



CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL
MOBILITY AUTHORITY

Expressway News

April 2026

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Earth Day, Every Day: Building a Sustainable Future in Central Texas

Each year, Earth Day reminds us of a simple truth: we only have one home. As our region continues to grow, so does the responsibility to protect the natural and cultural resources that make Central Texas unique. The good news? Urban growth and environmental stewardship can coexist with thoughtful planning, collaboration, and commitment.



Built to Protect

As one of the Mobility Authority's [Core Values](#), environmental stewardship is built into every project we deliver. From restoring historic landmarks like the Montopolis Bridge to investing in bike and pedestrian infrastructure, our work reflects a long-term vision for a more connected and environmentally conscious region.

When a potential project is assigned by CAMPO for study, the Mobility Authority follows the rigorous environmental review process required under the [National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 \(NEPA\)](#). Through detailed environmental analyses and public involvement, the Mobility Authority identifies ways to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on both the natural and human environments. These efforts are guided by established regulations and close coordination with local, state, and federal agencies.

As part of every roadway project, the Mobility Authority is committed to protecting one of our most vital natural resources—water. We incorporate best-in-class water quality protection measures to reduce stormwater runoff and minimize erosion. This commitment to effective stormwater management is integrated into every phase of a project, from design and construction to long-term maintenance.

During the construction of projects, the Mobility Authority incorporates both temporary and permanent Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect and improve water quality across Central Texas. These include stormwater treatment ponds that filter pollutants from roadway runoff and the use of native vegetation plantings to help absorb rainwater, reduce erosion, and provide habitat for wildlife. Regular field inspections are performed by representatives from the compliance, engineering, and construction contractors in accordance with the project's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Inspection.



The Mobility Authority is award-winning, with [projects](#) like 183 Toll Road awarded a bronze certification by the most widely-used transportation sustainability rating system worldwide, Greenroads®, and the 45SW Toll Road receiving 10 industry awards including the Austin

Chamber Environmental Champion Awards. This is a testament to the high standard of quality and environmental stewardship that guides the Mobility Authority.

Get Involved This Earth Month

Looking for a way to celebrate Earth Day this week? Get outside and explore the growing network of [Shared Use Paths](#) across Central Texas. These spaces are designed for everyone, whether you walk, bike, or roll.

Trails like the 183A Trail, 45SW Trail, and 183 Trail also offer a chance to connect with the region. Through augmented reality signage, trail users can explore the area's history, native plants, and the stories of Indigenous communities who shaped the land. Download the Trail Explorer by CTRMA App and bring a virtual guide along for the journey.

[Download on the App Store](#)

[Download on Google Play](#)

MoPac South Public Hearing

On Tuesday, March 24, 2026, the MoPac South Project Team hosted an in-person Public Hearing at Bowie High School. More than 180 community members attended to review the project schematic, speak directly with the project team, explore the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and technical reports, and submit official comments.



Submit an Official Comment

The virtual Public Hearing remains open at ph.mopacsouth.com, where participants can access the same materials presented at the in-person event. The public comment period is open through May 3, 2026, and comments may be submitted through the following channels:

- Click [here](#) for the online form
- Email: mopacsouth@ctrma.org
- Mail: Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, ATTN: MoPac South, 3300 N. IH-35, Suite 300, Austin, TX 78705
- Voicemail (3-minute maximum): 512-387-5811

[View the MoPac South Public Hearing](#)

[View the Draft EA and Technical Reports](#)

183 Express Lanes Are Open

The 183 North Mobility Project has reached a major milestone with the opening of the new [183 Express Lanes](#). The completion of the 183 Express Lanes, which were two lanes in each direction added to the center median of US 183, and the new operational improvements to the interchange between US 183 and MoPac with a direct connector (DC) structure and collector-distributor road, realizes a significant portion of the mobility enhancements brought to the region by this project.

The new lanes offer drivers an express lane option for times when they need it the most as they travel between downtown Austin and Cedar Park, Leander and points farther north. The express lanes operate using variable toll pricing, similar to the pricing drivers are already familiar with on the MoPac Express Lane. The price drivers see on the signs before entering the express lanes is the price they will pay.

Drivers in the US 183 non-tolled general-purpose lanes still have access to the same lanes and entrance and exit ramps between U.S. 183 and the frontage road as before, along with the added fourth non-tolled general-purpose lane between MoPac and SH 45 (funded by TxDOT), which the 183 North Mobility Project opened in 2024.

The goal of this project is to improve mobility for drivers and pedestrians with both tolled and non-tolled infrastructure. The addition of express lanes allows for a mobility solution that helps ensure transit providers can operate reliably, and emergency responders can get to the scene of an emergency when time is of the essence. These services use the Mobility Authority's tolled facilities for free. Express lanes also offer the traveling public an option to bypass congestion for those times when they simply can't be late.

The 183 North Mobility Project team is distributing educational materials to help drivers navigate the new express lanes, the DC structure and the collector-distributor road along the southbound MoPac frontage road.

While opening the express lanes is a major component of completing the 183 North Mobility Project, there is still some work to be done as we put the finishing touches over the remaining months of 2026. Drivers can expect that there are still ongoing lane closures for work that will happen as a part of the 183 North Mobility Project. Upcoming lane closures and project

updates, as well as express lane opening educational materials can be found on the [183 North Mobility Project website](#). You can also follow the project via Twitter/X [@183North](#).

Popular Annual Financial Report Available Online

Our staff developed the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) to give our community an easy-to-understand overview of the Mobility Authority's work and finances. This report is prepared in line with state requirements and the Mobility Authority's own policies. The PAFR provides a snapshot of what the Authority accomplished over the past year, what projects are underway, how they are progressing, and overall financial health. It reflects our efforts to stay aligned with the goals outlined in our most recent strategic plan.

Both the PAFR and the more technical Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) are available on the Mobility Authority [website](#).

Thank you for staying connected and helping keep Central Texas moving.

Stay in the Loop

Want to stay up to date on more mobility news? Make sure to follow us on social across all platforms.



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Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, 3300 N IH-35 Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78705, United States