



NEWS RELEASE

CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority

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Mobility Authority Launches Program to Speed Up Traffic on Interstate 35

(Austin, Texas) – A motorist assistance program that aids stranded drivers, improves safety and speeds up traffic is now operating on Interstate 35. The Highway Emergency Response Operator or HERO patrol service removes dangerous roadway debris, helps move stalled vehicles off the road, provides basic repair services and assists first responders at accident scenes. The program is being operated by the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and is being funded with \$1.8 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds.

“The HERO program improves safety and minimizes traffic disruptions caused by accidents and stalled vehicles on IH-35,” said Mobility Authority Chairman Ray Wilkerson. “It provides a great service to stranded motorists who need help changing tires, jump starting batteries or a ride to a safe area,” added Wilkerson. “Similar programs are successfully operating in other congested metro areas, and we’re pleased to bring this service to Central Texas drivers.”

HERO vehicles will provide service from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm, Monday through Friday along a 31-mile segment of IH-35 from the Hays/Travis County line to just south of US 79 in Round Rock. The HERO vehicles will be dispatched out of the Regional Emergency Communications Center in Austin - otherwise known as CTECC or Combined Transportation, Emergency and Communications Center. Drivers who need assistance can call 512-974-HERO (4376).

The Mobility Authority is partnering with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI). The group is currently seeking a corporate sponsor to help fund the program once the initial \$1.8 million stimulus grant runs out.

For more information about the HERO program, visit www.MobilityAuthority.com.

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. The Mobility Authority currently operates the 183A toll road in Williamson County and is currently working to extend the 183A project and construct the US 290 East (Manor Expressway) project.

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