

# NEWS RELEASE



CENTRAL TEXAS  
Regional Mobility Authority



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## Mobility Authority Presents New Operational Configuration Options for MoPac South at Open House Meeting

**(Austin, Texas)**—The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation held an Open House meeting on the MoPac South Environmental Study Tuesday at the Palmer Events Center. The MoPac South Environmental Study was initiated in early 2013 by the Mobility Authority and TxDOT to determine the best options for managing congestion on the MoPac corridor, from Cesar Chavez Street to Slaughter Lane.

“Travel times on south MoPac between Slaughter Lane and Cesar Chavez have become unreliable as more and more residents relocate to the Austin area in pursuit of all our region has to offer,” said Mike Heiligenstein, executive director for the Mobility Authority. “If we don’t do something, a trip into downtown is going to take an additional 30 minutes in the next 20 years.”

At Tuesday’s Open House, the study team shared information about several potential operational configuration options, as well as several enhancements that were incorporated into the proposed project as a result of community input. Members of the public reviewed exhibits, watched informational videos, and submitted comments and questions. All of the information presented at the meeting is also available online through the Virtual Open House at [www.mopacsouth.com](http://www.mopacsouth.com) until Nov. 20. The official public comment period began Oct. 21 and ends Nov. 20, 2015.

The project team presented five potential operational configuration options at the Open House, which include one and two Express Lane configurations, both with and without downtown connections. A no-build, or do nothing, alternative is also being carried forward as a baseline for comparison. All configurations incorporate suggestions received from the city of Austin, the city of Rollingwood and the general public, as well as extensive non-tolled mobility and safety improvements that will benefit all drivers along the corridor.

(more)

“Public input is a critical element of all our projects, and MoPac South is no exception,” Heiligenstein said. “We extended the study period to allow more time for engagement with residents to learn their needs, expectations and concerns so we can ultimately build a project that the community will embrace.”

About 180 members of the public attended Tuesday’s Open House meeting, and nearly 240 comments have been received since the official public comment period began October 21. All public comments received will be incorporated into the final environmental study document that is submitted to the TxDOT.

The agency is working with the city of Austin, Capital Metro and other local partners to improve safety and mobility for drivers, transit riders, cyclists and pedestrians in a manner that promotes environmental stewardship and sustainability. Preparation of the environmental document is ongoing and additional stakeholder engagement is planned over the next several months.

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#### **About the Mobility Authority**

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority is a local, independent government agency created in 2002 to improve the regional transportation system in Travis and Williamson Counties. The Mobility Authority implements innovative and sustainable transportation options to enhance quality of life and economic vitality in Central Texas. The Mobility Authority operates 183A Toll in Williamson County and 290 Toll (Manor Expressway) in east Austin and is constructing Express Lanes on MoPac Expressway. For more information about the Mobility Authority, visit [www.MobilityAuthority.com](http://www.MobilityAuthority.com).

#### **About the Texas Department of Transportation**

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail, and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 12,000 employees are committed to working with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas by maintaining a safe system, addressing congestion, connecting Texas communities, and being a Best in Class state agency. Find out more at [www.TxDOT.gov](http://www.TxDOT.gov).