



May 3, 2016  
AGENDA ITEM #12

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Executive Director's Report.

**CENTRAL TEXAS  
Regional Mobility Authority**

Strategic Plan Relevance: Regional Mobility  
Department: Executive  
Contact: Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director  
Associated Costs: N/A  
Funding Source: N/A  
Action Requested: Briefing and Board Discussion Only

Summary:

Executive Director's Monthly Report

Backup provided: Executive Director's Report



# PROJECT UPDATES

## MoPac Improvement Project



- CH2M construction resources have increased over the previous month. Over the last few months the field staff has regularly exceeded 350 per day with several days for major work activities exceeding 400. CH2M is demonstrating by this level of labor working on the project that they are within the work progress projections necessary to maintain the most recent “cure” schedule.
- The Mobility Authority, their GEC, and CH2M are negotiating a number of change orders to change the payment structure to lump sum versus time and material. The result was 11 Change Orders which have been recently presented to TxDOT and FHWA for formal review and comment regarding a “No Red Flags” determination. This is providing additional cost certainty to the project change orders.
- Sound wall drilled shafts are 77% complete project wide, with sound wall panels at about 30% complete project wide.
- Hosted a successful project-wide FHWA audit on April 20, 2016.
- Construction activities related to the brand new 42” city waterline relocation at Camp Hubbard and Camp Mabry continue; the team recently completed the tie-in to the existing water system.
- Paving operations for the final driving surface are beginning over the next several weekends on the northern half of the project.

- The major traffic shift associated with the start of the northbound undercrossing construction was implemented on the evening of February 21. Travel times in the corridor are consistently within 5-10 minutes of pre-closure times as motorists are familiar with the revised traffic configuration.
- The long-term northbound auxiliary lane closure between 35<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> streets was put in place in early April and it has had only minimal travel time impacts.
- CH2M’s recovery “cure” schedule is complete and has been accepted; it indicates a completion of the project in November of 2016, with an interim milestone for the opening of northbound segments in June 2016.

## 183 North Environmental Study



- The project team submitted the final Environmental Assessment to TxDOT, which includes the public hearing summary and response report.
- An environmental decision was issued with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), clearing the way for the project to proceed into the final design phase.
- A value engineering study is planned for mid-2016. Value engineering is a federal requirement for major projects that involves review and analysis by a multidiscipline team of persons not involved in the project. The team provides recommendations to lower cost, improve quality, and reduce completion time for the project.

## MoPac South Environmental Study



- Work on technical memoranda for the Environmental Assessment continues as the project team works toward the identification of a configuration for the Express Lane(s) Alternative.
- Notes from the 4<sup>th</sup> Technical Working Group (TWG) discussion were distributed to participants.
- A lawsuit was filed to stop the MoPac South project, as well as SH 45SW and the intersection improvements of MoPac and Slaughter Lane and LaCrosse Avenue. The filing of this lawsuit and the preparation of a formal response impacted the schedules for these projects. The MoPac South Environmental Study continues to move forward, but not at the pace originally anticipated. Next steps include the identification of an Express Lane configuration to move forward; we do not have a date identified for this milestone.

## SH 45SW Project



- The designer submitted final plans to the Mobility Authority and TxDOT for concurrence.
- The design team included refinements which would reduce environmental impacts and improve safety. These design refinements required a reevaluation of the environmental impacts in the area of the changes. The reevaluation is anticipated to be approved in mid-2016.

- The Mobility Authority interviewed teams for an Independent Environmental Compliance Management consultant. A selection recommendation is expected soon.
- The procurement process for a Construction Engineering & Inspection consultant is ongoing. A selection recommendation is expected soon.
- Letting for construction is anticipated in mid-2016.

