



Central Texas Regional
Mobility Authority

NEWS RELEASE

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Mobility Authority Green-Lights Traffic and Toll Revenue Study *Surveys of Central Texans Will Help Plan Improvements for the US 290 East Corridor*

(Austin, Texas) – The Board of Directors for the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority has green-lighted an Investment Grade Traffic and Toll Revenue Study for the future US 290 East Toll Road Project. The study will determine how many vehicles are projected to drive the proposed toll road and how much toll revenue might be generated. The study is required before the Mobility Authority can borrow money through bonds to finance construction of the road.

“This study is being conducted as part of our effort to offer drivers new ways to avoid congestion and get where they are going faster,” said Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director for the Mobility Authority. “The information collected from this research is critical for us to effectively plan improvements for the US 290 corridor.”

As part of the study effort, Central Texans will be asked to participate in surveys being administered by URS Corporation, the firm hired by the Mobility Authority to conduct the study. Both an Origin/Destination Survey and a Traveler Stated Preference Survey will commence on Tuesday, Feb. 8 and are expected to last for three weeks.

The Origin/Destination Survey will gather information from motorists about their travel behavior, such as where they are going and why. Data will be collected from drivers, selected at random, who travel along US 290 between US 183 and FM 973. Some drivers will receive the survey in the mail, others will be pulled over as they drive on US 290 and asked to complete the survey. The survey will take no longer than four to six minutes to complete. The Mobility Authority will do everything possible to limit the inconvenience to motorists.

The Traveler Stated Preference Survey will compile information about the travel preferences of motorists who use the US 290 corridor. It will be administered via personal computer at selected local sites such as shopping malls, vehicle licensing locations, colleges and US Postal Service

sites. Individuals who express an interest in taking the survey, but do not have the time to take the survey onsite, will have the option of taking it online at their convenience.

“Public feedback is critical to this process, and all planning we do,” added Heiligenstein. “We want to express our appreciation, in advance, to the motorists who will be asked to participate. We’ll do our best to take as little of their time as possible while gathering the information we need to properly plan for the future US 290 East toll road.”

The Investment Grade Traffic and Toll Revenue Study is scheduled for completion in late 2006.

About US 290 East

US 290 East is the second project to be financed and constructed by the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority. The proposed project would involve building a toll road in the median of US 290 from US 183 (Ed Bluestein Blvd.) to SH 130 with a possible extension through Manor to FM 973. The project would include a major interchange with the new SH 130 toll road which is being built just west of Manor. Environmental studies are currently underway and the Mobility Authority is developing specifications for design and construction, which is scheduled to begin in 2007. The existing four lanes on US 290 would be upgraded and would remain toll-free.

About The Mobility Authority

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) 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 CTRMA is the state’s first Regional Mobility Authority, created in January 2003 to serve Travis and Williamson counties. Texas RMAs were enabled by the Legislature as part of a package of initiatives to meet the state’s various transportation needs in new, better, and more efficient ways.

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