



# PRESS RELEASE

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CENTRAL TEXAS  
Regional Mobility Authority

## SH 45SW Cleared for Construction

***EDITORS' NOTE: For questions regarding the environmental study, please contact Chris Bishop with TxDOT. For questions regarding the design, construction and operation of the planned SH 45SW toll road, contact Rick L'Amie with the Mobility Authority.***

**(Austin, Texas)** – Relief could soon be on the way for the rapidly growing areas of southern Travis County and northern Hays County. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has cleared the way for SH 45SW, a four mile, four-lane, limited access toll road extending from State Loop 1 (MoPac) to Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1626. The project is designed to address rapid population growth that is causing drivers to use local roads as commuter corridors, increasing congestion and cut-through traffic, and decreasing safety.

“Our challenge in the environmental review process was to develop a project that addresses the transportation need while still being sensitive to the environmental issues. We have accomplished that,” said Carlos Swonke, TxDOT’s Environmental Affairs Division Director. “Our team of engineers and scientists has done a great job of studying the issues and finding ways to reduce impacts to the environment. We’re committed to a wide range of water quality protection measures and now, we can move this project one step closer to construction.”

TxDOT led the Environmental Study effort and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority will design, construct, operate and maintain the facility.

“This project will provide an important connection for rapidly growing communities in southern Travis and northern Hays counties, and provide long-needed relief from cut-through traffic that has crippled roadways such as Slaughter Lane and Manchaca Road which were not designed to handle the capacity,” said Mobility Authority Executive Director Mike Heiligenstein. “The Mobility Authority has worked closely with TxDOT and the

community in the environmental process to ensure that that we build a facility that serves the needs of a multi-modal traveling public while protecting the valuable environmental resources in the area.”

The SH 45SW project is an innovative facility that will incorporate extensive multi-modal travel accommodations and environmental features. Water quality protection measures will significantly exceed Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) rules using Permeable Friction Course (PFC), Vegetative Filter Strips and Water Quality Ponds throughout the project. The facility will also incorporate many features that were identified during the Green Mobility Challenge, a sustainable design competition the Mobility Authority hosted to challenge Texas' most creative landscape architects, planners and engineers to propose better ways of constructing, operating and maintaining future transportation projects, including SH 45SW. Some Green Mobility Challenge features that will be incorporated include a roadway alignment that avoids impacts to recharge features, wide bridge construction over Bear Creek, and efforts to minimize impervious cover. The project also features extensive bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, including construction of a 4.5 mile, 10-foot-wide Shared Use Path from Escarpment Boulevard to FM 1626.

The Mobility Authority selected the Rodriguez Transportation Group (RTG) to develop final design and construction plans, details and specifications under the oversight of the Mobility Authority. This process can take several months and will be reviewed and approved by TxDOT. After design and construction plans are finalized, the Mobility Authority will release the plans and request bids for construction. After a contractor is selected, construction can begin.

To learn more about the project and sign up to receive project updates, visit [www.sh45sw.com](http://www.sh45sw.com).

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