



Central Texas Regional
Mobility Authority

NEWS RELEASE

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Mobility Authority Ordered to Pay Legal Fees of Anti-Toll Group Authority to Appeal

(Austin, Texas) – The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority will appeal a decision by Travis County District Court Judge Darlene Byrne that would require the Authority to pay the group People for Efficient Transportation a portion of their requested legal fees. The fees stem from a suit the anti-toll group initially filed in an attempt to stop the Authority from issuing bonds for the 183A Toll Road Project. That effort was unsuccessful. However, the group continued its efforts by challenging a state law that allowed Mobility Authority Board members to serve six year terms. In a ruling issued in July of this year Judge Byrne agreed with the group’s position, even though the legislature had already amended state law to provide for two year board terms. At the same time, the legislature placed a constitutional amendment on the fall ballot, which if approved by voters would allow Mobility Authority Board members to serve six year terms.

“The Mobility Authority has merely followed the law prescribed by the legislature concerning the permissible length of board terms,” says Mobility Authority Legal Counsel, Brian Cassidy. “The court gave little indication as to why the Authority should now be responsible for funding the efforts of this anti-toll group to challenge an act of the legislature that the Authority was required to follow. Therefore, we do not believe the payment of legal fees is warranted and the Authority will appeal.”

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority was formed in 2002 by Williamson and Travis Counties and is charged with improving the transportation network in Central Texas. The agency is currently building the 183A project in Northwest Williamson County and has begun planning work for a new toll road that will run parallel to US 290 east of Austin.

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