



**CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority**

AGENDA ITEM #13 SUMMARY

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

Reference documentation:
Executive Director's report

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CENTRAL TEXAS
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REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARCH 26, 2014

Mike Heiligenstein – Executive Director

Compelling Conversation: We Can't Pave our Way out of Congestion

Thanks to your leadership, our annual workshop last week led to a very productive day. These workshops are not regular meetings but we've hosted them on a regular basis over the last few years and they've proven to be very helpful to me and to the organization.

It's intended for our board, our staff, and community members who wish to attend, to openly review and discuss our mission and look at how we're delivering on our promise to the community and learn how we can improve or adapt to better achieve our goals.



We discussed our Strategic Plan, with Cindy Demers reviewing the process we follow internally to continually align our activities with our plan. We also reviewed our progress toward each of our projects and the process that funds them, our financials, and to learn about the overall operations of each of our divisions.

For the first time, we hosted a Community Roundtable to serve as an open conversation with community leaders from Williamson, Travis and Hays Counties. This was a terrific session that covered a myriad of subjects, all of which, I believe, reinforced our mission and the work we're doing to enhance mobility in the region.

My top takeaways from the roundtable:

- **There is no silver bullet.** While we need to add more capacity and make travel times more reliable, we can't build our way out of the inevitable congestion to come as a result of our booming population. New transit lines or Expressways alone aren't enough. New behaviors and policies are needed, such as Texas A&M Transportation Institute's analysis that showed telecommuting two days a week will help reduce congestion. **Dr. Lomax** also suggested that technologies that allow commuters to connect with a carpool, or take an alternate route will make a difference too.
- **Martha Smiley** remarked that we need more collaborative conversations like the one we had with a wide variety of people at the table - from young entrepreneurs to the traditional organizations at AARO and RECA.
- **Will Conley** outlined a vision for a more effective CAMPO infrastructure that will set financial forecasts that lead to realistic priorities for a multi-modal transportation system that will go beyond living on a piece of paper for years.
- **Clarke Heidrick** discussed the AARO research project that seeks to identify effective transportation governance structures such as those in Minneapolis or San Diego as possible models for Central Texas.
- **Cynthia Long** envisioned regional collaboration and engaging educators in the region.
- **John Garrett** remarked that the time is right for organizations to come together and breakthrough traditional thinking and barriers.
- **A sense of focused responsibility but shared accountability** was what I heard emerge from the discussion. And I believe, that at the end of the day, this agency and our sister communities and organizations need to shift our focus from reducing congestion to enhancing reliability.
- **Chairman Wilkerson** summed up the day as one of the most engaged and productive meetings our Board has ever had, and plans are in the works for future roundtables throughout the year – so stay tuned.



PROJECT UPDATES

MoPac Improvement Project Construction

- The MoPac Improvement Project is on schedule.
- Final design and the permitting process continue and should be completed this spring.



- CH2M Hill has completed temporary restriping and setting barrier for Segment 2B (US183 to RM2222) and most of Segment 3 (RM2222 to Enfield).
- Restriping and setting of barrier will begin north of US 183 at the end of March
- Work continues on clearing of vegetation, placement of erosion control devices, temporary lighting, rough grading, and removal of guard fence and existing railing.
- Pre-casting of beams and sound walls has been initiated.
- CH2M HILL has been providing a courtesy vehicle (similar to HERO) during peak hours and during construction as well as handling the maintenance of the corridor (graffiti removal, garbage pick-up, mowing, and guardrail repair). They will continue this until final acceptance of the project.
- MoPac Man continues to update the website daily with closure information and has responded to numerous e-mails and

tweets. His 800 AM broadcasts are updated weekly with closure information as well as information about the upcoming express lanes.

MoPac South Environmental Study

- The first multi-agency alternatives workshop was held in March and the attending staff from FHWA and TxDOT made comments on the project's purpose and need, preliminary alternatives, and proposed evaluation criteria. This information will continue to be refined and presented at an upcoming Technical Working Group and then to the public at an Open House this spring.
- Planning for the spring Open House is underway; the event will be scheduled and announced soon.

183 North Mobility Project



- The first Open House was held on February 18 at Anderson High School. Over 35 members of the public attended to learn more about the project as well as review and provide input on the purpose and need and the preliminary alternatives. Over 700 unique page views were

documented on the Virtual Open House for the project.

- Consideration of input from the stakeholder meetings and the Open House is underway in the refinement of the Purpose and Need and alternatives.
- This summer the reasonable alternatives will be presented to the public.

SH 45SW Environmental Study

- On March 18, Travis County Commissioners Court voted 4–1 to partner with Hays County to fund SH 45 SW. Commissioner Ron Davis opposed.
- CAMPO has accepted the request of adding the project to the TIP, and there will be open houses on the TIP amendments this March and early April.
- It is anticipated that a public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be held this summer.

Bergstrom Expressway Project (US 183S)

- The Draft Environmental Assessment is currently under review by Federal Highway Administration, with a Public Hearing scheduled for mid-2014
- 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 prior to the Public Hearing.
- Final Design Schematic is currently under review by TxDOT Design Division.
- Continuing early Utility Coordination and ROW Acquisition activities for items with long lead times.
- Finalizing the procurement contract approach, schedule and team for project construction/implementation.

Maha Loop/Elroy Road, Phase I Project

- The 60% plans are complete and were submitted to Travis County March 12.
- The 60% plans will be sent out for industry review at the end of March in an effort to call attention to the upcoming project and reduce the time needed for advertisement.
- A meeting was held with the property owners on March 12 to discuss the need for easements for the sidewalk since it won't fit in the proposed right of way.

- The Environmental Assessment has been approved by Travis County.
- The preliminary pavement design is complete with 4 options for discussion with Travis County.
- The project is still projected to be coming in under the approved budget.
- A May bid letting is anticipated.

Manor Expressway, Phase II Project



As the May 17 Grand Opening date approaches, CTMC activities include:

- Retaining wall construction and coping installation on multiple walls.
- Setting the trusses for the overhead sign bridges.
- Constructing sidewalks and the shared-use-path.
- Installing the median cable barrier and miscellaneous concrete rip-rap.
- Dressing and stabilizing slopes.
- Constructing beds for the landscaped trees.
- Painting aesthetic structures on the corridor.
- Milling and placing the final asphalt course at the SH 130 and US 183 interchanges.
- The Systems Integrator is installing ITS equipment.

Upcoming Meetings

- April 29 – MoPac South Open House at Barton Creek Mall. 3:30-7:00 pm
- April 30 – Board of Director's Meeting, 9 am