



**CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority**

AGENDA ITEM #14 SUMMARY

Quarterly Briefing on the environmental assessments for the Bergstrom Expressway, the Oak Hill Parkway, the MoPac South Express Lanes Project, the 183 North Express Lanes Project, and the SH 45 Southwest Project.

Strategic Plan Relevance: Regional Mobility

Department: Engineering

Associated Costs: N/A Briefing Only

Funding Source: Toll Equity Grants, Rider 42, STP MM (CAMPO)

Board Action Required: No

Description of Matter: The Director of Engineering will provide a summary of project activities for the following projects:

- Bergstrom Expressway
- Oak Hill Parkway
- MoPac South
- 183 North Express Lane
- SH 45 Southwest

Reference documentation:

GEC Quarterly Activities Reports

Contact for further information:

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Bergstrom Expressway Quarterly Progress Report

No. 1 | October 2012



ATKINS

Independent Engineering Report



CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority

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INTRODUCTION

This report documents and describes the Bergstrom Expressway Project (US 183 South) for the period through October 25, 2012. This Project is currently in the environmental clearance phase of development which requires the completion of an Environmental Assessment consistent with the regulations contained in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The Environmental Document is currently being developed in house by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Austin District staff and supported by the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, with the Public Outreach being led by the Mobility Authority. In addition, the Project has been authorized by legislation to use a Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA) project delivery method. This process promotes innovative financing methods that will allow the Project to be funded and constructed much earlier than traditional methodologies.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project corridor begins just south of the Manor Expressway and extends to SH 71 East; the corridor includes seven grade separations, and connects to 3 major interchanges at the Manor Expressway, Airport Boulevard, and SH 71 East. The corridor includes two pedestrian bridges and a continuous shared use path connecting local communities. The Project can be considered the Gateway to Austin from the Airport and is depicted in the location map below.



The US 183 South Corridor from US 290 East to SH 71 East is one Austin's most significant arteries. Since US 183 was constructed in the mid 1960's, the roadway has been a four lane divided highway with minor improvements. As the primary route to and from the Austin Bergstrom International Airport and points beyond, it attracts numerous motorists per day. In recent years, this vital corridor has grown increasingly congested as the region's population has expanded. The situation is projected to get even worse in the future. Meanwhile, funding challenges at the federal and state level have made it increasingly difficult to finance the corridor.

As part of the NEPA process, the identified needs are to reduce congestion, improve safety and utilize innovative funding and financing processes to expedite project development and construction. Along with the NEPA process, the Mobility Authority is utilizing a Public Involvement and Outreach Program that includes hosting "brown bag" lunch and one-on-one meetings to obtain agency and stakeholder buy-in along the corridor.

The Environmental Assessment document is currently being prepared by the TxDOT Austin District. The Mobility Authority, with Atkins under their General Engineering Consultant contract, is supporting and coordinating closely with both TxDOT as the document is being developed.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

The Project Development process is current focusing on three major elements: Environmental Assessment, Public Outreach and Context Sensitive Solutions.

The Mobility Authority is currently working with TxDOT and other agencies to identify ways to expedite the environmental processes and clearance date.

The first Project Open House held in September was a great success with over 100 attendees; the second open house is tentatively scheduled for January and will include the Context Sensitive Solutions process.

The Mobility Authority's Context Sensitive Solution process is currently focusing on:

- integrating the facility with the area's built environment to enhance community and in particular the area's economical quality of life
- integrating the natural environment in order to maximize the facilities scenic, recreation and aesthetic qualities
- incorporating aesthetics that fit the facilities physical setting and preserve the scenic, aesthetic, neighborhood, historic and environmental attributes of the area
- including innovative design elements including considerations from the Green Mobility Challenge

PROGRESS STATUS

The Environmental Assessment process was launched in late 2011 and is anticipated to be complete by mid 2014. A detailed schedule discussion, including the tracking of intermediate milestones, will be provided in upcoming Quarterly Reports. Below is a summary of the anticipated timeline that is being communicated to the public.





Oak Hill Parkway Quarterly Progress Report



OAK HILL
PARKWAY

No. 1 | October 2012



ATKINS

Independent Engineering Report



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INTRODUCTION

This report documents and describes the Oak Hill Parkway Project for the period through October 25, 2012. This Project is currently in the environmental clearance phase of development which requires the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) consistent with the regulations contained in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The Project is currently being developed jointly by the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Austin District.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project encompasses the area surrounding the existing “Y at Oak Hill” intersection and includes the study of US 290 West from FM 1826 to Loop 1, including SH 71 West from Silvermine Drive to US 290 West. The study area is depicted in the location map below.



