



**CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority**

AGENDA ITEM #16 SUMMARY

Quarterly Briefing on the MoPac
Improvement Project.

Strategic Plan Relevance: Regional Mobility

Department: Engineering

Associated Costs: N/A Briefing Only

Funding Source: N/A

Board Action Required: No

Description of Matter:

The report is an account of the activities on the MoPac Improvement Project from January through March, 2013.

Reference documentation:

GEC Quarterly Activities Report and Board Presentation

Contact for further information:

Wesley M. Burford, P.E., Director of Engineering



◀◀ MOPAC
IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT ▶▶

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

No. 10 | April 2013

EXPRESS LANES SLATED FOR CONSTRUCTION IN 2013



CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority

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**DESIGN/BUILD
CONTRACTOR**



PROJECT PARTNERS



MOPAC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT No. 10

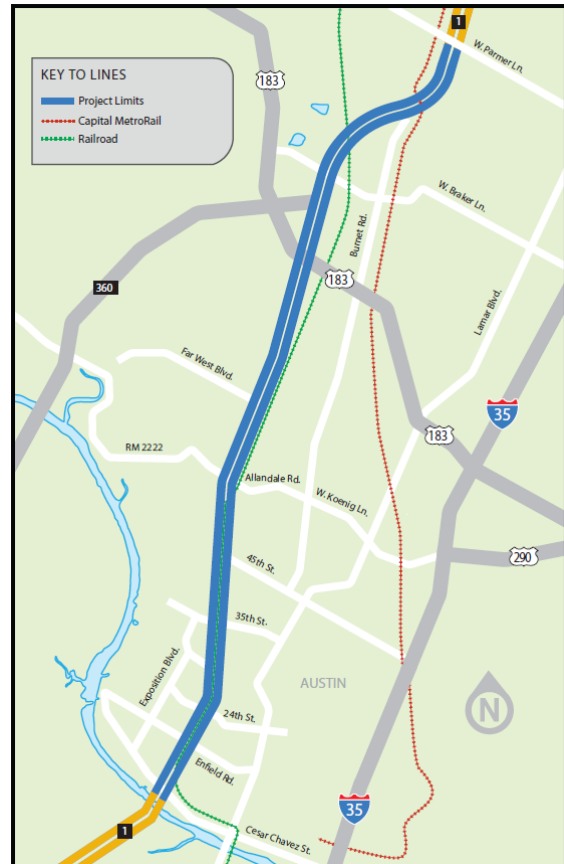
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The MoPac Improvement Project is an effort to address the mobility problem in this corridor. The project takes into account the needs of drivers, transit riders, pedestrians, bicyclists, and the concerns of surrounding neighbors. The Project was environmentally cleared in August of 2012. In late 2013, the Design/Build Contractor, selected by the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Mobility Authority), is scheduled to begin construction. The Project will add one Express Lane in each direction along an approximately 11 miles stretch of MoPac from Cesar Chavez Street in downtown Austin to Parmer Lane north of Austin within existing right of way. The Project will be built in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), the City of Austin, Capital Metro (CapMetro), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

