



**CENTRAL TEXAS  
Regional Mobility Authority**

## AGENDA ITEM #7 SUMMARY

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### Executive Director's Report.

Strategic Plan Relevance: Regional Mobility

Department: Executive

Associated Costs: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Board Action Required: No

Description of Matter:

#### Executive Director's Monthly report

- A. Project Updates
- B. Briefing on data used for Mobility Authority traffic and revenue studies
- C. Briefing on indirect and cumulative effects of proposed roadways in an environmental review of a transportation project
- D. Status report on efforts to provide live-streaming of Mobility Authority Board meetings.
- E. MoPac Improvement Project Tree Giveaway

Reference: Executive Director's report

Contact: Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director



# PROJECT UPDATES

## MoPac Improvement Project

- The Oversight Team continues to work with the Contractor on a revised project schedule that reflects the impacts of the numerous Owner-Directed Change Orders.
- Contractor is working to accelerate productivity by bringing on additional resources.
- The permitting process with utilities and railroads, as well as coordination with other local agencies, continues. The execution of several rights-of-entry agreements with the UPRR will allow work to begin in those areas.
- Coordination with the City of Austin on relocation of the City's 42" waterline also continues as this part of the project moves from design to construction to prevent impacts to the overall Project schedule.
- Lane striping in the corridor is being evaluated on a weekly basis; public comments have decreased significantly over the past several months. Contractor is implementing a work plan for addressing re-marking of existing striping and enhancing temporary striping in areas where evaluations indicate deficiencies.



- Illumination of the corridor is being evaluated nightly; areas for repair have been identified and a repair schedule implemented. Lighting of the ramps is the priority - the Contractor has installed portable lights and generators until permanent repairs can be made. Maintenance of the lighting will be on-going.

- The installation of sound wall columns and panels continues on the wall near 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Construction of other sound walls will follow.



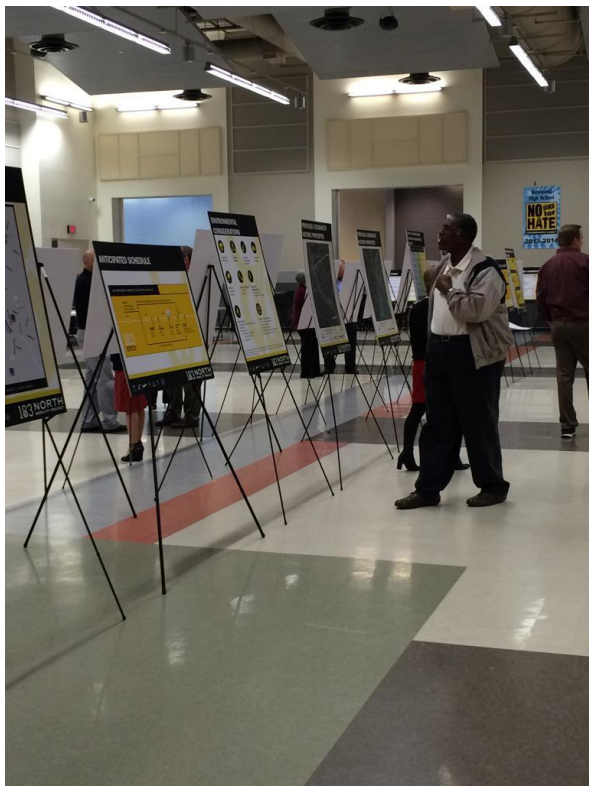
*Crews set the beams for the northbound MoPac bridge over 45th St. overnight (March 17, 2015)*

- Boring activities for three large tunnels associated with drainage pipes for the undercrossings near downtown are complete. Work on the fourth and final tunnel has started and the effort is more than 25% complete.
- Conduit construction for ITS wiring, which will service cameras and other detection equipment as well as the toll signage, continues.
- Installation of the overhead sign bridges and cantilevered sign structures for permanent signing and ITS/toll equipment continues.

## 183 North Mobility Project



- Technical Memoranda continues to be prepared for social, economic, and environmental impact evaluations.
- Technical Working Group meeting was held on Feb. 24.
- Open House #3 was held on March 10. Approximately 80 people. The preferred alternative (Express Lane) was presented along with the additional corridor improvements that includes a consistent 4-lane section from McNeil to MoPac to address bottle-neck conditions in the corridor, Bike/Pedestrian improvements identified, and Context Sensitive Solution alternatives were presented that allowed the public to convey their preference of landscaping, hardscape, water quality, bicycle/pedestrian connectivity and public art.



*Residents review preferred alternatives at the March 10 Open House at Westwood High School.*

- A virtual Open House will continue to be available on the [183north.com](http://183north.com) web site through March 20, 2015.
- Draft Design Exception package is being updated to address some modifications throughout the corridor for reduced lane and shoulder widths.
- Traffic analysis for operations and environmental evaluations continues.
- Initial draft EA submittal is planned for early 2015 with Public Hearing planned for late 2015.

