



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Wednesday, March 9, 2005**

Media Contact: Steve Pustelnyk  
CTRMA  
(512) 297-9392

**CTRMA Executive Director's Response  
to Comptroller's Report**

---

Austin, Texas – March 9, 2005 – Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, made the following statement following the Comptroller's press conference:

The CTRMA is the most audited and reviewed agency in Central Texas having passed two financial audits, reviews by the state and Travis and Williamson county, including Wall Street analysis, and intensive media scrutiny. CTRMA has passed every financial, procedural and ethical test.

There are no conflicts of interest involving CTRMA Board Chairman Bob Tesch or CTRMA board member Johanna Zmud. As part of the appointment process they have each undergone a thorough review of their qualifications and background, passing every leadership and ethical test.

The Comptroller's report is riddled with inaccurate, outdated and erroneous information. CTRMA has stringent financial, ethical and procedural processes in place, including an 11-step financial review process for each of our expenditures. CTRMA is saving Texas taxpayers \$200 million and building needed roads years ahead of schedule.

CTRMA welcomes any and all public scrutiny and we are always looking for ways to improve. We will carefully review the report for constructive ideas for improvement and provide a report to the community in 30 days.

Corrections to factual errors contained in the Comptroller's report include:

- CTRMA has a full time contract manager and all billing is reviewed and approved by CTRMA and TXDOT.
- CTRMA's expense policy was adopted in January and does not reimburse first class airline travel, alcoholic beverages or unrelated expenses.
- All toll projects are approved through the local planning organization which includes Travis and Williamson County representatives. In addition, the CTRMA board is appointed by Travis and Williamson County and they provide oversight to the organization.
- CTRMA has hired a Public Involvement Officer.
- Mike Heiligenstein's record of public service in Central Texas is well known. He was hired by unanimous consent of the Travis and Williamson County CTRMA Board of Directors.

###