



**CENTRAL TEXAS  
Regional Mobility Authority**

**AGENDA ITEM #9 SUMMARY**

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Executive Director's report.

Strategic Plan Relevance: Regional Mobility

Department: Executive

Associated Costs: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Board Action Required: No

Description of Matter:

- A. Project Status Updates.
- B. February 1, 2013, expiration of board member terms.
- C. 2013 personal financial statements due no later than April 30, 2014.

Reference documentation:  
Executive Director's report

Contact for further information:  
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CENTRAL TEXAS  
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# REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECEMBER 18, 2013

Mike Heiligenstein – Executive Director

## MoPac Improvement Project



*Road construction signs were installed in December on the MoPac Improvement Project*

The MoPac Improvement Project is on schedule. Final design packages for the entire corridor are being completed and utility and railroad agreements continue to be coordinated. Activities include:

- CH2M HILL has installed project construction signs in the corridor.
- Re-striping lanes prior to temporary traffic barrier installation, between the US-183 Interchange and RM2222 interchanges and continuing south to the Enfield Road intersection.
- Installing temporary lighting, protecting and removing trees and implementing storm water run-off protection measures.
- A project information postcard that was mailed to approximately 75,000 residences along the corridor, indicating key contact points for up-to-date project information.
- MoPac Man has received many hotline calls and emails as a result of the mailing. Positive stories on the start of construction have run in multiple news media.
- On Dec 2, Mobility Authority and TxDOT representatives gave a project status and Sound Wall Three update presentation to the City of Austin's Committee on Comprehensive Planning and Transportation.

## MoPac South & MoPac Intersection Environmental Studies

- The first round of public workshops have concluded and the project team is concentrating on developing alternatives and gathering documentation for the alternatives analysis and environmental impacts.
- Traffic data is being analyzed and incorporated into corridor models which will be used to evaluate existing and future needs.
- Planning for the second Open House is proceeding anticipated to be held in early 2014.

## 183 North Mobility Project

- A traffic forecast study is currently underway. Preparation continues for the first open house on January 28 from 5-8pm at Anderson High School.
- The website for the study will launch before the end of the year.

## SH 45 SW Environmental Study

- The second Open House was held on Dec. 10 at Bowie High School. Exhibits reviewed the purpose and need for the project and the team received feedback on alternatives. More than 140 visitors attended.
- A virtual open house is available online through Dec. 20 to gather additional input at [www.sh45sw.com](http://www.sh45sw.com).

## Manor Expressway Phase II Project

- Concrete paving on the main lanes and ramps is expected to be completed by this month.
- Retaining walls at Giles Road are nearly complete and under construction at the Parmer Lane intersection.
- The ATMOS facility has been relocated, allowing CTMC to complete the eastbound frontage road through the Parmer Lane intersection.
- Rocky "rip-rap" erosion control material is being laid throughout the corridor and topsoil is being laid on the slopes along the main lanes.
- The final asphalt surface is being laid along portions frontage roads.

## US 183 Bergstrom Expressway Project

- TxDOT's Environmental Affairs Division has reviewed and provided comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment that was submitted in October. The project team will address and respond to TxDOT's comments and submit a revised EA this month.
- Public involvement activities continue as the team finalizes the summary and analysis from the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Open Houses. The resulting preferred option will be presented at the Public Hearing which is scheduled for mid 2014.

## US 290W/SH 71W Oak Hill Parkway Project



- A Nov. 21 stakeholder meeting addressed the possibility of including regional detention for Williamson Creek. The team will continue to investigate the possibility as it may help with the footprint of the roadway.
- Next steps include finalizing the screening criteria to narrow the alternatives moving forward for detailed analysis and the next open house.

### *Industry News*

## Portland Congressman Earl Blumenauer proposes to nearly double federal gas tax

U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer of Oregon, has unveiled legislation that would raise the federal gas tax by 15 cents a gallon.

Blumenauer says the increase is needed to pay for an inadequately funded transportation system and account for the steady loss of gas-tax revenue as vehicle mileage improves. His proposal would increase the current 18.4-cent federal gas tax to 33.4 cents per gallon, according to The Hill newspaper.



The Democratic congressman sits on the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, but any kind of tax increase is a tough sell in the Republican-controlled House. And, in fact, the federal gas tax hasn't been increased since 1993.

Blumenauer's legislative package will also establish a series of pilot projects to study replacing the gas tax with fees based on vehicle miles traveled. Oregon has already conducted studies on the concept and Blumenauer has previously introduced legislation aimed at studying the system nationally.

The congressman appeared with officials from several transportation-related groups, including the Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, the American Public Transportation Association, the transportation and infrastructure division of the Chamber of Commerce and Associated General Contractors of America.

*-Online excerpt from The Oregonian, Dec. 3, 2013*

## Upcoming Events & Activities

### **Texas Transportation Forum**

- Jan. 6-8, San Antonio

### **183 North Mobility Project Open House**

- Jan. 28, 5 – 8 pm, Anderson High School