



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Media Contact:

Steve Pustelnyk, CTRMA

(512) 996-9778 (Office)

(512) 680-9997 (Cell)

**Court Clarifies Board Terms for Regional Mobility Authority Board Members
Voters to Decide Term Length Issue This November**

Austin, Texas – A Travis County District Court Judge has ruled that Regional Mobility Authority Board members can only serve two year terms despite a state statute that provides for six year terms. Judge Darlene Byrne found the state statute that provided for six year terms was in conflict with the Texas Constitution. The Texas Legislature has already taken action to correct the statutory problem and has approved a constitutional amendment to be placed on the fall ballot to approve six year terms. The decision will have no immediate effect on the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, which serves the Austin metropolitan region.

“Given that the legislature had already acted to correct this problem, I am disappointed that the plaintiff in this case chose to pursue this issue through the courts. The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority was forced to spend a significant amount of public money to address a minor legal technicality that the legislature had already resolved ,” said Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority.

The judge’s ruling means that until a constitutional amendment is voted on this fall, no board member of a Regional Mobility Authority may serve a term longer than two years. The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority is already in compliance with the judge’s ruling and no immediate changes are required.

- end -