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Mobility Authority News

Mobility Authority Chairman Bob Tesch to Step Aside



After six years of dedicated service to the Mobility Authority, the agency's founding Chairman, Bob Tesch, has decided not to seek reappointment. In a March 10, 2009 letter to Governor

Rick Perry, Tesch said, "After reflecting on the agency's successes over the past six years and considering the solid position the agency currently enjoys, I believe there is no better time for a change than now."

Tesch has served as the Mobility Authority's Chairman since January 2003 and has led the agency's evolution from a start-up organization with no staff to a nationally recognized transportation agency with a staff of 15 people. During Tesch's tenure, the Mobility Authority completed the 183A toll road on time and on budget and began work on a comprehensive \$1.5 billion regional network of tolled expressways.

"Chairman Tesch has provided tremendous guidance and leadership for our agency over the last six years," said Mobility Authority Executive Director Mike Heiligenstein. "His contributions to mobility in our region will be appreciated by Central Texans for generations to come."

For more information about Chairman Tesch and other Mobility Authority board members, [click here](#).

Heiligenstein Appointed to Transportation Advisory Council

183A Update

Toll Violators Summoned to Court



The first court proceedings for 183A's top ten toll violators took place on Wednesday, February 25th in Williamson County JP court.

Three of the defendants plead no contest and agreed to pay all tolls, administration fees and court costs, as well as a \$100 fine per complaint. They were also ordered to pay the remaining tolls and fees due to the Mobility Authority within six months.

One defendant was able to prove that she sold her vehicle and did not own it at the time it was on the toll road. However, she had failed to notify the State that the car had been sold and did not respond to any of the toll bills or violation notices prior to misdemeanor charges being filed. As a result she was held liable for administrative fees and required to pay court costs and a reduced fine per misdemeanor charge.

"Drivers who feel they have received a toll bill or violation notice in error should not ignore them," said Ron Fagan, Mobility Authority Director of Operations. "By not responding, you may unnecessarily expose yourself to fees that can be avoided or potential legal action."

For various reasons, the hearing date for three other defendants was rescheduled. Arrest warrants were issued for three defendants who did not appear in court.

Manor Expressway Update

Manor Expressway Receives Environmental Clearance

On March 9th the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) granted environmental clearance for development of the Manor Expressway project in Eastern Travis County. After a thorough review of the project's environmental assessment, the FHWA issued a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI). That decision has cleared the way for the Mobility Authority to move forward with financing and construction of the project.

As planned, the Manor Expressway will be a 6.2-mile limited-access toll road with three lanes in each direction. It will be constructed in an expanded median of US 290 and will extend from US 183 to Parmer Lane. The existing US 290 will be widened and will remain non-tolled.

The Mobility Authority is now beginning final design work with construction expected to begin by spring 2010. If all goes as planned, the roadway could be open to traffic by 2013.

[Click here](#) to view an interactive demonstration that shows how



Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority Executive Director Mike Heiligenstein has been appointed to the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) Advisory Council.

TTI is the largest university-affiliated transportation research agency in the United States. The organization supports transportation agencies across the United States through research and the transfer of information and technologies.

"By advising us on transportation issues and trends and supporting our research programs and initiatives, the Advisory Council provides a tremendous contribution to TTI," says Dennis L. Christiansen, Agency Director of TTI. "As the dynamic leader of an innovative and highly successful start-up mobility agency, Mike Heiligenstein's knowledge, experience and vision will be a wonderful addition to TTI and the State of Texas."

For more information about Mobility Authority Executive Director, Mike Heiligenstein, [click here](#).

Quick Contact



Phone
(512) 996-9778

Fax
(512) 996-9784



Address
301 Congress Ave.
Suite 650
Austin, TX 78701

Email
info@ctrma.org

the Manor Expressway will be developed.

Financial Plan Being Assembled for Manor Expressway

The Mobility Authority has been working hard under tough economic conditions to pull together the financing for the \$620 million Manor Expressway project.

Last month the Texas Transportation Commission approved federal stimulus funding of \$90 million for the interchange flyover bridges that will link US 183 with the Manor Expressway. The Mobility Authority is also seeking a TxDOT toll equity grant, a State Infrastructure Bank Loan and will be filing a loan application for funding through the Federal Transportation Infrastructure and Innovation Act program. The remainder of the project's funding is expected to come from the sale of toll revenue bonds. To help expedite the project, the Mobility Authority has also been seeking short term financing for project development costs.

"The Manor Expressway project will create jobs in the short term and be a critical link in our regional transportation network in the long term," said Mobility Authority Executive Director Mike Heiligenstein. "We are doing everything we can to keep this project moving, so we can boost employment and support our economy."

[Click here](#) for more information about the Manor Expressway.

In Depth

Managed Lanes Get the Green Light on Loop 1



The Mobility Authority recently announced plans to proceed with the development of Managed Lanes on Loop 1 (MoPac Expressway). The lanes would be constructed within the existing right-of-way. There would be one managed lane in

each direction from Parmar Lane to Lady Bird Lake. The managed lanes would be separated from other traffic barriers, and, for safety and operational efficiency, access to the managed lanes would be limited to just a few locations along the route.

The goal of a managed lane is to ensure congestion free travel for buses, emergency vehicles and individual drivers who choose to use it. To accomplish that goal, the Mobility Authority will use congestion pricing - where tolls are higher when traffic is heavy and lower when traffic is light. Traffic studies indicate the managed lanes will result in improved travel times for all Loop 1 drivers. The Mobility Authority is in the process of developing an implementation timeline for the project.

In the Spotlight

Task Force Evaluating Options for Manchaca Expressway

On March 25, 2009, the Capitol Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), which is responsible for approving regional transportation projects, appointed a special committee to study

issues surrounding the SH 45 SW (Manchaca Expressway) project.

As proposed in the Transportation Infrastructure Program (TIP), SH 45 SW would be a four-lane divided controlled-access tolled expressway on a new alignment, connecting Loop 1 (MoPac) South to FM 1626 in Southwest Travis County near the Hays County line. In addition to the tolled lanes, the project was proposed in the TIP to have one non-tolled lane in each direction.

The SH 45 SW Committee will review financial, environmental and mobility issues surrounding the project and make a recommendation to the CAMPO Policy Board on June 8th on how best to proceed.

[Click here](#) for more information about the SH 45 SW Committee.

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