



CENTRAL TEXAS  
Regional Mobility Authority

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Mobility Authority Backs Effort to Increase Transportation Funding and Expedite Critical Projects**

(Austin, Texas) – The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority is supporting efforts by State Senator Kirk Watson to facilitate new transportation projects and cut down on traffic using an innovative mechanism known as design/build/finance.

"With Congress talking about cutting transportation funding by 50% and Texas running out of money to construct new roads, we need more options when it comes to improving mobility," says Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director of the Mobility Authority. "A number of successful projects across Texas have been built using this transportation tool including the 183A toll road. It will be devastating if we lose yet another funding mechanism in the midst of this budget crisis."

Under current law, the Mobility Authority's ability to utilize various public-private partnership options including design/build and design/build/finance, will expire on August 31, 2011. If that happens, it could delay development of several projects including the MoPac Improvement Project and the US 183 South (Bergstrom Expressway) project.

"We commend Senator Watson for his leadership on these important issues," says Heiligenstein. "And we support his work assuring that Central Texas will have the tools we need to create a comprehensive transportation system and protect the quality of life of commuters and residents across the region."

(more)

**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 currently operates the 183A toll road in Williamson County and is currently working to extend the 183A project and construct the US 290 East (Manor Expressway) project. The agency is also a partner on the MoPac Improvement Project, a joint effort of the Mobility Authority, TxDOT, the City of Austin and Capital Metro to address traffic congestion in the MoPac corridor.

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