



NEWS RELEASE

CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority

For Immediate Release:
October 23, 2009
Contact: Steve Pustelnyk
512-996-9778 (office)
512-680-9997 (cell)

Mobility Authority Seeking Contractor for Manor Expressway Project

(Austin, Texas) – The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority has begun the process of finding a contractor to construct the first phase of the 6.2-mile Manor Expressway project. This first phase will involve constructing four direct-connect flyover ramps between US 183 and the Manor Expressway. The Manor Expressway will be built in an expanded median of US 290 between US 183 and Parmer Lane near Manor. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2010.

The Manor Expressway project is being funded in part by a \$90 million federal stimulus funding grant approved by the Texas Transportation Commission. The entire project is expected to cost in excess of \$600 million and will be funded primarily through the sale of tax-exempt toll revenue bonds. The Mobility Authority is also using a \$31.6 million loan from the State Infrastructure Bank to acquire property and move utilities in preparation for construction of the next phase of the project, a 1.4-mile stretch that will run from US 183 to Chimney Hill Drive. That project is slated to go to construction in 2011, and if all goes as planned, by 2013 drivers will be able to travel nonstop on the Manor Expressway from US 183 to Chimney Hill Drive; bypassing cross streets at Tuscany Way and Springdale Road.

The Manor Expressway is a vital piece of our regional transportation network,” says Mobility Authority Executive Director Mike Heiligenstein. “Based on our experience with the 183A toll road, we know the Manor Expressway will speed up travel, improve safety, reduce congestion and carbon emissions, cut fuel consumption and make driving more enjoyable for the people who choose to use it.”

- more -

Heiligenstein says the Manor Expressway project is expected to generate more than 2,200 new jobs and will lead to increased economic development opportunities in the area.

Drivers who choose to use the initial 1.4-mile section of the Manor Expressway will be charged a 50-cent toll. Drivers using the direct-connect flyovers between the Manor Expressway and US 183 will pay an additional 50 cents. Drivers who prefer not to pay a toll will still be able to utilize the non-tolled frontage roads.

At full build out, the Manor Expressway will triple the current capacity of the US 290 East corridor. The Manor Expressway will offer three nonstop lanes in each direction, while the existing US 290 will be widened to three lanes in each direction and will remain non-tolled. Once completed, the Manor Expressway will link up with other important roadways in the region, including US 183 and the new SH 130 toll road. Capital Metro Transit will be able to utilize the new facility at no cost, giving commuters a third choice in addition to tolled lanes and non-tolled access roads.

"The Manor Expressway is a long overdue project that will provide great relief to drivers who deal with traffic congestion in that corridor every day and bring many new employment opportunities to this area of Austin," said Heiligenstein. "The Mobility Authority has been planning for this road and meeting with community members since 2006. And despite the dramatic changes in the funding situation and financial markets over the last couple of years, we're committed to getting this project on the ground."

To learn more about the Manor Expressway, and to view an interactive demonstration showing how it will be constructed, visit the newly-launched project website, www.ManorExpressway.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.