

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release:

Jan. 9., 2019

Contact: Dee Anne Heath
Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority
communications@ctrma.org
(512) 996-9778 (office)
(512) 565-6247 (mobile)

Mobility Authority's 290/130 Flyovers Project Reaches Interim Milestone Ahead of Schedule

Opening this weekend: Flyover bridge to provide free-flowing direct connection from southbound SH 130 to westbound 290 Toll

(Austin, Texas)—The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Mobility Authority) will open the first of three flyover bridges under construction at the 290 Toll/SH 130 intersection the weekend of Jan. 11, roughly eight months ahead of schedule. Drivers traveling from southbound SH 130 to westbound 290 Toll may use this flyover bridge for a free-flowing direct connection between the two roadways.

While this flyover is tolled, drivers with an active electronic tag will not be charged to use the flyover through Jan. 31, 2020. The Mobility Authority accepts any of the following electronic tags: TxTag, TollTag, EZ-Tag, K-TAG, Pikepass, or BancPass. For more information on these electronic tag options, visit the Mobility Authority website: <https://www.mobilityauthority.com/pay-your-toll/options>. Drivers should note that their tag accounts will still be charged for driving 290 Toll and SH 130 Toll during this interim period. Tag holders save money on toll roads throughout Texas. Drivers without a tag are billed through the Pay By Mail program, and are charged 50 percent more than tagholders.

“The Mobility Authority is proud to deliver this critically-needed connection ahead of schedule,” said Bobby Jenkins, Chairman of the Mobility Authority Board of Directors. “It’s extremely rewarding to see all of the improvements that have taken shape at this intersection since 2015 when the need for greater mobility was first identified. Many of our stakeholders comment on how quickly the work is progressing, so we’re glad to be on track to substantially improve two of Central Texas’ most heavily-traveled highways.”

The Mobility Authority began construction on the 290/130 Flyovers Project in east Austin in November 2018, in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation. The contractor is being incentivized to complete the project on an accelerated timeline, accounting for the opening of the south-to-west flyover roughly eight months early. Of the three flyovers, the demand for the south to west is the highest, as it provides an expedited route into Austin for drivers coming from outlying suburbs to the north. The full project will be complete in 2021.

The traveling public should take note that the opening of the new free-flowing direct connection from southbound SH 130 to westbound 290 Toll means changes for drivers wishing to access the non-tolled US 290 frontage roads:

The southbound exit located immediately south of Parmer lane (previously named Exit 437) will no longer provide access to the non-tolled US 290 frontage roads. Southbound SH 130 drivers may gain access to the US 290 frontage roads via the newly opened Exit 437A, located north of Parmer Lane. Exit 437A maintains exiting drivers' direct access to the US 290 frontage roads, bypassing the signalized Parmer Lane intersection via a new bridge.

Southbound SH 130 drivers wishing to take advantage of the new flyover to the westbound 290 Toll will use Exit 437B, located south of Parmer Lane. Exit 436 maintains access for southbound SH 130 drivers wishing to exit and access Parmer Lane. See map for more details:



The project was precipitated by high demand for the 290 Toll Road, which opened in 2014. The number of commuters that recognized the benefits surpassed projections. Transactions on 290 Toll are growing at a rate of 10-to-15 percent per year.

The 290 Flyovers Project includes constructing three flyovers at the interchange of the Mobility Authority's 290 Toll and TxDOT's SH 130 to link the two toll roads together. All three flyovers are being designed and constructed by the Mobility Authority. TxDOT is financing construction of the flyover between eastbound 290 Toll and southbound SH 130, which will be non-tolled. The Mobility Authority is financing and constructing the flyovers from northbound and southbound SH 130 to westbound 290 Toll, which will be tolled connections, paid for by toll revenue bonds and a federal TIFIA loan. A flyover already exists to link eastbound 290 Toll to northbound SH 130, which will remain non-tolled. The project will also benefit drivers who prefer the non-tolled option by freeing up capacity at the frontage road intersection. Additional project benefits include:

- Reducing potential for high-speed rear-end collisions on SH 130
- Eliminating queueing of vehicles on the southbound and northbound mainlanes of SH 130
- Saving about \$5 million a year for the traveling public in time as well as fuel and vehicle costs
- Attracting more than 5,000 vehicles per day from parallel roadways, thereby providing additional congestion relief to other corridors
- Increasing the average speed by up to 40 miles per hour
- Shifting approximately 67 percent of vehicles off the southbound SH 130 frontage road and onto the new flyover ramp to westbound 290 Toll.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1,020 metric tons annually
- Attracting economic development opportunities to the region by way of enhanced local and regional connectivity

For additional information on the 290/130 Flyovers Project, visit www.290Flyovers.com

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, 290 Toll, the 71 Toll Lane, the MoPac Express Lane, the 45SW Toll Road, and the 183 Toll Road. The agency is finishing construction of the 8-mile 183 South Project and the 290/130 Flyovers Project. For more information about the Mobility Authority, visit www.MobilityAuthority.com.