



October 26, 2016
AGENDA ITEM #14

Executive Director's Report

CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority

Strategic Plan Relevance: Regional Mobility
Department: Executive
Contact: Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director
Associated Costs: N/A
Funding Source: N/A
Action Requested: Briefing and Board Discussion Only

Summary:

Executive Director's Monthly Report.

A. Discussion of Williamson County Resolution regarding transportation projects.

Backup provided: Williamson County Resolution
CTRMA Resolution No. 13-060

State of Texas
County of Williamson
Know all men by these presents:

That on the 11th day of October 2016 the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas met in duly called session at the Williamson County Courthouse, 710 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas, with the following members present:

Dan A. Gattis, County Judge
Lisa L. Birkman, Commissioner Precinct One
Cynthia P. Long, Commissioner Precinct Two
Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct Three

And at said meeting, among other business, the Court considered the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (“CTRMA”) was created to improve the transportation system in Williamson and Travis counties with a mission to implement transportation options that reduce congestion and create transportation choices that enhance quality of life and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, Williamson County and cities within the county have identified three projects in long-term transportation planning that will have a significant impact for their residents, including the design and construction of Phase 1 of MoKan Expressway, the full development of frontage roads in the southern portion of 183A, and the expansion of 183A north of Seward Junction past County Road 258; and


WHEREAS, these projects are needed now to provide transportation solutions for our rapidly growing population and it is essential to build these projects before it is too late, while right-of-way is still affordable and before corridors are developed, which could cause disruptions for businesses, homes or schools if delays occur; and

WHEREAS, the need for these roadways is demonstrated by the 183A average weekday transactions, which have increased from approximately 60,000 in July of 2007 to almost 160,000 weekly transactions in July 2016, and

WHEREAS, congestion is bad for the environment, for the economy, for public safety, and for quality of life; these projects will give drivers the option to spend less time on the road, help improve air quality and reduce the threat to public safety caused by crowded highways; and

WHEREAS, a reliable transportation infrastructure is vital to connect goods and people, with connectivity for motorists being the cornerstone of prosperity, creating expanded economic development, and more financial opportunities for individuals and families.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Williamson County Commissioners Court requests the CTRMA partner with Williamson County and Williamson County cities by way of engagement financially and staffing these projects that will improve the quality of lives and safety for Williamson County residents and the region.



Dan A. Gattis, County Judge

**GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS
REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY**

RESOLUTION NO. 13-060

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE NEED FOR COLLABORATION WITH THE TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT), CAPITAL AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CAMPO), CAPITAL
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (CMTA) AND OTHER
REGIONAL PARTNERS TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION
PLAN FOR THE MOKAN CORRIDOR**

WHEREAS, the Mobility Authority was created in 2002 to improve the transportation system in Williamson and Travis counties; and

WHEREAS, our mission is to implement innovative, multi-modal transportation solutions that reduce congestion and create choices that enhance quality of life and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, "Project Connect" is currently undergoing the public/stakeholder outreach phase of the North and Central Corridor Studies which include the MOKAN right of way; and

WHEREAS, "Project Connect" is seeking input from participating agencies; and

WHEREAS, population in the CAMPO region is projected to more than double over the next 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Austin ranks fourth nationwide as the most congested metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 35 (IH 35) is now the number one most congested corridor in the State (2013); and

WHEREAS, the *Establishing Mobility Investment Priorities under TxDOT Rider 42: Modeling Long-Term Scenarios for IH 35 through Central Texas Report* indicates that less than 1% of the region's trips are through trips; and

WHEREAS, through the last 25 years, right of way (ROW) has been acquired along the old MOKAN railroad route with scarce funding from several municipal and county entities in Williamson and Travis Counties and dedicated to TxDOT in hopes of developing another alternative for the IH 35 corridor; and,

WHEREAS, those same entities have seen unprecedented growth and increasing congestion throughout the region, especially within the north/south regional corridor; and,

WHEREAS, the purchased ROW continues to be encumbered by numerous encroachments and has become surrounded by nearby development, thereby, making it imperative that a study of the MOKAN corridor for this transportation alternative commence as soon as possible, led by the owner of the ROW (TxDOT) in collaboration with key transportation stakeholders, especially the public entities along the route that have contributed to the purchase of that ROW and/or border the ROW,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors requests that TxDOT initiate the necessary study of the MOKAN corridor for the purpose of developing the corridor as an alternative to the already congested IH 35. This study shall include input from various transportation agencies, in particular the CTRMA, CAMPO and CMTA, to determine what modes best fit the corridors opportunities. This study should include, but not be limited to, a "fatal flaws" study for such determination and recommendation.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority on the 2nd day of October, 2013.

Submitted and reviewed by:



Andy Martin
General Counsel for the Central
Texas Regional Mobility Authority

Approved:



Ray A. Wilkerson
Chairman, Board of Directors
Resolution Number 13-060
Date Passed: 10/2/2013