Currently this area experiences large-scale congestion while attracting more than 60,000 cars/trucks a day and serving as a corridor for statewide travel. As part of the NEPA process, several reasonable alternatives will be identified to address the issues currently plaguing the study area. These alternatives, along with a “No Build” scenario, will be screened to assess the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts such that environmental values are considered alongside the technical and economic factors. Another important element of the

NEPA process, which is also consistent with the Mobility Authority's approach to project implementation, is public involvement; throughout the entire Environmental Impact Statement process, input will be solicited from neighbors and drivers of the corridor that could potentially be affected.

The Environmental Impact Statement document is currently being prepared by a consultant team led by Rodriguez Transportation Group, Inc. (RTG) under a professional services agreement with the TxDOT Austin District. The Mobility Authority, supported by Atkins under their General Engineering Consultant contract, is coordinating closely with both TxDOT and RTG as the document is being developed.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

The implementation of the Project is currently focusing on the initiation of two main elements: Public Outreach and Resource Agency Involvement.

Related to the Public Outreach initiation, several critical elements were advanced over the past weeks, including:

- Community members participated in an Oak Hill Envisioning Mobility Workshop on August 29th to discuss Oak Hill's values and vision for mobility improvements in the area and to help us identify potential names for the project.
- On October 17th, the Texas Department of Transportation, City of Austin, Capital Metro, public officials and the Mobility Authority conducted a press conference to unveil the project name and logo (see below). The Oak Hill Parkway project is now officially underway. Media coverage was very positive!



- The project-specific website, www.oakhillparkway.com, was formally launched and contains a host of useful information related to the project (see below).
- Planning efforts are currently underway for the Oak Hill Parkway's first open house is set to occur on November 15th when the project team will strive to better understand the specific issues along the project.



Capital Metro President/CEO Linda Watson, Travis County Commissioner Karen Huber, and CTRMA Board Chair Ray Wilkerson at the October 17th Press Conference.

The opening screen of the project specific website at www.oakhillparkway.com.



Related to the Resource Agency Involvement, a Notice of Intent was published which notifies all parties that an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared, describes the proposed action and other basic details related to the Project.

PROGRESS STATUS

The Environmental Impact Statement process is still in the beginning stages of development and is currently anticipated to take approximately 4 years to complete. A detailed schedule discussion, including the tracking of intermediate milestones, will be provided in upcoming Quarterly Reports.

