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In the Spotlight

Mobility Authority's Mike Heiligenstein Talks Transportation on TxDOT webcast



Mobility Authority Executive Director, Mike Heiligenstein, was the special guest on TxDOT's December 6th

webcast program, "The Road Show."

TxDOT Executive Director, Amadeo Saenz and Heiligenstein discussed a variety of statewide transportation issues, including the formation of Regional Mobility Authorities.

[Click here](#) to to watch the webcast

Mobility Authority Secures \$153 Million Commitment for Central Texas Transportation Projects

The Texas Transportation Commission has approved two grants totaling more than \$153 million to jump start a number of critical transportation projects in Central Texas. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Mobility Authority will use the money to complete the \$500 million Manor Expressway (US 290 East) project and to accelerate work on four other major projects including the MoPac Improvement Project (Loop 1), Oak Hill Expressway (US 290 West), Manchaca Expressway (45SW) and Bergstrom Expressway (US

MoPac Improvement Project

Public Learns About Possible MoPac Improvements at Open Houses

In July 2010, the Mobility Authority, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the City of Austin and Capital Metro joined forces and launched an environmental study to consider various alternatives for improving mobility along an 11-mile stretch of MoPac between Parmer Lane and Cesar Chavez Street. Two rounds of open houses were held in the fall of 2010 to share information and gather feedback from the public on various alternatives being studied.



179 people attended the first round of open houses on October 6 and 7 and reviewed information on 11 possible alternatives. Feedback from the meetings was used to help reduce the number of build alternatives down to four, as well as a no build alternative.

A second round of open houses were held on December 1 and 2 to gather additional input from the public on the remaining alternatives. 187 people participated in the second round of open houses with many contributing feedback that will help the study team as it analyzes the remaining alternatives and identifies a preferred alternative. The remaining alternatives include:

- Adding one High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane in Each Direction
- Adding one Express Lane in Each Direction
- Adding one General Purpose Lane in Each Direction
- Adding Multiple Lanes (General Purpose and Express)
- No Build

Visit www.MoPacExpress.com for more information about the MoPac Improvement Project, the various alternatives being studied and upcoming public involvement activities.

In the Spotlight

HERO Program Provides Free Roadside Assistance to I-35 Drivers

183 South).

"The Mobility Authority Board, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and the Texas Transportation Commission all came together to prioritize funding for these vital Central Texas Projects," said Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director of the Mobility Authority. "With so many unmet needs statewide, getting scarce dollars isn't easy these days. We made a good case that Central Texas was in critical need of these funds, and we came to the table with a promise of local funding in the form of toll revenue bonds. As a result, we were rewarded with \$153 million in grants."

[Click here](#) for more information.

Deficient Roadways Cost Each Texas Driver \$2,000 Per Year

According to a report released in November by TRIP, a Washington, DC based national transportation organization, "roads and bridges that are deficient, congested or lack desirable safety features cost Texas motorists a total of \$22.6 billion statewide — nearly \$2,000 per driver in some areas - due to higher vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes and congestion-related delays. An increased investment in transportation improvements at the local, state and federal level could relieve traffic congestion, improve road, bridge and transit conditions, boost safety and support long-term economic growth in Texas."

[Click here](#) to download a news release and access the report titled, "*Future Mobility in Texas: Meeting the State's Need for Safe and Efficient Mobility.*"

Construction Updates

Information about construction activities and lane closures on the 183A Extension and Manor Expressway projects can be



A free roadside assistance program launched in September is already making a difference along I-35 in Central Texas. To date, the Highway Emergency Response Operator (HERO) program has provided assistance to more than 1,100 drivers.

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, through a partnership with TxDOT and the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), operates the HERO program to aid stranded motorists, minimize traffic congestion and improve highway safety along Interstate 35 in Central Texas. \$1.8 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds are expected to finance the HERO program through mid 2012. The Mobility Authority is studying options to fund the program beyond 2012.

HERO patrols monitor a 31-mile stretch of I-35 from the Hays/Travis County line to U.S. 79 in Round Rock from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm, Monday through Friday. They remove dangerous roadway debris, help move stalled vehicles off the road, provide basic repair services, such as changing flat tires and jumpstarting batteries, and assist first responders at accident scenes. I-35 drivers in need of assistance can call 512-974-HERO (4376).

Visit the [Mobility Authority's website](#) for more information.

183A News

Texas Stars Shine on Block House Creek and Ridgewood South

On Saturday, November 13th the Mobility Authority and its construction contractor for the 183A Extension, Webber, hosted a community appreciation event for area neighborhoods. More than 500 residents from the Block House Creek and Ridgewood South neighborhoods attended the event, which included live jazz music from The Paul Glasse Quintet, complimentary Pok-e-Jo's BBQ and guest appearances from members of the Texas Stars hockey team and Ice Girls, who signed autographs and gave away raffle prizes.



"Construction on the 183A Extension project has gone very well so far, but we know it can be disruptive to the lives of people living nearby," says Mobility Authority Communications Director Steve Pustelnyk. "Hosting this family-friendly event was our way of thanking them for their patience."

Construction began in March 2010 on the 5-mile 183A Northern Extension and is expected to be complete by 2012. For more information, visit www.183A.com.

found online or by calling our project hotlines.



Website: www.183A.com

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Bridgework and Other Construction Progress on 183A Extension



Work continues on bridge structures at Block House Creek.



Bridge beams have been placed over New Hope Drive.

[Click here](#) to view more photos of construction progress on the 183A Extension.

Manor Expressway News

Travis County Launches Study of Roadway Linking Parmer Lane to Manor Expressway

At a November 30th meeting, the Travis County Commissioners Court approved a motion to move forward with preliminary engineering for a four-lane, four-mile roadway that would link the future Manor Expressway to Parmer Lane. The unnamed project, dubbed, "Arterial A," is intended to provide increased north-south mobility near the Austin Samsung facility.

The area has experienced rapid growth over the last several years, and additional planned development is expected to compound existing traffic congestion. With approximately half of the Arterial A project falling within City of Austin jurisdiction, the project was included in the City of Austin's November 10 transportation bond package. The combined support from the City of Austin and Travis County will allow the Mobility Authority to complete an interchange between Arterial A and the Manor Expressway, which is already under construction.

For more information, [click here](#).

Manor Expressway Construction Continues



Footings and columns are placed for the direct connect flyovers at US 183.



Paving has begun on the westbound frontage road.

You can view near real time construction images of the project by [clicking here](#)

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