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Mobility Authority News

2008 Mobility Authority Annual Report Now Available Online



The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority's 2008 Annual Report is now available online for download. The report, "Driving Innovation," was written and designed by the Mobility Authority's staff and contains information about the agency, its projects and its finances, as well as articles about the history of transportation financing, electronic tolling and the development of Regional Mobility Authorities.

[Click here](#) to download the report.

Copies can also be picked up at Mobility Authority offices at 301 Congress Avenue, suite 650.

Construction Update

Austin By-Pass Nearing Completion

Latest News

183A Transition to Cashless Complete!



The 183A cash booths closed down on December 1st, and the toll road is now all-electronic. While cash is no longer accepted on 183A, customers have two electronic toll payment options, [TxTag](#) or [Pay-By-Mail](#). Both TxTag and Pay-By-Mail offer added convenience to drivers, eliminating the need to slow down or stop to pay their toll.

The transition to cashless didn't discourage people from using 183A. In fact, traffic in December was up 16.1% over the prior December and the most transactions ever recorded on 183A - 75,967 - took place on Friday, December 19th. In addition, the Scratch-and-Win campaign to educate drivers about the transition resulted in more than 700 ticket redemptions with the Mobility Authority distributing more than \$7,000 in pre-paid TxTag tolls to winners. In the months leading up to the transition, 12,445 TxTag stickers were distributed in the cash lanes of 183A, and 86% of weekday transactions on 183A are now being paid with TxTag stickers.

[Click here](#) for more information about payment options on 183A.

First 183A Toll Violation Cases Headed to Court

The Mobility Authority has stepped up efforts to enforce the payment of tolls on 183A. While the vast majority of customers are paying, some drivers have not responded to collection efforts. In response, the Mobility Authority has begun filing complaints in Williamson County Court.

"We have a responsibility to our paying customers to pursue the people who aren't pay their fair share," said Mobility Authority Executive Director Mike Heiligenstein. "Fortunately, modern technology allows us to identify violators and to seek recovery of the unpaid tolls."

The Mobility Authority is targeting chronic violators first, and court summons have already been mailed to the worst offenders. Court proceedings will begin in February.

Violators are sent numerous notices over a six-month period before being referred to the court system. Outstanding accounts can be settled by contacting Municipal Services Bureau (MSB) at 1-888-811-4565.

183A Update

Design Work for 183A Extension Underway

If you use 183A, you may have



Central Texas drivers will soon have an easier way to avoid I-35 traffic. The Texas Department of Transportation is planning to open SH 45 Southeast in April. The 7.4-mile toll road will complete the eastern by-pass around Austin and Round Rock, linking I-35 at FM 1327 with SH 130 near Mustang Ridge. More information about SH 45 Southeast can be found [here](#).

Progress is also being made on the southern extension of SH 130. Segments 5 & 6 will extend SH 130 another 40 miles from Mustang Ridge to I-10 near Seguin, allowing drivers to avoid I-35 entirely from Georgetown to Seguin. The SH 130 Concession Company expects to break ground on the project this year. For more information about SH 130 Segments 5 & 6, visit www.mysh130.com.

In Depth

U.S. Representative John Carter Appointed to Transportation Subcommittee

Earlier this month, Congressman John Carter won a key appointment to the transportation subcommittee of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. His appointment is great news for Central Texans, as his District (31) represents Williamson County.

Rep. Carter is one of 12 members on the subcommittee, two of who represent districts in Texas. In a press release issued by the congressman he states,

"I'm deeply honored, and relieved for the Great State of Texas, to receive this appointment," says Carter, a former state judge from Round Rock. "Our state leads the nation in highway miles and has one of the largest populations, and to have our transportation needs represented at the committee level in the House by a single member would place us at a distinct disadvantage, especially with our incoming President seeking a major expansion in highway funding."

[Click here](#) to read the full news release.

noticed a bunch of survey stakes in recent weeks. The survey work is being done in conjunction with the development of design documents for the northern extension of 183A. Since opening day, traffic on 183A has greatly exceeded projections. To accommodate driver demand, the Mobility Authority is developing a 4.5-mile northern extension seven years earlier than originally planned. The 183A 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 RM 1431 to just north of RM 2243. The frontage roads will remain non-tolled. Design work should be completed by this summer, and depending on financing, construction could be underway by the end of the year.



[Click here](#) for more information about the 183A Extension.

Improved Connectivity Coming to 183A at Blockhouse Creek



Residents of the Blockhouse Creek neighborhood along 183A will have improved access to their neighborhood beginning this weekend. Construction crews have been working since December to connect the neighborhood with the 183A frontage road via Scottsdale Drive. The project included the construction of turn lanes on the 183A frontage roads in both the northbound and southbound direction. In cooperation with the Blockhouse Creek Homeowners Association, landscaping and neighborhood signage was installed to create an attractive gateway to the community. The work should be finished by Friday with Scottsdale Drive being opened to traffic on Saturday February 7, 2009. The Scottsdale Drive connection is expected to improve emergency response times and decrease traffic passing Block House Creek Elementary School.

In the Spotlight

Mobility Authority Supporting City of Round Rock Rail Feasibility Study

In response to a request by the city of Round Rock, the Mobility Authority has agreed to support a feasibility study to explore options for developing a passenger rail system in Williamson County.

While no official plans or designs for the rail system have been created, the concept would include a 4.5-mile rail line in the median of the SH 45 North toll road from just east of Interstate 35 near Dell Inc. to one mile west of the Loop 1 toll road. From there, the rail line would connect to Capital Metro's Red Line.

"Central Texas is in dire need of all types of mobility enhancements - from roads to rail to bike and pedestrian paths," said Mobility Authority Executive Director Mike Heiligenstein. "While our initial focus has been the development of toll roads, our mission is to explore and implement all kinds of solutions that will help improve mobility for the region. We are happy to support the City of Round Rock as it studies this project."

Quick Contact



Phone
(512) 996-9778

Fax
(512) 996-9784



Address
301 Congress Ave.
Suite 650
Austin, TX 78701

Email
info@ctrma.org

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