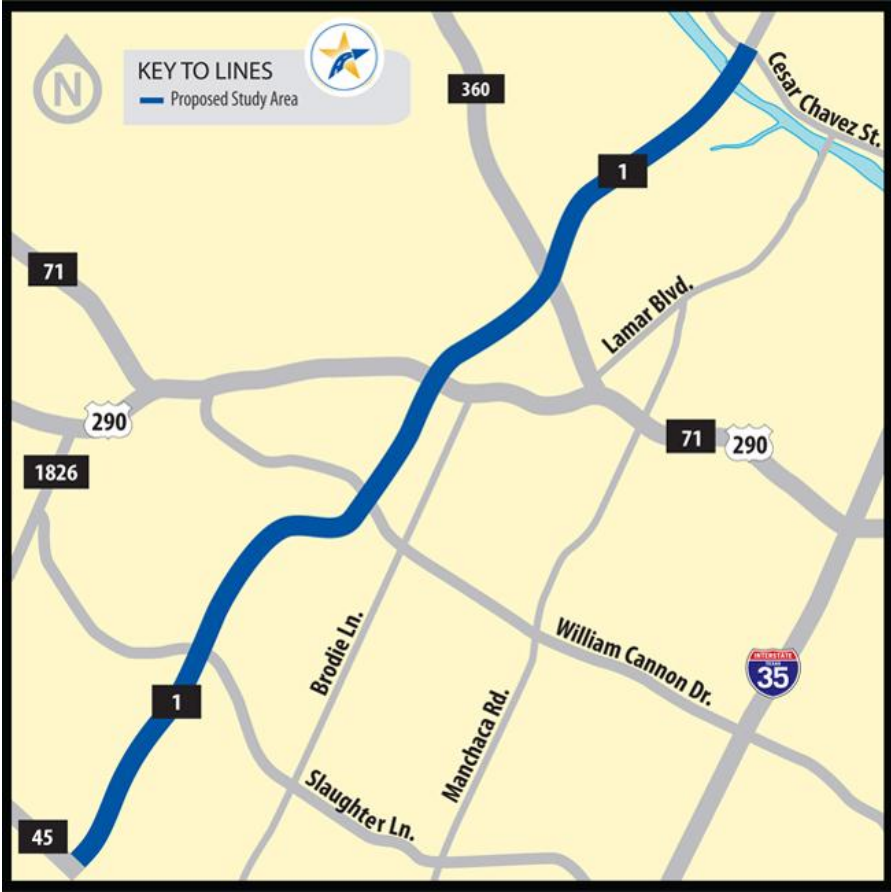
MoPac South Project

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT | No. 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mobility Authority is initiating activities to start the Environmental Study for improvements to MoPac from Cesar Chavez Street south to SH 45. Proposed improvements could include adding lane(s) along existing MoPac lanes, as well as overpasses at Slaughter Lane and La Crosse. Implementation of bicycle/pedestrian facilities and inclusion of park-and-rides will be evaluated as part of the project during the environmental study.

The project has been selected as one of the recipients of the Texas Legislature’s Rider 42 funding allocation projects. As a Rider 42 objective, the project will utilize enhanced public engagement strategies and tools. The environmental study and community outreach program are anticipated to start in 2013. This will be the first environmental study led by the Mobility Authority.



This report describes the status of the MoPac South project and documents the activities accomplished through the third quarter of 2012.

ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been accomplished by the Mobility Authority and its consultants during the reporting period.

FUNDING AND AGREEMENTS:

- On February 23, 2012 the Texas Transportation Commission passed Minute Order 112996 which allocated \$16.5 million of Rider 42 funds to the Loop 1 Corridor from Cesar Chavez Street to Slaughter Lane. Rider 42 is the General Appropriations Act (House Bill1, 82nd Legislature, Regular Session) which requires TxDOT to use \$300 million of Proposition 12 bond proceeds to acquire right of way, conduct feasibility studies and project planning, and outsource engineering work for the most congested roadway segments in each of the four most congested regions of the state (Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin and San Antonio metropolitan areas).
- On July 27, 2012, TxDOT and the Mobility Authority executed an Advanced Funding Agreement which allows the Mobility Authority to use the Rider 42 funding of \$16.5 Million toward Feasibility Studies, Environmental Clearance, Traffic and Revenue Studies, Final Design, and Procurement of a Contractor.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT / PROCUREMENT

- The procurement process for a Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Services Consultant for the MoPac South Project is currently underway. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was published on September 21. Responses to the RFQ were due on October 12, and five submittals were received. The Evaluation Committee determined the short list for interviews on October 25, and interviews are scheduled for November 5. The current schedule anticipates that a Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Services Consultant will be selected by the December Board meeting, and the selected team will be presented at the meeting for Board Approval.

SCHEDULE

The Environmental approval process is anticipated to take two to three years. A detailed Project schedule will be produced once an Environmental Services Consultant has been selected and a detailed scope prepared.

UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Selection of a Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Services Consultant (December 2012)
- Begin Environmental Study (Early 2013)



- **February 29, 2012**
 - **Board Authorization to Issue Request for Qualifications (RFQ)**
- **July 27, 2012**
 - **Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) with TxDOT executed**
- **September 21, 2012**
 - **RFQ Issued**
- **October 12, 2012**
 - **RFQ Submittals Received**
- **October 12-24, 2012**
 - **Shortlist determined**
- **October 25, 2012**
 - **Short-listed Teams notified**
- **November 5, 2012**
 - **Interviews of Short-listed Teams**
- **November 6-16, 2012**
 - **Determination of Selected Team**
- **Nov/Dec Board Meeting**
 - **Board Approval of Selected Team**

Recommended Shortlist



AECOM

- AmaTerra Env (DBE)
- CP&Y
- Crespo Cons.Services (DBE)
- Hardy Heck Moore
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- Nancy Ledbetter & Associates (DBE)
- Rifeline (DBE)
- SAM, Inc
- SWCA Environmental Consultants

CH2MHill

- Alliance Trans Group (DBE)
- Cox-McLain (DBE)
- LJA Engineering
- Nancy Ledbetter (DBE)
- Rifeline (DBE)
- SAM, Inc
- SWCA Environmental

Parsons Brinkerhoff

- Aerial Data Service (DBE)
- AmaTerra Environmental (DBE)
- Blanton & Associates (DBE)
- Concept Development & Planning (DBE)
- K Friese & Associates (DBE)
- Kimley-Horn & Associates
- Klotz Associates
- LAN
- McGray & McGray Land Surveyors (DBE)
- Perkins Coie
- Cardno TBE
- Zara Environmental (DBE)

RS&H

- Civil Associates (DBE)
- Pape-Dawson
- Cox-McLain (DBE)
- K Friese & Associates(DBE)
- ACI Consulting
- Nancy Ledbetter DBE)
- SAM, Inc

