



NEWS RELEASE

CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority

For Immediate Release:
August 5, 2009
Contact: Steve Pustelnyk
512-996-9778 (office)
512-680-9997 (cell)

Construction Expected Soon for Portion of Manor Expressway

(Austin, Texas) – The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority expects to break ground early next year on the 6.2-mile Manor Expressway (US 290 East). Using a combination of federal stimulus funding, a State Infrastructure Bank loan, a Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan and bond debt, the Mobility Authority expects to raise the \$245 million necessary to fund the first 1.4 miles of the project, including the four direct-connect flyover ramps between US 183 and US 290.

"Our new plan to expedite construction of this significant portion of the Manor Expressway has come together rather quickly," said Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director of the Mobility Authority. "As soon as we learned federal stimulus funding could be available for the US 290/US 183 flyover interchange, we began studying how the direct connection from US 183 would tie into the existing US 290. We realized that large volumes of traffic might use the direct connectors only to be immediately stopped at the traffic signals at Tuscany Way and Springdale Road. To us that was viewed as an unacceptable situation for the traveling public."

The Mobility Authority began looking at ways to speed up Manor Expressway construction to give drivers an alternative to these congested intersections. Thanks to a \$31.6 million State Infrastructure Bank loan recently approved by the Texas Transportation Commission, the Mobility Authority is fast-tracking right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation on the 1.4-mile section of the Manor Expressway route between US 183 and Chimney Hill Drive. If all goes as planned, this portion of the Manor Expressway could be open to traffic by late 2012.

When the entire Manor Expressway is completed, drivers can expect to pay approximately 20 cents per mile in tolls. Drivers who choose to use the initial 1.4-mile section will be charged a 50 cent toll.

(more)

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 would still have access to non-tolled frontage roads.

"We are thrilled to be able to expedite this portion of the Manor Expressway, but we are still committed to completing the entire project as quickly as possible," said Heiligenstein.

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.

- end -