. That means taking the time to fully understand the wants and needs of the community before developing a new list of reasonable and feasible options to improve mobility in Oak Hill.”

“We are committed to relieving congestion and improving safety in Oak Hill,” says Ray Wilkerson, Mobility Authority Chairman. In addition to roadway improvements, the Mobility Authority will be putting together a Community Enhancement Team to see how the authority might partner with Capital Metro, the City of Austin and Travis County to revitalize Oak Hill. “We will be looking at a wide range of opportunities to improve transit, enhance bicycle and pedestrian facilities, increase green space and support redevelopment in the corridor,” says Wilkerson.

Capital Metro manages a park and ride lot in Oak Hill and operates a popular Express Bus service to downtown. “Traffic congestion in Oak Hill slows down our Express Bus service and makes it difficult to access our park and ride facility,” says Linda Watson, Capital Metro President/CEO. “Anything we can do to reduce traffic congestion will improve the quality of life for our riders and everyone who travels through Oak Hill.”

While the Oak Hill Parkway study is underway, TxDOT and the City of Austin will be making short-term improvements at a number of intersections along US 290. Those improvements should help reduce congestion until a long-term solution can be implemented.

Members of the community will get their first opportunity to share concerns regarding congestion in Oak Hill at an open house meeting scheduled for November 15, 2012 at Small Middle School. The open house will run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The project team will be on hand to answer questions about the study process, listen to concerns and to accept official comments. There will be numerous community meetings and open houses during the course of the study, which is expected to take at least four years to complete.

Details about the study can be found on the web at: www.OakHillParkway.com.

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About the Mobility Authority

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority is a local, independent government agency created to improve the regional transportation system. Our mission is to implement innovative solutions that reduce congestion and create transportation choices that enhance quality of life and economic vitality. The Mobility Authority is the state's first Regional Mobility Authority, created in October 2002 to serve Travis and Williamson counties. The Mobility Authority operates the 183A toll road in Williamson County, is constructing the Manor Expressway and plans to start work in 2013 to construct Express Lanes on north on MoPac.

About the Texas Department of Transportation

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining nearly 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 15,000 employees strive to empower local leaders to solve local transportation problems, and to use new financial tools, including tolling and public-private partnerships, to reduce congestion and pave the way for future economic growth while enhancing safety, improving air quality and increasing the value of the states transportation assets. Find out more at www.txdot.gov.

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