



NEWS RELEASE

CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority

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Federal Investigators Reject Discrimination Claim Against Manor Expressway Project

(Austin, Texas) – In a 13-page decision, the Federal Highway Administration has rejected claims that the Manor Expressway toll road project violates Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

A group including the Save Our Springs Alliance, the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aide had claimed, among other things, that the Manor Expressway would impose a disproportionate economic hardship on low-income and minority communities. Instead, Federal Highway Administration investigators found that the Manor Expressway project would have a positive economic impact on the community, and mobility would be improved for all groups, even those protected by Title VI.

In regard to whether the project specifically violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the investigators found that the Texas Department of Transportation, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization were:

1. Neutral in their actions
2. Offered substantial justification for the project
3. Showed no pre-text for discrimination
4. Provided a non-tolled alternative

Investigators therefore concluded that "the evidence does not support the complainants' allegations that Title VI was violated by the respondents in the development of the US 290 Project."

(more)

"This important decision by the Federal Highway Administration directly dispels the myth that toll road projects like the Manor Expressway are in any way unfair," says Mike Heiligenstein Executive Director of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority. "This decision makes clear that the Manor Expressway will benefit the entire community, improving mobility and quality of life for everyone."

This decision from the Federal Highway Administration comes following a 10-month review of the Environmental Assessment completed for the Manor Expressway by the Texas Department of Transportation. The Environmental Assessment was completed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), which requires the examination and consideration of potential impacts on sensitive social, economic and environmental resources when considering the approval of a proposed transportation project, such as the Manor Expressway.

A complete copy of the letter detailing the findings can be found at www.mobilityauthority.com.

To learn more about the Manor Expressway Project visit 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 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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