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## TxTag



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## Reminder

### 183A Scratch and Win Tickets Must Be Redeemed by December 31st!



During November, the Mobility Authority held a scratch and win contest to make drivers aware of the transition to all-electronic toll collection on 183A. Tickets with winning amounts up to \$100 were given to drivers who used the cash lanes at the 183A Park Street Main Toll Plaza. Tickets were also made available without purchase at various community events, at the TxTag Customer Service Center, and to people submitting requests through the mail to the Mobility Authority.

More than 70,000 tickets were distributed during the month of November.

The Mobility Authority is reminding winners that winning tickets must be redeemed no later than December 31st, 2008. Winners can claim their prize by filling out the form on the back of the winning ticket and submitting it to:

Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority  
183A Transition to Cashless Contest  
301 Congress Avenue, Suite 650 Austin, TX 78701

[Click here](#) for more information and a complete list of contest rules.

## 183A Update

### Design Work Underway on 183A Extension



The Mobility Authority is hoping to break ground late

## Latest News

### 183A Is Now Cashless!

As of December 1st, the 183A cash booths have closed and the toll road is now all-electronic. Cash is no longer accepted, but customers have two electronic toll payment options - TxTag or Pay-By-Mail. Both TxTag and Pay-By-Mail offer added convenience to drivers, eliminating the need to slow down or stop to pay their toll.



For more information, [download our press release](#).

### Charges to be Filed Against Drivers Who Have Unpaid Tolls on 183A

Beginning in January, the Williamson County Prosecutor will initiate legal proceedings against vehicle owners who have repeatedly ignored notices to pay their tolls.

“The vast majority of our customers pay for their use of 183A,” says Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director of the Mobility Authority. “Those customers who pay their fair share expect that we are enforcing the law.”



Drivers who use 183A without a valid TxTag and who did not stop to pay cash (where applicable prior to December 1st) are sent a bill in the mail, through the Pay-By-Mail program. If the bill is not paid within 30 days, the

tolls are converted to violations and a violation notice is issued. If the violation notice goes unpaid, the registered owner of the vehicle can be charged with a misdemeanor and face fines and fees in excess of \$250.

The Mobility Authority has contracted with Municipal Services Bureau (MSB) to handle the billing and violation enforcement program on 183A. Vehicle owners may be able to avoid court by contacting MSB at 1-888-811-4565 to discuss payment options.

## In the Spotlight

### CAMPO Board Approves Financing Plan for Manor Expressway

On Monday December 1st, the Capitol Area





next year on a northern extension of 183A. The extension is being developed approximately six years earlier than originally planned due to the tremendous popularity of 183A. Over 65,000 toll transactions occur each day - nearly double the 33,696 projected by traffic and revenue studies.

"Many of our customers live north of FM 1431," says Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director of the Mobility Authority. "That section of 183A consists of frontage roads with traffic signals at all of the intersections. By extending the tolled mainlanes further north, we can eliminate the need to stop at traffic signals and make 183A even more convenient for our users."

The approximately 4.5 mile, \$101 million 183A extension is being designed by Rodriguez Transportation Group, Inc. and will run from FM 1431 north to at least FM 2243. The 183A extension could be open to traffic by 2011.

For more information about the 183A extension, [click here](#).

## In Depth

### Local Leaders Weigh In on Transportation Funding Crisis

State Senators Kirk Watson and John Carona recently provided their thoughts about the ongoing transportation funding crisis affecting Texas and the nation. [Click here](#) to read what they have to say.

## Quick Contact



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Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Transportation Policy Board voted to approve a financing plan to fund the 290 East (Manor Expressway) project.



The financing plan provides for the design and construction of a \$624 million, 6.2-mile limited-access toll road with three non-stop lanes in each direction. It will be constructed in an expanded median of US 290 and will extend from US 183 to Parmer Lane. The existing US 290 will be widened and will remain non-tolled.

As approved, the financial plan contemplates borrowing the entire \$624 million and using the 183A toll road as a financial backstop to ensure the bonds can be repaid. This approach reduces the risk to investors, which translates to lower interest rates and ultimately lower tolls. In recent weeks there has been talk of an economic stimulus package from Washington. If federal money should become available for the Manor Expressway project, the Mobility Authority still has the option to revise the finance plan.

Construction of the Manor Expressway could be under way as early as 2010.

More information about the Manor Expressway, including a virtual flyover of the project, can be found on the Mobility Authority [web site](#).

## 183A Update

### 183A Scottsdale Drive

The Mobility Authority is moving ahead with plans to connect the Blockhouse Creek neighborhood with 183A via Scottsdale Drive. The Mobility Authority recently advertised for contractors to construct the connection. Five bids were received, and a contract was awarded to Aaron Concrete Contractors LLP.

Scottsdale Drive currently dead-ends on the west side of 183A on the southbound frontage road. However, original plans for the Block House Creek subdivision included a connection to 183A to enhance neighborhood mobility. The connection is expected to improve emergency response times and decrease traffic in front of Block House Creek Elementary School. Construction is expected to begin by the end of the year and should be completed by February.

## Ramp Improvements Planned Along 183A

The Federal Highway Administration has approved a design exception that will allow the US 183 southbound entrance ramp at Lakeline Mall Drive to be expanded from one lane to two. The second lane is being added to address concerns about morning rush hour congestion at that location. The project will involve restriping the onramp and eliminating the existing shoulders.



TxDOT has also completed a traffic study at the intersection of Avery Ranch Boulevard and 183A to determine how best to address operational issues on the northbound frontage road. The study recommended that the Avery Ranch off ramp from 183A be reduced to one lane and the Avery Ranch Boulevard intersection be restriped to make it easier for drivers on the northbound frontage road to turn left. The study also recommended enhanced signing at that location. A precise construction date has not been set for either project.

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