### MoPac South Environmental Study

- Technical Memoranda continue to be prepared and reviewed for social, economic, and environmental impact evaluations.
- The schematic will continue to be refined as operations analysis is conducted and agency and public comment is received.
- Refinement of traffic models for traffic operational analysis and environmental evaluations continues and should be complete in Spring 2015.
- An Open House was held on Feb. 26. Approximately 115 people. The alternatives analysis process was explained and the preferred alternative (Express Lanes) was presented in schematic form.
- A virtual Open House will continue to be available on the [MoPacSouth.com](http://MoPacSouth.com) web site until April 2.
- A Context Sensitive Solutions web survey has been launched to collect preferences from the public on approach to several design considerations ranging from roadway elements to bike and pedestrian facilities.
- Initial draft EA submittal is planned for early 2015 with a Public Hearing planned for late 2015.

### MoPac Intersections Environmental Study

- The Schematic Design and the majority of the technical memoranda are substantially complete.
- The first draft of the environmental document was submitted to TxDOT in Feb. 2015 and review comments are being addressed.
- The document will be available for public review

in the spring with a Public Hearing anticipated to occur mid-2015.

- Stakeholder outreach and public communication is planned over the next several months including meetings with south Brodie Neighborhood Alliance and Circle C HOA.
- Once environmentally cleared, TxDOT will take over final design and construction of the project.

### SH 45SW Environmental Study



- A Record of Decision on the Environmental Impact Statement was issued on March 4 allowing the project to move forward with design and construction.
- The Mobility Authority's Design Team continues to collect survey data and geotechnical borings and is preparing to begin final design and development of construction plans.
- Stakeholder meetings and Context Sensitive Solutions efforts will be initiated as the project design progresses.
- The development of construction plans is anticipated to take approximately six to eight months.

### Bergstrom Expressway Project



- TxDOT Environmental Division gave an environmental 'Finding of no Significant Impact' for the Bergstrom Expressway Environmental Assessment on March 6. With this major milestone in place, the team can move forward into final design and construction.
- Atkins anticipates the Best Value Selection of a design/build contractor in spring 2015.

- The procurement efforts are underway to bring public involvement, construction inspection, survey, and materials testing teams on board for the Bergstrom Expressway construction.
- Community outreach efforts include holding stakeholder meetings, continuing construction communications strategy, launching a baseline public opinion survey, and working to redevelop the website for the construction phase.
- A traffic noise barrier workshop is anticipated to occur in April 2015.
- Project programming activities continue as the team works to finalize project funding agreements with TxDOT and FHWA. In addition, the team continues work on the Project Management Plan and the Initial Finance Plan in order to meet federal requirements.
- Financing activities continue as Atkins develops the updates to the TIFIA Application, continues the Investment Grade Traffic & Revenue Study and prepares an application for an SIB Loan request.
- ROW Acquisition and early utility coordination activities for items with long lead times continues.

### Maha Loop/Elroy Road, Phase I Project



*Maha Loop Construction*

- Ribbon Cutting has been scheduled for March 27 at 10:00 a.m. in coordination with Travis County Precinct Four Commissioner Margaret Gomez. The road will be dedicated by the county as Kellam Rd.

- Final grading of ponds is complete; placement of rock riprap and filtration material is ongoing.
- Final striping will begin after pavement cures.
- The remaining bridge rail and sidewalk for the project was completed in February.
- Placement of matting and seeding ongoing for east ditch.
- The change order to add turn lanes on SH 71 has been approved by Travis County; the change order to add signals is under negotiation.

### **290 Toll (Manor Expressway)**

- CTMC is finalizing the non-conflict utility relocations required by the project to obtain Final Acceptance.

### **Oak Hill Parkway Project**



- Efforts with TxDOT and the City of Austin continue for potential regional detention facilities.
- The design level schematics for both concepts moving forward into the alternatives analysis phase were completed and provided at the January Open House for public comment.
- The next Context Sensitive Solutions workshop will be held April 7.
- The Mobility Authority and TxDOT will participate in the Keep Austin Beautiful event on April 11 to help clean Williamson Creek in the project area.
- A Value Engineering Study is planned for the week of April 13.
- The team has begun to meet with stakeholders about concerns regarding regional water detention and right-of-way acquisition; this effort will continue for several months.

### **SH 71 Express**



- Construction commenced on Feb. 2, 2015
- Coordination meetings between McCarthy and the Toll Integrator continue.
- McCarthy continues to progress design activities.
- Atkins and Schneider Electric continue to review design submittals.
- Construction on the Onion Creek bridge substructure is progressing.
- Earthwork activities at the SH 130 interchange have commenced.
- The team has been assisting TxDOT's preparations for a "meet the contractor"-style open house which was held on March 24.

As part of our ongoing MoPac Improvement Project partnership with the non-profit group TreeFolks, the Mobility Authority sponsored a tree giveaway on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. The event took place in the Camp Hubbard DMV parking lot adjacent to Westminster Manor. When the event kicked off at 9:00 am there were already more than 50 people waiting in line.

500 one-gallon trees were available for adoption. Each family could take home up to two trees. The available species included Mexican buckeye, bald cypress, cedar elm, deciduous holly, Mexican white oak, Mexican plum, and Texas redbud. The Mexican plum trees were the most popular and were completely gone within the first hour of the event.