Jacobs

- Don Martin Public Affairs
- Group Solutions RJW (DBE)
- Zara Environmental (DBE)
- Hicks & Co (DBE)
- K Friese & Associates(DBE)
- Michael E. Barrett, PhD, PE
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- SAM, Inc

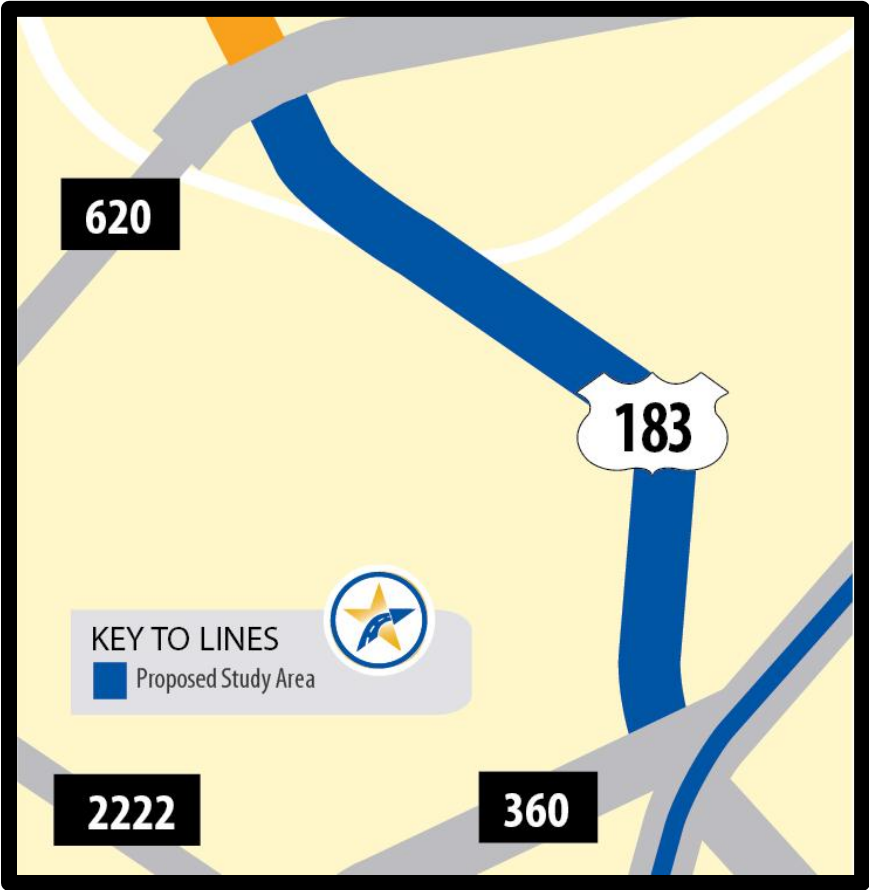
US 183 N Project

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT | No. 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mobility Authority will soon initiate activities to start the Environmental Study for improvements to US 183 North from RM 620 to Loop 1 (MoPac). Proposed improvements could include adding lane(s) along existing US 183, as well as direct connectors from US 183 and MoPac.

The project was selected as one of the recipients of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Surface Transportation Program - Metropolitan Mobility (STP MM) funding program. The environmental study and community outreach program are anticipated to start in 2013.



This report describes the status of the US 183 North Project and documents the activities accomplished through the third quarter of 2012.

ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, no action has occurred.

SCHEDULE

The schedule for this project is in development.

45 Southwest Project

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT | No. 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In an effort to improve mobility in southwest Travis County, the Mobility Authority is proposing a 3.6-mile, four-lane limited access expressway on a new alignment connecting Loop 1 (MoPac) South to FM 1626 in southern Travis County. Modeled after the success of the MoPac Improvement Project, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Mobility Authority are working collaboratively to complete the NEPA process while proactively reaching out to stakeholders and the environmental community. In 2011, TxDOT, via a professional services contract, authorized Phase One of the NEPA study which is focused on establishing logical termini for the proposed facility. The public outreach program will be initiated during Phase Two and an environmental impact statement (anticipated) and schematics will be prepared. Concurrent with the Phase One activities, CAMPO and the University of Texas' Center for Transportation Research are developing traffic modeling for the corridor on behalf of Travis and Hays Counties which may influence the proposed project.



This report describes the status of the 45 Southwest Project and documents the activities accomplished through the third quarter of 2012.

ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, no action has occurred.

SCHEDULE

Mobility Authority activities are currently on hold.