



Central Texas Regional
Mobility Authority

NEWS RELEASE

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Mobility Authority Hosts Community Celebration for 183A Grand Opening

(Cedar Park, Texas) – On Saturday, March 3, 2007, drivers will get their first chance to zip down the new 183A toll road in Cedar Park and Leander. The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority plans to open the \$238 million toll road to traffic following a Grand Opening Celebration. The community-wide festival will take place at the Park Street Main Toll Plaza just south of FM 1431 and will include various activities for the entire family.

“For two decades a lack of funding hindered construction of 183A,” says Bob Tesch, Chairman of the Mobility Authority. “Now just four years after the creation of the Mobility Authority and two years after the start of construction, 183A is opening to traffic. It’s a momentous occasion for the communities of Cedar Park, Leander and Liberty Hill.”

The family-friendly Grand Opening Celebration will kick-off with a “Road to Hope” 5K Fun Run at 8:30 a.m., followed by the community festival from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be carnival rides, inflatable play areas for children, complimentary barbeque, refreshments and concessions, including popcorn and cotton candy. The official opening ceremony will take place at 11:00 a.m. In addition, the TxTag Community Event Team will be on site to sign drivers up for TxTag accounts.

Several local bands will provide live musical performances. The morning act will feature local band, The Dust Devils. The headline act of the day will be Ray Benson, featuring members of Asleep at the Wheel, who will take the stage around the noon hour. 8 Ball Down will perform the closing show of the day.

“This is a community-based event featuring local businesses and various non-profit organizations,” says Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director of the Mobility Authority. “The event marks our opportunity to thank residents for their patience during construction and to introduce the new roadway to the broader community in a very visible way.”

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The event is being sponsored by HNTB Corporation, Caseta Technologies, Inc., Hill Country Constructors, Locke, Liddell & Sapp, Washington Group International, The City of Cedar Park, Endeavor Real Estate Group, Cedar Park Regional Hospital, Capital Metro, KASE 101 and several Williamson County businesses. Proceeds from the event will go to the Hope Alliance, formerly known as the Williamson County Crisis Center.

For more information about the event visit www.mobilityauthority.com. To register for the “Road to Hope” 5K Family Run visit www.runtex.com.

About the 183A Project

The 183A toll road is the first project in Texas to be constructed by a regional mobility authority. The project was conceived more than 20 years ago, but was stalled by a lack of funding until creation of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority in January 2003. With support from Williamson County, Travis County and the Texas Department of Transportation, the Mobility Authority was able to issue \$233 million in toll revenue bonds to fund the 183A project. A Comprehensive Development Agreement was signed with Hill Country Constructors in fall 2004 and design work began in December 2004. Ground breaking for the project took place in March 2005. Exactly two years later, the 11.6 mile project is opening to traffic on time and on budget.

With 183A nearing completion, several new development projects have ensued, including the new, 480-acre Cedar Park Town Center, the 90-acre 1890 Ranch Shopping Center and the Cedar Park Regional Medical Center.

“183A has been critical to the growth of this area,” said Phil Brewer, Economic Development Director for the City of Cedar Park. “It has spurred significant development, increasing the tax base, providing employment opportunities and improving the overall quality of life for residents.

The road, which runs from RM 620 at US 183 to US 183 at the south San Gabriel River, will feature highway speed all-electronic tolling, which allows drivers with a TxTag sticker to pay tolls without slowing down or stopping. A portion of 183A near Lakeline Mall Drive will only accept electronic payments, meaning customers will be required to have a TxTag, Dallas TollTag, or Houston EZ-Tag to use it. Drivers can sign-up for TxTag by visiting www.txtag.org or calling 1-888-GO-TxTag. To promote the opening of the new road, tolls will be waived for all drivers until May 1, 2007.

TxTag customers will receive an extra month of free travel during May. They will also qualify for a 50% discount during the month of June. Regular toll rates for all customers will take effect July 1, 2007. After July 1, TxTag customers will receive an on-going 10% discount.

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. Texas RMAs were enabled by the Legislature as part of a package of initiatives to meet the state's various transportation needs in new, better, and more efficient ways.

About TxTag

The TxTag sticker is a thin electronic device that goes on the inside of the windshield behind the rearview mirror. It is slightly smaller than a vehicle registration or inspection sticker. It contains a microchip that sends a signal to equipment located above the toll lanes. To use a TxTag sticker, all motorists need to do is install it correctly and keep enough money in their TxTag account to pay the tolls. An initial payment of \$20 is needed to set up an account, which goes to pay the tolls. For a limited time, the TxTag sticker will be free. TxTag stickers can be used on toll roads throughout Texas including Houston, Dallas and Tyler.

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