

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

TRAVIS County

MINUTE ORDER

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AUSTIN District

The Texas Department of Transportation (department) and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) developed a "CTRMA/TxDOT Regional Implementation Program" that provides for the funding and development of certain transportation system improvements within the jurisdictional limits of the CTRMA.

On October 8, 2007, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Transportation Policy Board approved amendments to CAMPO's 2030 Transportation Plan and the FY 2008-FY 2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), amending previous authorizations for the development of certain highway projects of the department that are located within the boundaries of CAMPO as toll projects, including the MoPac Improvement Project, an 11.2 mile project to add one express, variable-priced tolled lane in each direction on Loop 1 between Farm to Market 734 (Parmer Lane) and Cesar Chavez Street. On May 24, 2010, CAMPO approved the 2035 Transportation Plan. The MoPac Improvement Project is included in this plan.

Pursuant to former Section 228.0111 of the Transportation Code, the CTRMA exercised its option to develop, construct, and operate the MoPac Improvement Project. On September 13, 2012, pursuant to the authority granted by the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) in Minute Order 113252, dated August 30, 2012, the department and the CTRMA entered into an agreement under which financial assistance in the amount of \$197.6 million will be made available to the CTRMA to pay for the costs of constructing the MoPac Improvement Project, including utility relocation, construction of sound walls, installation of tolling equipment, and construction of grade separated ramps providing access to and from downtown Austin. The tolled lanes will be located in the median of the corridor separated from the existing general purpose lanes by a buffer zone.

The CTRMA and CAMPO have entered into an interlocal agreement concerning the MoPac Improvement Project. Under the interlocal agreement, CTRMA has agreed, in exchange for the allocation by CAMPO of \$130 million in funding to the project (in addition to the previous allocation of \$67.6 million), to establish a Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) and to deposit surplus revenues of the MoPac Improvement Project in the RIF, to be used to fund other eligible transportation projects in the region.

Transportation Code, §370.187 provides that a regional mobility authority may not begin construction of a transportation project that will connect to the state highway system or to a department rail facility without the approval of the commission. Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, §26.31 et seq. prescribe the conditions for that approval. Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, §11.58 provides that the commission must approve a public or private entity's connection of a regionally significant highway to the state highway system.

In accordance with 43 TAC §26.31 and 43 TAC §11.58, the CTRMA has submitted a request to the executive director to connect the MoPac Improvement Project to the state highway system in connection with the CTRMA's development and construction of the project, from FM 734 (Parmer Lane) to Cesar Chavez Street.

Pursuant to 43 TAC 26.31, the CTRMA has committed to comply with the applicable requirements of 43 TAC §26.33. Pursuant to 43 TAC §11.58(c), the CTRMA agrees to design and construct the portion of the MoPac Improvement Project that comprises the connection to the state highway system in compliance with the standards prescribed in 43 TAC §11.58(d). Pursuant to 43

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TAC §26.34, the department and the CTRMA have negotiated a project development agreement for the development, construction, operation, and maintenance of the MoPac Improvement Project.


The completion of the project will benefit the state and the traveling public and improve the efficiency of the state's transportation system by enhancing local and regional mobility, managing congestion, increasing capacity for traffic, providing reliable travel speeds for users, including transit, increasing safety, enhancing air quality, and enhancing operational efficiency in the project corridor and the regional transportation system. The project may be effectively integrated into the state's transportation system.

The project is consistent with the approved Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, and is included in CAMPO's FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program and in the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the executive director of the department is authorized to enter into a project development agreement with the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority for the development, construction, operation, and maintenance of the MoPac Improvement Project, an 11.2 mile project to add one express, variable tolled lane in each direction located in Travis County between FM 734 (Parmer Lane) and Cesar Chavez Street.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the connection of the MoPac Improvement Project with a segment of the state highway system is approved.

Submitted and reviewed by:



Director of Planning

Recommended by:



Executive Director

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Minute Number Date Passed