



CENTRAL TEXAS  
Regional Mobility Authority



# NEWS RELEASE

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## 183 North Express Lanes Alternative Presented for Public Review and Comment at Public Hearing

**(Austin, Texas)** – The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation conducted a Public Hearing at Westwood High School on Thursday for the 183 North Mobility Project Environmental Study. Attendees were provided with information on the Express Lanes Alternative and had the opportunity to review materials, speak with project staff, provide feedback, and discuss the collaborative approach to transportation design and engineering known as Context Sensitive Solutions.

The 183 North Mobility Project is aimed at addressing traffic congestion along US 183 North between SH 45 North and MoPac, which is a major issue during peak rush hour periods. An Environmental Study was launched in August 2013 to thoroughly analyze this eight-mile segment of roadway and determine the best options for managing congestion, as well as provide transit reliability and emergency response times.

“At the Mobility Authority, we’re about building for the future,” said Mike Heiligenstein, executive director for the Mobility Authority. “Population is projected to grow by 50 percent by 2035, and moving forward with the Express Lanes Alternative will translate to a reliable nine-minute commute during the morning and afternoon peak periods. And the benefits extend to those commuters who prefer not to pay a toll. By 2035, morning drive times for commuters in the general-purpose lane will be 24 minutes faster and evening travel times will be 16 minutes faster than if no improvements are constructed.”

The proposed mobility improvements include the addition of two new tolled Express Lanes in each direction in the median of US 183 North between SH 45 North and MoPac. The Express Lanes will connect to 183A and SH 45 North/RM 620 on the north end of the corridor. At the south end of the project, direct connections will be provided to the MoPac North Express Lanes currently under construction. The Express Lanes Alternative will also extend the fourth non-tolled general-purpose lane through areas where only three exist now. In addition, the project proposes to extend the auxiliary/merge lane from the southbound entrance ramp between Oak Knoll Drive and Duval Road, which will improve traffic operations at the on-ramp and on the existing general-purpose lanes.

The 183 North Mobility Project includes \$5 million in bicycle and pedestrian accommodations along the corridor. These enhancements include two shared use path segments that connect existing bike lanes

parallel to the US 183 corridor (between Jollyville Road and Pond Springs Road; and between Pond Springs Road and Lake Creek Parkway). Additionally, sidewalks will be added along each frontage road where none currently exist and cross-street connections for bicycles will be constructed.

Community outreach has been a key component of the study, and public input continues to shape the process. The release of the [Draft Environmental Assessment](#) and the subsequent Public Hearing are parts of the last phase of the Environmental Study. A Virtual Public Hearing is available online at [www.183North.com](http://www.183North.com) until Sunday, Nov. 22 to provide citizens an additional opportunity to submit comments.

All public comments submitted since the project began in 2013 will be considered as part of the environmental study and included in the Environmental Assessment document and submitted to TxDOT for review. An environmental decision from TxDOT is expected in early 2016.

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### **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).

### **About the Texas Department of Transportation**

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail, and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 12,000 employees are committed to working with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas by maintaining a safe system, addressing congestion, connecting Texas communities, and being a Best in Class state agency. Find out more at [www.TxDOT.gov](http://www.TxDOT.gov).