



ALAMO RMA
Alamo Regional Mobility Authority
"Moving people faster"

AGENDA

**ALAMO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**TransGuide
3500 N.W. Loop 410
1st Floor Meeting Room
San Antonio, Texas
October 22, 2008
12:00 PM**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals may sign up to speak on any item shown below on the agenda. Individuals interested in speaking must sign up to speak prior to the item being placed in consideration before the Board of Directors. Speakers are allotted no more than 3 minutes to speak and time is not transferable between speakers. Any comments, which do not address a specific agenda item, must be made during the Citizens' Communications portion of the agenda, provided the individual has signed to speak prior to this period starting.

- 1) Call meeting to order.
- 2) Discussion and appropriate action authorizing the Executive Director to undertake necessary steps for the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Alamo RMA, the Texas Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration on the preparation and development of documents necessary to secure required environmental clearance for the 281 North Project and Loop 1604 project (Terry Brechtel)
- 3) Discussion and appropriate action on the ratification of an application for financial assistance submitted by the Executive Director to the Texas Department of Transportation for project development and related environmental clearance costs for the Loop 1604 and IH 35 projects (Terry Brechtel)
- 4) Citizens' Communications (citizens must sign the register to speak)
- 5) Executive Session - Pursuant to Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Texas Government Code
 - At any time during the meeting of the Alamo RMA Board of Directors, the Board may meet in executive session for consultation concerning attorney-client matters (real estate, litigation, contracts, personnel, and security) under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code:

- A. Subsection 551.071(1). Consultation with Attorney – Consultation with, and advice from legal counsel concerning pending/contemplated litigation, including *Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas and Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom v. United States Federal Highway Administration et. al*, settlement offers and negotiations, and other legal issues.
- B. Section 551.074. Personnel Matters – Deliberation concerning the appointment, employment, reassignment, evaluation, duties, discipline, and/or dismissal of Executive Director and other personnel.
- C. Section 551.072. Deliberation Regarding Real Property - Discussion of real property purchase, exchange, lease, license, gift, donation, and/or negotiated settlement, including property to be acquired for right-of-way.

6) Adjournment

NOTES

Agenda item numbers are assigned for ease of reference only, and do not necessarily reflect the order of their consideration by the Alamo RMA Board of Directors.

ALAMO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT FOR DISABLED PERSONS

This meeting site is accessible to disabled persons as follows: Entrance to TransGuide is accessible through the main entrance at 3500 N.W. Loop 410. Parking spaces reserved for the disabled are located at the main entrance. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services, such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, and readers of large print or Braille, are requested to contact Joelle Sierra at (210) 495-5256 at least two working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Presenters with audiovisual needs are requested to contact Joelle Sierra at (210) 495-5256, at least two working days prior to the meeting.

Posted at the Bexar County Courthouse and the Alamo RMA Administrative Offices at 12:00 p.m., Friday, October 16, 2008.



ALAMO RMA
Alamo Regional Mobility Authority
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Board Memorandum

To: Alamo Board of Directors

From: Terry M. Brechtel, Executive Director

Copies: File

Date: October 17, 2008

TMB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HENRY R. MUNOZ, III

JAMES R. REED

ROBERT S. THOMPSON

TERRY M. BRECHTEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Agenda Item: 2 Discussion and appropriate action authorizing the Executive Director to undertake necessary steps for the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Alamo RMA, TxDOT and FHWA on the preparation and development of documents necessary to secure required environmental clearance for the 281 North Project and Loop 1604 project

On October 1, 2008, the FHWA, at the request of TxDOT withdrew the environmental clearance for the 281 North project.

On October 13, 2008, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff requested the Alamo RMA consider taking the lead role in preparing a new environmental document for capacity improvements to the 281 North corridor and Loop 1604.

In his reply letter to Judge Wolff, Chairman Thornton indicated his support for this action and pledged to bring the item before the Alamo RMA Board for consideration as soon as possible.