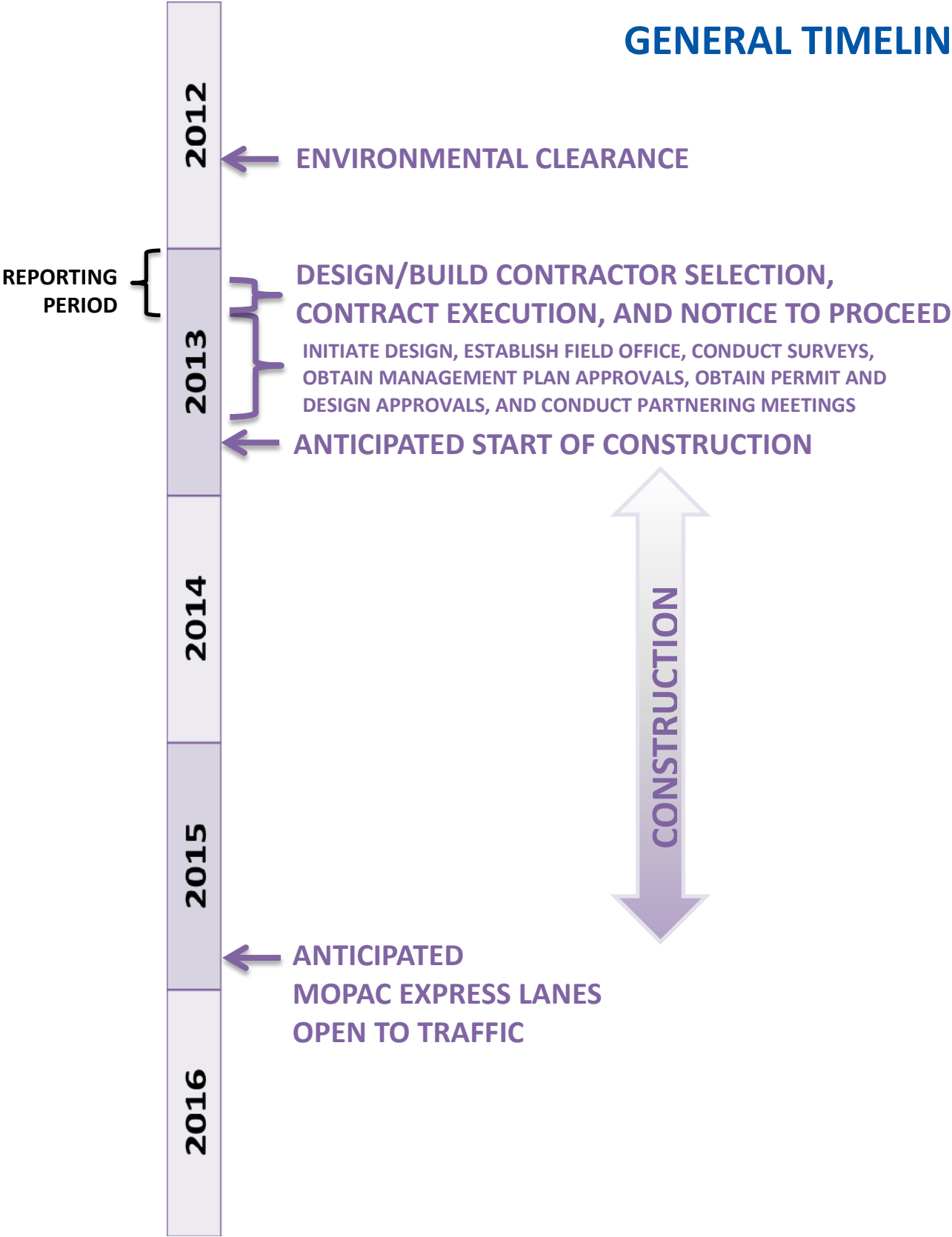
The Express Lanes will be located in the middle of the MoPac corridor separated from the existing general purpose lanes by a four to five foot wide striped buffer zone with flexible pylons. While this addition of lanes will require widening of the pavement, the Express Lanes project requires no property acquisition and all existing non-toll general purpose lanes and UPRR corridor will remain.

In addition to the Express Lanes, the MoPac Improvement Project will include: sound walls; a Collector/Distributor road under Steck Avenue; aesthetic enhancements and significant landscaping; bicycle and pedestrian improvements including two shared-use paths; full mainlane overlay with special (PFC) pavement which serves as a wet weather safety improvement measure; enhanced incident management (cameras and traffic data collection); and a significant community relations effort. The Mobility Authority has entered into a contract with CH2M HILL to design and build the MoPac Improvement Project.

This report describes the status of the MoPac Improvement Project and documents the activities accomplished from January 2013 through March 2013.



GENERAL TIMELINE



UPDATES

Here are some updates about the project:

UPCOMING ANTICIPATED MILESTONES

- **April 2013:** Mobility Authority executes the Design/Build contract with the Design/Build Contractor (CH2M HILL).
- **Spring/Summer 2013:** The team will establish a field office, conduct partnering meetings, initiate design, obtain permits, develop agreements, complete field surveys, and obtain design acceptance prior to construction
- **Summer 2013:** Targeted community outreach will occur for anticipated design revisions
- **Fall 2013:** Ground Breaking/construction begins
- **Late 2015:** The MoPac Express Lanes open to traffic

After the Design/Build Contractor's schedule is finalized and approved, key milestones will be identified and provided to the Board and the public, including when construction will officially begin, sound wall construction completion, and any major planned lane closures.

ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been accomplished by the Mobility Authority and its consultants during the reporting period.

