



**CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority**

AGENDA ITEM #6 SUMMARY

Executive Director's Report.

Department: Administrative

Associated Costs: None

Funding Source: None

Board Action Required: No

Description of Matter:

The Executive Director's Report is attached for review and reference.

A. Project Status Updates.

Attached documentation for reference:

Executive Director's Report

Contact for further information:

Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director



REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS JULY 31, 2013

MIKE HEILIGENSTEIN - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PRIORITY ISSUES



Bergstrom Expressway Bee
Relocation on US 183 South



183 North Environmental Study
Kick Off in August

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

MANOR EXPRESSWAY

PHASE II PROJECT

Central Texas Mobility Constructors (CTMC) continue to focus their construction activities on completing the frontage roads along the project. Construction at the Blue Goose Road intersection has been completed, and traffic has been shifted to the new westbound frontage road in this area. On July 29th, final asphalt placement on the frontage roads began and is expected to continue through September. This work will require nightly lane closures. Work also continues at the Arterial "A" intersection. Construction of the intersection at Giles Road/Johnny Morris Road will require a temporary closure for cross traffic. Traffic will be detoured to Arterial "A" and Harris Branch Road to use the Texas turnaround movements. Completion of the Arterial "A" intersection is critical to completing the intersection at Giles Road/Johnny Morris Road.

Mainlane construction also continues. Concrete pavement on the eastbound mainlanes has been completed to the Arterial "A" intersection. The next phase of concrete pours will be from Arterial "A" westward to Giles Road/Johnny Morris Road.

MO PAC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

CH2M HILL has completed and submitted the 30% design package for the entire project.

Before construction can begin, CH2M HILL will need to complete preliminary field work and collect data to aid in their design, such as surveys, soil borings and utility locations. Data collection will continue through August. During July and August, the team will also be locating underground utilities in the corridor. This will involve the use of a large vacuum device to remove soil, so that utilities can be safely located in preparation for construction. Ongoing field investigation work alerts will be posted on the newly, re-designed project website, MoPacExpress.com as well as on the twitter account @ImproveMopac.

Some residents in the Allandale neighborhood continue to express concerns about the vote to build soundwall #3. They have contacted City Council Members who have in turn contacted us. We informed the Council that the soundwall voting process was used uniformly for all soundwalls adjacent to the neighborhoods. Incidentally, the vote for soundwall #3 was 26 in favor, 3 against, with 16 not voting.

BERGSTROM EXPRESSWAY

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Public involvement and environmental activities for the study continue. The team has begun meeting with project stakeholders to share feedback incorporated from the CSS Open House and a value engineering study into both the design schematic and study document. We also continue to coordinate and support TxDOT

with environmental activities and are planning for a second CSS Open House in early October.

Several large oak trees at the southern end of the project have been identified for preservation and potential relocation. During inspection and development of Best Management Practices for the trees, a large beehive was discovered, and relocation of the hive was required to complete testing. The Mobility Authority hired Oakley Family Apiaries to safely and humanely relocate the estimated 30,000 to 40,000 honeybees 80 miles north to an apiary near Robinson, Texas. To move the hive, Oakley placed a one-way trap door on its only entrance and set up a “decoy hive” nearby. Bees leave the original hive, but when they return, they can’t get back in and instead head for the decoy. It will take about four to six weeks to transition the bees to the decoy hive. We received positive media coverage about our efforts.

In addition to environmental activities, we are also working with TxDOT and FHWA on schematic development, utility coordination and advanced funding agreements. As part of the advanced funding agreement, we are looking to expedite the relocation of utilities that have the potential to impact a construction schedule. The updated schematic has resulted in a significant cost savings to the project, so we are evaluating and updating project financing and delivery methods.

OAK HILL PARKWAY

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The project team is in the process of evaluating feedback and preparing responses to comments from the May 23rd Open House. In response to comments made at the Open House, the team met with the Fix 290 group to hear details on a concept they asked the team to consider as part of the environmental study. Rodriguez Transportation Group, who is leading environmental activity and schematic development for TxDOT, is preparing this concept as well as incorporating revisions into

the other concepts based on public input. The next Open House is scheduled for this fall. At that meeting, we will show the revised concepts, including the new Fix 290 concept, as well as outline the screening criteria that will be used to evaluate each concept.

183 NORTH ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Contract negotiations with the Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Services Consultant, CP&Y and Traffic & Revenue and Traffic Operations analyses, CDM Smith are complete. We anticipate beginning work on the study in August. The study is expected to take two to three years to complete.

MO PAC SOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



MOPAC SOUTH
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

Jacobs has begun preparation of the environmental assessment, primarily data collection and public involvement activities, as

well as schematic efforts. CDM Smith has begun the Traffic & Revenue and Traffic Operations analyses. Ongoing coordination with TxDOT and TTI regarding public involvement strategy continues, and outreach tools (website, fact sheets, maps, timelines and frequently asked questions) are under development.

SH 45 SW ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The Mobility Authority is partnering with TxDOT to develop the SH 45 SW Environmental Study. Preliminary data collection and public involvement activities have begun, including elected official and stakeholder outreach. The first Open House has been scheduled for October 1st at Bowie High School.