



September 28, 2016  
AGENDA ITEM #18

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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

Overall the project is approximately 77% complete:

- 183 to Parmer (3.5 miles) – substantially complete with bridge painting, limited drainage, final landscaping and other minor work on-going.
- 2222 to 183 (3 miles) – approximately 87% complete and work continues to be focused on widening activities.
- Enfield to 2222 – (3.5 miles) – approximately 51% complete. Work continues to be focused on sound walls and the retaining wall in the northbound direction between 35th and 45th. Work activities are expected to increase significantly in October.
- Cesar Chavez to Enfield (1 mile) – approximately 66% complete with the undercrossing work progressing well and at more than 75% complete.
- Sound walls – approximately 56% complete.

The following two change orders are going through the approval process:

- Change Order No. 1B – 5th and Cesar Chavez Southbound Reconfiguration for \$593,031.00. This change order was required to enhance the merge of the southbound express lane with the 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Cesar Chavez ramps.
- Change Order No. 8 – Added Shoulder Adjacent Sound Wall #1 for \$2,677,548.00. This change order provides for a wider right shoulder for an enforcement area and a future southbound flyover ramp from 183.
- Other change orders are being considered for cancellation and addressed by a separate contract.

Schedule:

- 2222 to Parmer northbound Express Lanes – opening is near-term.
- Remaining Express Lanes – opening is expected early 2017.

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## 183 North Environmental Study

- The Value Engineering process is on-going and is in the process of being finalized through TxDOT.
  - Work is ongoing to develop an implementation and financial plan. One of the scenarios would defer the direct connectors at RM 620.
  - Outreach and coordination is planned with the Anderson Mill Limited District / Lakeline Mall management.
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## MoPac South Environmental Study

- Environmental process continues to be on hold pending the outcome of litigation.
  - The traffic model is being updated for the projections to the CAMPO 2040 model.
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## SH 45SW Project

- The CTRMA Board approved the award of a construction contract to McCarthy Building Companies provided all funding and project agreements are secured.
  - The Loan Agreement, Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA), and Project Development Agreement (PDA) are scheduled for consideration by CTRMA Board on September 28, 2016 and TxDOT / Texas Transportation Commission meeting on September 29, 2016.
  - Work is underway to address comments from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on the Water Pollution Abatement Plan (WPAP).
  - Construction work is anticipated to start late October.
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## 183 South Project

- Lane closures and construction activity alerts are regularly posted on the website and Twitter as well as emailed and sent via text to those who signed up for these services. In cases of larger closures, more advanced outreach has occurred.
- Community outreach staff fields public inquiries via the 24/7 telephone hotline as well as the e-mail hotline.
- Community Outreach – recent meetings/events:
  - SH 71 Turnaround Neighborhood Meeting
  - Southwest Key “Back to School” Event
  - HEB Storefront Informational Booth No. 1
  - Montopolis “Back to School” Event
  - HEB BBQ and Cakewalk Event
  - LASA Back to School Event
  - Southwest Key Cultural Event
  - Pecan Springs Neighborhood clean-up of Little Walnut Creek
  - Tree advocates regarding the removal of tree #7 (“Bee Tree”).
  - The Trails at Stony Ridge Neighborhood Association
  - Outreach meetings to be scheduled: Del Valle Community Coalition, East MLK Combined Neighborhood, Lincoln Garden, Lower Boggy Creek, Montopolis, Sweeney Farms, Tejano Town, and Vargas.
- Project design is progressing and is expected to be completed in November.
- ROW Acquisition efforts are completed with all of the 12 of the land parcels and 6 easements are available for construction.
- Utility relocation remains critical to keeping the project schedule. Much of the utility relocation design is staying ahead of construction. CRC has secured agreements with 13 of 16 utility companies.