DESIGN/BUILD (D/B) CONTRACTOR PROCUREMENT

- **RFDP:** In February 2013, the Mobility Authority Board of Directors approved the award of the apparent best value Proposer, CH2M HILL Engineers, Inc., an international engineering and construction firm, as the Design/Build Contractor for the Project. Their lump sum proposal price of approximately \$137M includes opening the Express Lanes in late 2015. Staff commenced negotiations and finalization of the Design/Build Contract with CH2M HILL.
- **Expiration of FHWA Limitation of Claims:** Following their August 23, 2012 FONSI issuance, FHWA issued a "139(l)" public notice of limitation of claims seeking judicial review on September 11, 2012. This 180-day statute of limitations period expired on March 10, 2013.
- **Public Hearing on Design/Build Contract with CH2M HILL:** In accordance with state statute, the Mobility Authority conducted a public hearing at their March 27, 2013 Board of Directors meeting to respond to comments and questions pertaining to the proposed Design/Build Contract with CH2M HILL.
- **D/B Notice to Proceed (NTP):** Execution of the Design/Build Contract and NTP for design and construction can occur as soon as the D/B Contract is finalized and approved by TxDOT/FHWA. This is anticipated to occur in April 2013.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- **Director of Community Relations:** The Mobility Authority has assigned Steve Pustelnyk, current Director of Communications, to serve as the Project's new Director of Community Relations. This high visibility project will require the public outreach expertise that Steve has demonstrated his entire career with the Mobility Authority. In this new role, Steve will lead all community outreach

activities regarding construction, with the assistance of the Design/Build Contractor's Community Relations Specialist and the Mobility Authority's Communications Team.

- **Pre-Construction Communications Plan:** As construction approaches, there will be an increasing effort to update the public on what to expect during final design and construction. The Mobility Authority is finalizing the communication plan and public information efforts. The plan includes developing materials (Frequently Asked Questions, fact sheets, and presentations) for staff to present to elected officials, public agency staff, and key corridor stakeholders. The Project website, MoPacExpress.com, is also being updated with changes going live in summer 2013.
- **Public outreach related to design revisions:** CH2M HILL's proposal included modifications to the MoPac Improvement Project that will require a minor re-evaluation of the portions of the environmental assessment impacted by the design revision. This process will include some additional community outreach to the neighbors potentially impacted by these changes, and will take place starting the summer of 2013.
- **Customer Satisfaction Survey:** In February 2013, the Mobility Authority conducted survey research for the purpose of providing a baseline of performance measures for the MoPac Improvement Project, including customers' perspectives on time savings, reliability, safety, and aesthetics. The survey results include data regarding the traveling public's general level of satisfaction of MoPac, their current habits related to traveling on MoPac, and existing perceptions of MoPac. In addition to providing a baseline of customer satisfaction with the current MoPac corridor, the survey results will assist the team in recommending potential key messages during construction and after the project is open to traffic. After the project is completed, a follow up survey will be completed to compare performance measures for the MoPac Improvement Project with these benchmarked results.

PROJECT STATUS / AGENCY COORDINATION

- **TxDOT Project Development Agreement (PDA):** The Texas Transportation Commission approved the PDA in January 2013 and it was executed in March. The PDA clarifies the roles of TxDOT and the Mobility Authority for the Project's final design, construction, operations, and maintenance.
- **Railroad Agreements:** The preparation of construction and maintenance agreements with UPRR and CapMetro Rail has been initiated. Locations where work occurs within or near railroad right of way requires these agreements to be in place prior to commencing construction.
- **Agency Coordination:** The Project Team has conducted kickoff meetings with Austin Energy, TxDOT oversight team, and UPRR which generally covered:
 1. Status of the Project
 2. Anticipated Schedule for Design and Construction
 3. General Project Details
 4. General Communications Plan
 5. Anticipated upcoming Partnering Workshops with CH2M HILL

Similar kickoff meetings are planned in April with City of Austin, CapMetro, and other utilities.

SCHEDULE

The overall Project remains on schedule. Design/Build Contractor Procurement will conclude with the execution of the contract with CH2M HILL in April 2013. The anticipated start of design is Spring 2013 and construction could begin in Fall 2013. The facility is anticipated to be open to traffic by late 2015.

SCHEDULE RISK ASSESSMENT



TxDOT & FHWA Coordination



Procurement of a Design/Build Contractor



Public and Political Opinion



Coordination with UPRR / City of Austin / CapMetro / Austin Energy



Traffic and Revenue – Financing