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**The Manor Expressway and the 183A Extension are now on Twitter!**

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#### Mobility Authority News

**Charles Heimsath Joins Mobility Authority Board of Directors**



Austin real estate consultant Charles H. Heimsath officially became the newest member

of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors. Heimsath was sworn in by Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt following appointment by the Travis County Commissioners Court. Heimsath fills the position left vacant following the sudden death of Lowell H. Lebermann, Jr. in July 2009.

#### Construction Update

**Construction Underway on 183A Northern Extension and Manor Expressway**



Construction of the 183A Northern Extension and the Manor Expressway are officially underway. The Mobility Authority held ceremonial groundbreakings for both projects earlier this month.

##### About the 183A Northern Extension

The 5-mile 183A Northern Extension is being constructed more than seven years earlier than originally planned due to higher than projected traffic volumes on the main lanes and congestion on the frontage roads of the existing 183A toll road.

The 183A Northern Extension will be a limited-access toll road with three lanes in each direction. It will be constructed in the median of the existing frontage roads from FM 1431 in Cedar Park to north of RM 2243 in Leander. The frontage roads will remain non-tolled. Once completed, the extension will tie in seamlessly to the existing 183A. The extension will also include a bicycle and pedestrian path. The extension is expected to open to traffic by 2012.

For more information, visit [www.183A.com](http://www.183A.com).

##### About the Manor Expressway

The Manor Expressway (US 290 East) in east Travis County is the Mobility Authority's second roadway project. At full build, the Manor Expressway will be a 6.2-mile project, constructed in an expanded median of U.S. 290 between U.S. 183 and Parmer Lane east of Austin. The initial construction phase involves completion of a direct connect flyover interchange at US 183 and US 290 and a 1.4-mile stretch of the expressway between US 183 and Chimney Hill Boulevard. The project is being built to help alleviate traffic congestion, which has increased more than 78% since 1990.

"People who drive the US 290 corridor have endured steadily increasing traffic congestion and a steady stream of serious accidents," says Mobility Authority Executive Director, Mike Heiligenstein. "The Manor Expressway will give drivers the option for a faster, safer and more reliable route. Moreover, the Manor Expressway will link to other important roadways, helping to establish the regional transportation network our community so desperately needs," adds Heiligenstein.

Visit [www.ManorExpressway.com](http://www.ManorExpressway.com) for more information about the project.

#### 183A News

Heimsath is President of Capitol Market Research, an Austin based company that provides professional services related to real estate research, land use economics and market analysis. He has lived in the Austin area for more than 25 years and has been actively engaged in numerous civic activities, serving as a member of the Capital Metro Citizens Advisory Council, the Waller Creek Redevelopment Task Force and the Austin Plan Transportation Committee. He has also been active with the regional planning group Envision Central Texas. In addition, Heimsath has served on the Downtown Alliance Board, the City of Austin Parks Board and the Austin Children's Museum Board.

"Charles has an incredible understanding of the Austin area and the integral role a quality transportation system plays in strengthening the region's economy," says Board Chairman Ray Wilkerson. "His insight and experience will be invaluable to the Mobility Authority Board."

[Click here](#) for more information about the Mobility Authority Board of Directors.

### **Former Austin City Attorney Joins Mobility Authority Staff**

The Mobility Authority has a new General Counsel. Andy Martin, who previously served as the city attorney in both Austin and San Antonio, joined the Mobility Authority staff on March 19th. Martin is a graduate of the University of Texas Law School who began his career in Washington D.C. and most recently worked for the firm of Brown and McCarroll, L.L.P.

[Click here](#) for more information about Andy Martin.

### **In Depth**

#### **Carona and Watson: Texas leaders must face transportation reality**

Earlier this year, State Senator's John Carona and

## **Neighbors Near Future 183A Extension Invited to Meet the Contractor**

Neighbors and businesses located near the future 183A Northern Extension are invited to attend an upcoming open house to learn more about the project and meet the team members who will be involved with construction. The event will be held on Tuesday, April 6th from 7pm-9pm at Block House Creek Elementary School, located at 401 Creek Run in Leander.

Call 512-684-3256 for more information.

## **Innovative Finance Deal for 183A Toll Road Extension Completed**

On March 11, 2010, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority completed an innovative bond deal to fund the five-mile 183A Northern Extension project. The agency issued \$45 million in subordinated taxable Build America Bonds as part of a larger \$140 million bond issue that included the sale of \$95 million in traditional tax-exempt toll revenue bonds. The bond package will have an average interest cost of 7.2% and will be repaid in various increments over the next 30 years.

"Our bond sale was extremely well received," says Mobility Authority Executive Director Mike Heiligenstein. "More than 35 different investment firms placed orders for our bonds with demand exceeding supply. That resulted in lower interest rates, which will save our community millions of dollars over the life of the bonds."

183A has exceeded traffic and revenue projections since opening in March 2007. The excellent performance of 183A and investor confidence in the way the Mobility Authority is managed contributed to a highly competitive bond sale.

[Click here](#) to download a press release with more information.

### **Manor Expressway News**

## **Meet the Manor Expressway Project Team**

The Mobility Authority will host an open house on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 to share information about the Manor Expressway project with local business owners, neighborhood residents and anyone else interested in the project. The event will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Bluebonnet Trail Elementary School, which is located at 11316 Farmhaven Road. Folks who stop by will have the opportunity to meet the construction team, view maps, check out exhibits and ask questions about the project.

Call 512-684-3252 for more information.

## **Federal Investigators Rule in Favor of Manor Expressway Project**

In a 13-page decision, the Federal Highway Administration has rejected claims that the Manor Expressway toll road project violates Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A group including the Save Our Springs Alliance, the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aide had claimed, among other things, that the Manor Expressway would impose a disproportionate economic hardship on low-income and minority communities.

[Click here](#) to download a press release with more information.

Kirk Watson, chairman and vice-chairman of the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee, issued a joint editorial regarding the need for elected officials in every brand of government to acknowledge and take action to solve the severe transportation-financing crisis plaguing Texas.

[Click here](#) to read "Carona and Watson: Texas leaders must face transportation reality."

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