

# NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release:  
August 2, 2011  
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## **Mobility Authority Launches Green Mobility Challenge A Sustainability Design Competition**

(Austin, Texas) – The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation are looking for innovative ways to build, operate and maintain new highways in a more sustainable way. To reach that goal, the two agencies have partnered to launch the Green Mobility Challenge, a design competition aimed at soliciting the best and brightest ideas from inventive industry professionals and students. Ideas and concepts generated from the challenge will be implemented on regional transportation projects developed by the Mobility Authority.

"The Green Mobility Challenge highlights our commitment to implement mobility solutions that reduce congestion and promote sustainability," says Mobility Authority Executive Director Mike Heiligenstein. "By identifying design elements that reduce environmental impacts while protecting natural resources, we can ensure that transportation facilities are constructed and operated in a more environmentally responsible way."

TxDOT District Engineer Carlos Lopez added, "Competitions such as this can result in dynamic, innovative ideas that can help overcome some of the unique challenges that accompany protecting the environment on large scale highway projects."

The Green Mobility Challenge is the latest sustainability program to be implemented by the Mobility Authority and its contractors. The Mobility Authority has previously committed to increase material recycling, improve air quality and conserve energy on both the Manor Expressway and the 183A Extension. These efforts included the use of warm mix asphalt technology to reduce harmful emissions, LED lighting to reduce electric use and the use of recycled construction products.

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To be eligible to enter the Green Mobility Challenge, professional teams must be comprised of at least one civil engineer with transportation experience, one civil engineer with environmental experience and one landscape architect. In addition, one of the required team members must be based in the Austin area. Student teams are required to have at least three student members and one faculty advisor.

At least one of the students and faculty advisors must be based in the Austin area. In addition, for being recognized for their creativity, winning teams will be awarded prizes. The Green Mobility Challenge will initially focus on design concepts for two of Central Texas' most sensitive highway projects, the Oak Hill Expressway (US 290 West/SH 71 West) and the Manchaca Expressway (SH 45 Southwest). The goal is to implement all reasonable and feasible design concepts as elements of the two current projects as well future projects in the region.

“By recognizing and rewarding participants for their creativity and innovation, we’re getting the best from the industry and raising greater awareness of sustainability in the area,” says Heiligenstein. “We’re letting contractors know that if they want to work with us, strategies like those identified in the challenge should be part of the package.”

There is a \$250 registration fee for professional teams. Student teams can enter at no cost. Teams interested in registering can visit [www.GreenMobilityChallenge.com](http://www.GreenMobilityChallenge.com) for more information. Additional questions will be answered at an informational meeting on August 3, 2011 at 2 PM at 301 Congress Ave., Suite #350, Austin, TX 78701.

### **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 January 2003 to serve Travis and Williamson counties. 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.

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