



CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority

News Release



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183 South Expressway: Mobility Authority Breaks Ground On Monumental Project

AUSTIN, TEXAS – Today the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority officially breaks ground on the 183 South Expressway project – the largest local roadway project in Central Texas ever led by a local entity. The eight-mile expressway, stretching from US 290 to State Highway 71, will triple capacity on a corridor that carries more than 60,000 vehicles each day. The \$743 million project will involve constructing three tolled lanes in each direction in the middle of US 183, while the existing US 183 will be reconstructed with up to three non-tolled general purpose lanes in each direction.

The 183 South Expressway project is the region's largest since SH 130 and signifies a major step forward in developing a comprehensive regional transportation system that offers greater mobility, reliable travel times and improved access to affordable housing. In addition to providing a non-stop, signal free route to and from the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, the project will include significant bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

“Beginning work on the 183 South Expressway project is a tremendous win for Central Texas as we build a stronger transportation network and enhance one of our area's key corridors, which hasn't seen an upgrade this significant since it was built more than 50 years ago,” said Mobility Authority Chairman Ray Wilkerson. “The Mobility Authority's hope for this roadway is that it will support broader efforts of making this region and city increasingly livable and accessible for years to come.”

During development of the project, the Mobility Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation conducted an extensive 16-month public input process that led to creation of a vision for aesthetic enhancements that will help revitalize the corridor and support greater economic investment.

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"The community has been an essential partner throughout the planning process for the 183 South Expressway," said Texas Senator Kirk Watson. "Austin residents prioritized features such as enhanced landscaping and community connections, and I appreciate that the Mobility Authority was committed to developing a roadway that both reflects those priorities and helps to propel Austin forward."

Specifically, the project includes a \$25 million investment in bicycle and pedestrian facilities, along with significant improvements to the visual appearance of the roadway and the planting of landscaping and hundreds of new trees. The project will also preserve the Montopolis Steel Truss Bridge, originally built in 1938, by transitioning the historic landmark into a bicycle and pedestrian bridge that connects to a new trail head at the Colorado River below.

"The 183 South Expressway is much needed to ensure the viability and economic prosperity for the Montopolis community specifically, and I'm pleased that the Mobility Authority sought and incorporated much of the community's feedback, which will preserve our storied heritage," said Travis County Commissioner Margaret Gómez. "In speaking with homeowners associations, residents and community business leaders alike, I sense a real excitement for the opportunity to collaborate on this project and build a better tomorrow for our cherished community."

Construction along the 8-mile stretch of 183 South is expected to last about four years and occur in two phases. Phase one improvements, between US 290/290 Expressway and Techni Center Drive, are expected to be complete in 2019. Second phase efforts, stretching further to SH 71, are expected to open to traffic approximately a year later.

The groundbreaking event takes place today with planned speakers such as Mobility Authority Board Chairman Ray Wilkerson, Texas Senator Kirk Watson, Commissioner Jeff Austin of the Texas Transportation Commission, Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Travis County Commissioner Margaret Gómez.

For more information on the 183 South Expressway project, please visit www.183south.com.

For more information on TxDOT's new tool to keep Texans informed of efforts to address traffic congestion, please visit www.TexasClearLanes.com. As the state's population booms, TxDOT and its partners continue to look for innovative and community-driven solutions to improve travel times. The website also offers visitors the opportunity to provide feedback about their commutes.

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 in Williamson County and 290 Expressway (Manor Expressway) in east Austin and is constructing Express Lanes on MoPac Expressway. For more information about the Mobility Authority, visit www.MobilityAuthority.com.



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