



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: December 30, 2013

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Division Director/Manager: Morgan Cotten, P.E., Public Works Director

Department Head: Steven M. Manilla, P.E., County Executive-TNR

Sponsoring Court Member: Commissioner Todd, Precinct Two

Commissioner Daugherty, Precinct Three

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Consider and take appropriate action to approve support of the US 183 North Mobility Project as a project partner.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) and TxDOT are currently developing the US 183 North Mobility Project cooperatively with local government partners and under the oversight of the Federal Highway Administration. This project will analyze an 8-mile segment of US 183 between SH 45 North and Mopac to determine the best options for managing congestion, improving transit reliability, and emergency response times. A full range of alternatives will be developed that will take into account the needs of drivers, transit riders, bicyclist, pedestrians, surrounding businesses, neighborhoods, and the environment. The environmental documents are currently being prepared. An alternative will be recommended in the summer of 2015 and a decision on what solution to implement is expected in early 2016. The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), Capital Metro, City of Austin, and Williamson County are listed as project partners. A large segment of this project is located within Precinct Two and Precinct Three of Travis County. Travis County has been participating in the technical work group meetings. Approval of the project support will allow CTRMA and TxDOT to list Travis County as a project partner in all publications.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

TNR recommends approval of the support.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Travis County is not contributing funds for this project.

183

NORTH

MOBILITY PROJECT

In August 2013, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation launched the 183 North Mobility Project. This new environmental study will thoroughly analyze an eight-mile segment of US 183 between SH 45 North and MoPac and determine the best options for managing congestion, as well as improving transit reliability and emergency response times. The study will also look at ways to connect mobility improvements on 183 North to the MoPac corridor.

Challenges Facing US 183 Corridor Drivers

Traffic congestion along US 183 between SH 45 North and MoPac is a major issue, especially during peak rush hour periods. The corridor provides access to downtown Austin, as well as businesses, major employment centers, religious institutions, schools, parks and trails, recreational centers, and residential areas, all of which could benefit from improved mobility, a reduction in

congestion, and reliable travel times for transit and emergency responders. Traffic congestion also creates delays for emergency response vehicles carrying patients to and from Seton Northwest Hospital, Concentra Urgent Care and numerous other health care facilities located along the corridor. As population and economic growth continue along and north of this corridor, it is anticipated that congestion will worsen and travel times will increase.

Why improve mobility along this section of the US 183 Corridor?

- Up to 187,000 cars and trucks travel this segment of US 183 daily (TxDOT Traffic Map, 2012)
- Capital Metro operates three park and ride lots and makes 58 trips per day along the corridor
- Populations in communities along the US 183 corridor grew between 70 and 848% between 1990 and 2010 (US Census, 1990-2010)
- Population in the communities of Cedar Park, Leander and Liberty Hill, north of the corridor, is estimated to increase 242% from 2010 to 2040 (Texas Water Development Board, 2013)
- Population growth is expected to increase by 50% in Travis and Williamson counties by 2035 (Texas State Data Center, 2012)





The Purpose and Need for the 183 North Mobility Project

Purpose (What are we trying to do?)

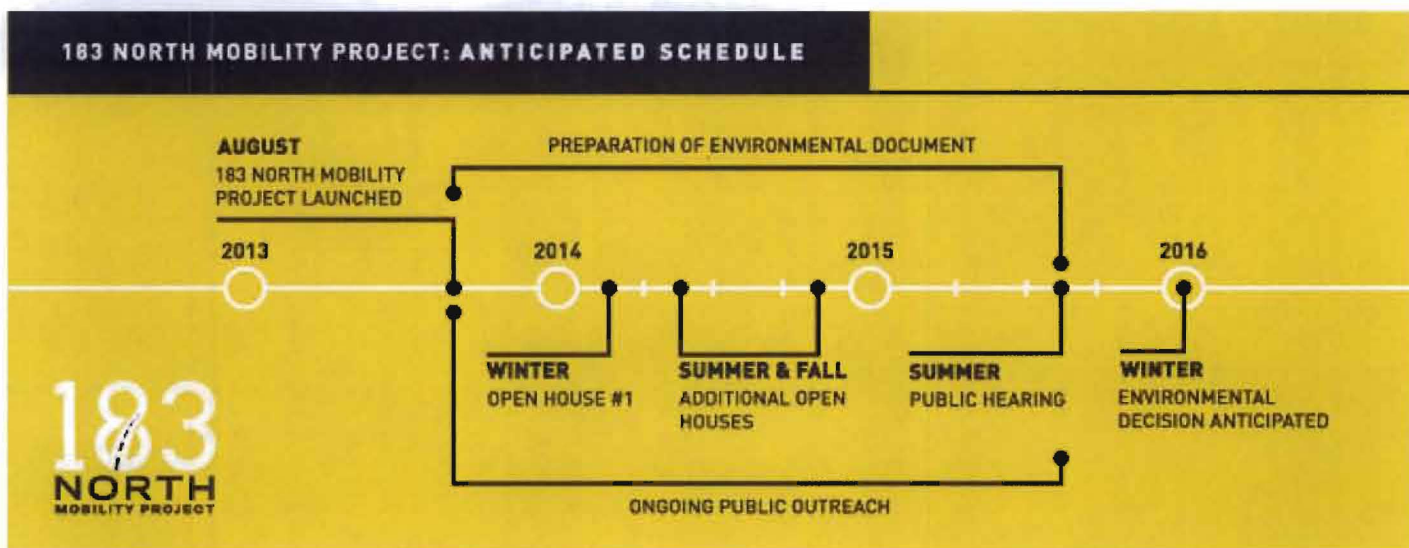
- Manage congestion in the corridor
- Maximize use of the existing facility without reducing reliability
- Provide a reliable route for transit
- Facilitate reliable emergency response

Need (What problem are we trying to address?)

- Traffic congestion

The Study Process

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation are developing the 183 North Mobility Project cooperatively with the City of Austin, Capital Metro and other local partners, with oversight by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other regulatory agencies. Over the course of the study, a full range of alternatives will be developed that will take into account the needs of drivers, transit riders, bicyclists and pedestrians as well as surrounding businesses, neighborhoods and the environment. To arrive at a recommended solution, the study team will analyze the engineering feasibility, social, economic and environmental impacts of each alternative. Public outreach will be ongoing throughout the study, and input received will be strongly considered. An alternative will be recommended in summer 2015 and a decision on what solution will be implemented is expected in early 2016.



Learn More, Provide Input and Get Involved

The 183 North Mobility Project team welcomes your feedback and questions. There are several options for learning more, providing input and getting involved in the process:

- Visit www.183North.com
- Sign up for email updates online
- Submit your comments and questions
- Attend meetings conducted throughout the study process
- Invite the project team to meet with your neighborhood or community group

Contact Us

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