- *City of Austin Water and Wastewater utility relocations are on the critical path.* Currently 11 of 17 utilities are under construction, 2 have been completed.
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### **Kellam Road, Phase I Project**

- Contract closeout activities are on-going:
    - Final punch list has been coordinated with the County and the contractor. Two non-confirming items related to the ponds need to be corrected to receive certification.
  - Plan is to complete contract closeout and turn project over to County in October.
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### **290 East Toll (Manor Expressway) Phase II**

- Final Acceptance is anticipated in September.
  - The contractor, CTMC, is submitting final documentation to achieve final acceptance.
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### **290 East Toll Interim Intersection Project**

- The 290 East Toll/SH 130 Operational Interim Improvements construction began in April and was opened to traffic in the final configuration as of August 31.
  - Punch list work should be complete by early October.
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### **290 East Toll/Manor Expressway Direct Connectors**

- Design is now underway by CP&Y and they are working on survey and geotechnical studies, preliminary and final design for the south to west, north to west, and east to south direct connectors, and other associated work.
  - The design will be completed by the end of 2017.
  - A Project Development Agreement (PDA) with TxDOT for the design is currently under review.
  - The CTRMA Board is scheduled to exercise Primacy on project at the September 28 meeting.
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### **Oak Hill Parkway Project**

- The environmental study phase is on-going. It is anticipated that the full Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be made available for public review and comment in early 2017. This will be followed by the partner agencies holding a public hearing to present the document, results of the study, and the preferred alternative to the public for comment.
- The two proposed build alternatives and the no build alternative are being analyzed according the evaluation criteria to determine the preferred alternative.
- Technical reports are under development and continue to be submitted to TxDOT for review. The final versions of these reports will be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

- Upcoming work will include an updated cost estimate and a sketch level Traffic and Revenue study.
  - Efforts are on-going with TxDOT and the City of Austin to identify potential sites for off-site storm water detention.
  - A second Environmental Workshop is planned for early 2017. Updates will be presented on the noise analysis study, construction impacts, and trees.
  - There will be ongoing coordination with tree stakeholders and OHAN.
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## **SH 71 Toll Lanes**

- Coordination meetings between McCarthy and the Toll Integrator continue with a focus on construction now that the design is complete.
- Work is focused on completing the FM 973 interchange, the bridge decks for the general purpose lanes over Presidential and Spirit of Texas, and the general purpose lanes between Onion Creek and Ross Road.
- The eastbound detour at SH 130 is now open again, and they have moved to the other side of the road with a detour on westbound 71 at SH 130 which will also be in effect for two months.
- Efforts are underway to plan for Fall/Winter 2016 community outreach events on tolling and the opening of the toll lanes to traffic.

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Expressway News from the Mobility Authority



CENTRAL TEXAS  
Regional Mobility Authority

# EXPRESSWAY NEWS

September 22, 2016

## FIVE THINGS WE LEARNED AT IBTTA

Last week, the Mobility Authority attended the 2016 [International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association \(IBTTA\)](#) Annual Conference in Denver to exchange ideas with transportation agencies across the world, and share new innovations and best practices. An overall theme of the entire conference was the importance of collaboration between agencies, the private sector, and the traveling public. Together, we can identify and implement innovative mobility solutions to protect and strengthen quality of life.

***We'd like to share some of the great ideas and interesting facts we learned at the conference.***

### ONE

The flagship project of the conference was [Colorado's E-470](#), a 47-mile toll road on the eastern edge of Denver which provides commuters a choice to save time on a reliable route. What was previously called "the road to nowhere" in the early 1990s, E-470 is now a heavily used corridor that has spurred widespread economic development in the area.

The toll lanes are so well used that the facility is in need of additional lanes. Using an innovative contracting mechanism called Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/CG), they are currently widening the toll lanes, adding a bicycle/pedestrian path, planning for future widening, and building sound walls for new residents that now line the facility.

We got to tour their Command Center, which is used for 24/7 incident and traffic management. Our MoPac Express Lanes will have a similar center when the project is



up and running. You can learn more about it in our next Expressway News e-newsletter.



