



Central Texas Regional  
Mobility Authority

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Mobility Authority To Expedite Construction of New Toll Road Along U.S. 290 East of Austin**

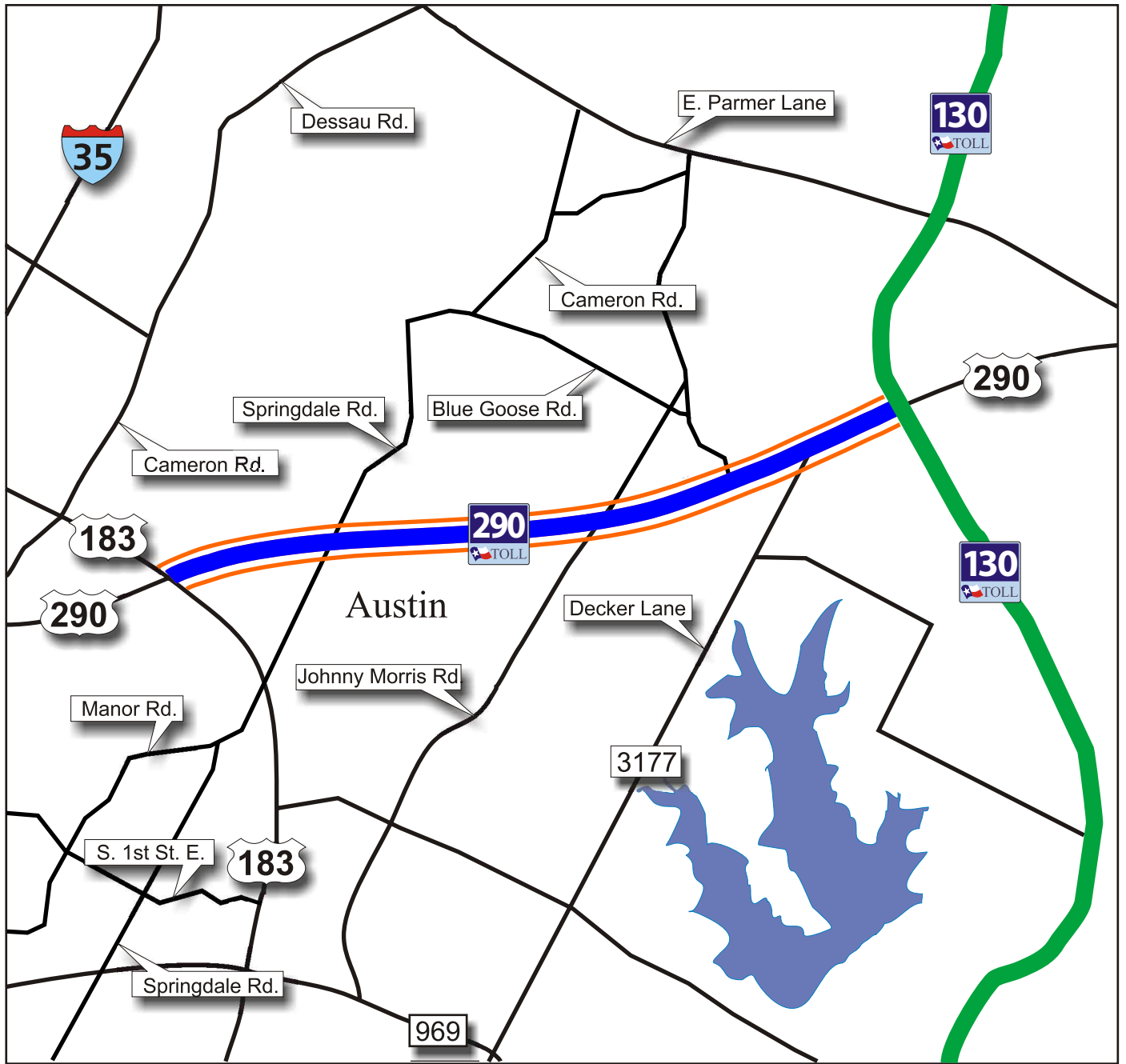
(Austin, Texas) – The Texas Transportation Commission has approved a proposal from the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority to fast-track construction of a 5.6-mile, high-speed toll road. The new roadway will be constructed in the median of U.S. 290, east of U.S. 183 and will provide a critical link between Central Austin and SH130, which is currently being built east of Austin. The Mobility Authority will utilize innovative financing and contracting methods to expedite construction of the roughly \$355 million project. As a result, the road is expected to open to traffic by 2009, at least six years ahead of schedule.

“With our first project, 183A, on track and scheduled to open in 2007, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority has proven it can rapidly address some of Austin’s toughest transportation challenges,” said Mobility Authority Chairman Robert Tesch. “We appreciate the vote of confidence from the Transportation Commission, and we pledge to continue to set a high standard for other regional mobility authorities as we pursue innovative ways to reduce travel delays and improve the quality of life in Central Texas.”

In addition to construction of the new toll road, the project will include major improvements to the existing U.S. 290, which will remain toll-free. “This distinction is important,” Tesch said. “The existing roads that people drive on today will remain toll-free in the future. Tolling will only be applied to new facilities.”

The Mobility Authority will conduct a comprehensive traffic and revenue study over the next 18-months to determine how much of the project can be funded through the sale of revenue bonds backed by tolls and how much financial assistance may be needed from the Texas Mobility Fund approved by the voters in 2002 and administered by TxDOT. The Mobility Authority anticipates constructing the project using a Comprehensive Development Agreement similar to the one used on the highly successful 183A project.

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- Proposed Toll Road
- US 290
- SH 130