



CENTRAL TEXAS  
Regional Mobility Authority

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Mobility Authority Gets Loan and Grant Package to Construct 183 South Project**

(Austin, Texas) – The Texas Transportation Commission today granted preliminary approval of a \$203.4 million loan and grant package that will help pay for the costs to build the 183 South Project, an eight-mile Expressway to be constructed by the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority between US 290 and SH 71. The project will include three new tolled lanes and up to three improved non-tolled general purpose lanes in each direction and direct connector ramps at US 183 and SH 71.

The commission granted preliminary approval for the Mobility Authority to receive a State Infrastructure Bank Loan of up to \$30 million, a toll equity loan of up to \$30 million and a toll equity grant in the amount of up to \$143.4 million from the State Highway Fund plus the value of right of way that will be transferred from the Texas Department of Transportation to the Mobility Authority. Additional construction financing will come from toll revenue bonds, and a Transportation Infrastructure and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan from the Federal Highway Administration.

The roadway, which will open to traffic in phases, includes three tolled lanes and two-three improved non-tolled general-purpose lanes in each direction along US 183 from US 290 to SH 71. The total cost of the project is estimated to be between \$750 and \$800 million, excluding financing costs.

“The 183 South Project will be the largest roadway project in Central Texas since the construction of SH 130,” said Mobility Authority Executive Director Mike Heiligenstein. “This project will offer a key detour route when re-construction takes place on IH 35 through central Austin. It’s a win for all Central Texans - offering a non-stop, signal free route to the airport while preserving and enhancing the non-tolled frontage lanes, and adding significant bicycle and pedestrian improvements.”

“Although the Texas Department of Transportation has new transportation funding for the Austin region following the passage of Proposition One, those funds are not available to construct toll roads,” added Heiligenstein. “Even if they were available, this project alone would take more than our region’s allocation for many years.”

The project will feature significant landscaping and aesthetic enhancements, pedestrian bridges, and a seven-mile, 10-foot wide Shared Use Path for pedestrian and bicycle travel. Major trailheads will connect the Shared Use Paths with nearby hike and bike trails. Bike Texas spokesperson Su Wilcox spoke to the Commission in support of the project.

“This project will provide key connections with the Lance Armstrong bikeway and the Southern Walnut Creek Trail, allowing more people more options for safe transportation and recreation,” said Wilson. “When economic development comes to this corridor, folks will have more options to get to those jobs without adding to congestion on the road. This can also help address our public health crisis by providing a safe space for recreation.”

Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2016, and is expected to last just over four years. The construction will take place in phases, with phase one improvements, between US 290/290 Toll and Bolm Rd., expected to be complete in late 2019. The second phase will open to traffic about a year later. Below is a map highlighting the limits of the project. For more information and project updates, visit [www.BergstromExpressway.com](http://www.BergstromExpressway.com).

(more)



### **About the Mobility Authority**

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority is a local, independent government agency created in 2002 to improve the regional transportation system in Travis and Williamson Counties. The Mobility Authority implements innovative and sustainable transportation options to enhance quality of life and economic vitality in Central Texas. The Mobility Authority operates 183A Toll in Williamson County and 290 Toll (Manor Expressway) in east Austin and is constructing Express Lanes on MoPac Expressway. For more information about the Mobility Authority, visit [www.MobilityAuthority.com](http://www.MobilityAuthority.com).

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