## TWO



Preliminary Design Concept

Colorado DOT will soon be reconstructing 10-miles of I-70 East, adding an Express Lane in each direction, removing an aging elevated section, and lowering the interstate for a short stretch of the corridor. This lowered highway will be enclosed with a four-acre cover; the first highway cover project in the state. The cover will provide an active and vibrant area with opportunities for sports games, outdoor movies, concerts and farmers markets.

In his remarks, Executive Director Shailen Bhatt with Colorado DOT said that his agency doesn't build roads because they like nice pavement, they do it to improve quality of life.

This project is very similar to one option TxDOT is evaluating on I-35 through downtown Austin. To learn more about TxDOT's Central 7-mile Comprehensive Project, [please click here](#).

## THREE

Central Florida Expressway Authority provides an on-road, drive-through customer service lane for drivers to reload cash on their toll tag account or other customer service actions like opening an account or getting a toll tag sticker. This is the first of its kind in the continental United States. All a motorist has to do is drive up to the marked "Reload Lane" and the attendant takes care of the rest. The whole process usually takes just a few minutes.

Since the Mobility Authority went cashless in 2008, we continue to look into opportunities to redevelop the mothballed toll booth lanes on 183A in Cedar Park for alternate uses.

## FOUR

Did you know that since the 1970s, all of the highways in the country of Slovenia are toll roads? Their toll tags are called "vignettes" and are sold at gas stations in Slovenia and neighboring countries, at post offices in Slovenia, and at some magazine stands. Vignettes are used in Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland. Prices for an annual vignette for passenger cars range from approximately \$35 to \$170, depending on the country.

The Mobility Authority accepts TxDOT's TxTAG, NTTA's Toll Tag, and HCTRA's EZTAG on 183A and 290 Toll. If you open an account with TxTAG and load \$20 in prepaid tolls, you'll save

25% off the Pay By Mail toll rate. You can add money to your account when the balance gets low, or you can sign up for AutoPay (automatic replenishment), so you never have to worry about how much money is in your TxTag account. If you enroll in AutoPay, you will receive your TxTag stickers for free. Learn more about TxTAG and open an account [here](#).

## FIVE

[Florida's Turnpike Enterprise](#) (FTE) owns and operates 483 miles of toll roads and services approximately 2.3 million customers every day. With traffic increasing substantially, traffic congestion and delays occur during peak hours of the day. After an extensive study, FTE is now adding express lanes on many of their tolled facilities to provide reliable travel during rush hour. About 50% of surveyed Floridians were favorable to paying an additional toll to drive on the express lanes. These lanes would be for toll tag users only. For more information on this project, click [here](#).

The MoPac Improvement Project will be the first express lane project in the Central Texas region. However, we learned at IBTTA that it's a trend commuters can expect to continue seeing across the country—because they work. While the addition of traditional lanes will only result in those lanes filling up just as quickly, express lanes are a truly effective congestion management tool that go beyond adding capacity. Learn more about how the MoPac Express Lanes work [here](#).

## THE MOBILITY AUTHORITY AND IBTTA



At the conference, our Executive Director Mike Heiligenstein was honored as an IBTTA Honorary Member for his outstanding contributions and commitment to regional approaches to mobility solutions. This is the highest honor the international association bestows. Heiligenstein served as president of the association in 2014.

Dee Anne Heath, our Director of External Affairs, gave a presentation about the Mobility Authority's social media program during the panel on content marketing and new media in the digital age. The Mobility Authority's social media approach is all about conversation and talking about more than just pavement.



Follow us on [Twitter at @ctxmobility](#) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/MobilityAuthority](https://www.facebook.com/MobilityAuthority).

## MORE ABOUT IBTTA

Founded in 1932, IBTTA is the worldwide association representing toll facility owners and operators and the businesses that serve them. Through advocacy, thought leadership and education, IBTTA assists with the implementation of state-of-the-art, innovative user-based transportation financing solutions to address the critical infrastructure challenges of the 21st Century.

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