## 183 South Project



- The Groundbreaking Ceremony was held on April 6, 2016.
- The contractor launched the 24/7 bilingual telephone hotline - 1-855-245-4CRC (272) as well a local number 512-640-0060.
- The Community Relations Plan was completed and is being implemented.
- The Community Outreach Team held the following meetings within the last month:
  - Johnston Terrace Subdivision – 4/13
  - Senate Hills Subdivision – 4/16
  - Council Member Ora Houston Town Hall Meeting – 4/16
  - LBJ Neighborhood Meeting – 4/21
  - Knollwood Subdivision – 4/26/16
  - ABIA Tenant Meeting – 4/27
- Upcoming Public Involvement meetings include:
  - Pecan Springs/Springdale Neighborhoods – 5/14
  - SH 71 Turnaround Meeting – to be scheduled in May
- Project team volunteers participated in the Keep Austin Beautiful Clean Sweep April 9 at Winn Elementary School and Walnut Creek Trail, removing more than 242 pounds of trash/recycling.
- Announcement mailer sent to 55K households/businesses along the corridor.

- First e-newsletter sent April 13
- On-going coordination with effected business within the corridor
- Weekly Coordination Meetings are held between the oversight team and Colorado River Constructors to successfully work through many of the design, right-of-way and utility challenges on this project.
- CRC is completing submittals for their 65% Design plans and Early Release Construction (ERC) submittals. Final Design submittals (RFC) are being approved as construction efforts have begun. The oversight team continues to review and provide comments for each of these submittals.
- CRC finalized their project management plans and received final approval from the Mobility Authority. Final approvals this period included the Construction Quality Management Plan, Sustainability Plan, Comprehensive Environmental Protection Plan and the Sulfate Testing Protocol.
- ROW Acquisition efforts to complete acquisition prior to the March 8, 2016 deadline as specified in the D/B contract are completed. All 12 of the land parcels and all six easements are now available for construction.
- Utility coordination remains a key function of schedule success as CRC is working with 15 different utility companies in securing the necessary agreements for relocations. Currently the contractor has reached agreements (MUAAs) with 6 utility companies, and 3 more are nearing completion.
- An InterLocal Agreement (ILA) between City of Austin Water and Wastewater and the Mobility Authority has been approved by the Austin City Council and the Mobility Authority Board. Final efforts are being taken to complete this agreement.
- Construction began on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Key tasks to date include:
  - Installation of project construction signage, tree protection fences, erosion control fencing
  - Begin of clearing and grubbing activities
  - Begin of asbestos removal on the Manor/Springdale bridge
  - Setting construction barrier and striping removal in the area of Manor/Springdale
- The project construction trailers are nearing completion and should be in operation in May.

### 290 East Toll (Manor Expressway) Phase II



- CTMC is submitting final documentation to achieve Final Acceptance. Final Acceptance is anticipated in June 2016.

### 290 East Toll Interim Intersection Project

- The 290 East Toll/SH 130 Operational Interim Improvements construction began in April. We anticipate that the interim improvements could be open to traffic as early as summer 2016.

## Oak Hill Parkway Project



- Efforts with TxDOT and the City of Austin continue for potential off-site water detention facilities.
- The design level schematics for both Alternatives A and C have been refined as a result of continued stakeholder outreach and public comment from the sixth open house.
- The environmental study team has begun the robust analysis of Alternatives A, C, and the No Build Alternative against the phase three evaluation criteria. The results of this analysis will indicate the preferred alternative. We anticipate the evaluation results as well as the full Draft Environmental Impact Statement being made available for public review and comment in 2017. A public hearing is anticipated to be held in the first quarter of 2017.
- Stakeholder outreach has continued.
- The team provided project information at several events including the City of Bee Caves' SpringFest and the City of Dripping Springs' Founder's Day this April.
- The team anticipates holding a public workshop on environmental issues in the May/June timeframe.

## SH 71 Toll Lanes



- Coordination meetings between McCarthy and the Toll Integrator continue with a focus on construction now that the design is complete.
- Emphasis is to complete the FM 973 interchange; all drill shafts were completed, and work is underway on columns.
- An open house was held on March 23 to inform the public about construction activity including a major traffic shift along SH 71 that occurred in April.
- Marketing efforts have launched, including coordination with TxTAG marketing personnel.