This item would authorize the Executive Director to enter into discussions on a potential memorandum of understanding between TxDOT, FHWA and the Alamo RMA outlining the roles and responsibilities for each party, including the Alamo RMA being lead agency, in the development of environmental documents required to obtain necessary environmental clearance for the 281 North and Loop 1604 projects.

Additional items will be brought forward to the Alamo RMA Board at subsequent meetings regarding the approval of an MOU, if one is able to be negotiated; decisions on the process to move forward with an environmental planning and resource firm or consultants; and other related budgetary impacts.

Staff recommends approval of this item.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
ALAMO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY**

RESOLUTION NO. 08-27

WHEREAS, the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (“Alamo RMA”) was created pursuant to the request of Bexar County and in accordance with provisions of the Transportation Code and the petition and approval process established in 43 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 26.01, *et. seq.* (the “RMA Rules”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Alamo RMA has been constituted in accordance with the Transportation Code and the RMA Rules; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 370 of the Texas Transportation Code and the rules appearing in 43 Tex. Admin. Code § 27.50 *et. seq.* (the “Toll Equity Rules”), a regional mobility authority may submit to TxDOT a request for financial assistance to be used in connection with the development, construction, operation, and maintenance of turnpike projects; and

WHEREAS, the Alamo RMA anticipates assuming responsibility for conducting work necessary to secure environmental clearance for the Loop 1604 and IH 35 projects (the “Projects”) and other project development related activities; and

WHEREAS, the Alamo RMA has estimated the level of initial financial assistance needed from TxDOT for project development and environmental clearance costs for the Projects to be approximately \$ 21,585, 000.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Alamo RMA hereby approves and ratifies the submission to TxDOT of an Application for Financial Assistance pursuant to 43 Tex. Admin. Code §27.50 *et seq.*, in the amount of \$21, 585,000 to be used for project development and environmental clearance costs for the Projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman and Executive Director are authorized to execute such other documents as are necessary to supplement and process the Application for Financial Assistance to TxDOT on behalf of the Alamo RMA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Alamo RMA staff and consultants are authorized to take such actions as are necessary to prosecute the Application for Financial Assistance and to negotiate the terms of a Financial Assistance Agreement which shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority on the 22nd day of October, 2008.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Approved:

Terry M. Brechtel
Executive Director for the
Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

William E. Thornton
Chairman, Board of Directors
Resolution Number 08-27
Date Passed 10/22/08



NELSON W. WOLFF
COUNTY JUDGE
BEXAR COUNTY COURTHOUSE
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205-3036
(210) 335-2626 • FAX (210) 335-2926
Email - nwoff@bexar.org

October 13, 2008

Dr. William E. Thornton
Chair, Alamo Regional Mobility Authority
16500 San Pedro, Suite 350
San Antonio, Texas, 78232

Bill
Dear Chairman Thornton:

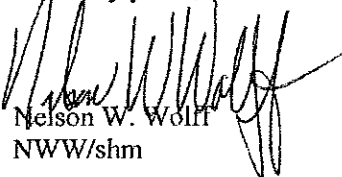
As you are well aware, congestion relief for the citizens of northern Bexar County is again delayed because of the withdrawal of previously approved environmental clearances for the U.S. 281 project. The drivers and passengers of the more than 95,000 vehicles traveling daily along this 8-mile stretch of road will continue to experience traffic delays, frustration and potentially unsafe conditions. While the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (Alamo RMA) is not currently responsible for conducting either the environmental study or addressing potentially unsafe conditions, I believe the community would benefit if this locally-controlled organization would assume a larger role in both issues.

I request that the Alamo RMA take over as lead agency for conducting the required environmental studies for U.S. 281 and Loop 1604. Because of the location, proximity to the aquifer, and the public interest in these projects, I additionally request the Alamo RMA work with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to ensure that these studies are of the highest possible standard and that community members directly participate in the studies.

Because these new environmental studies could take a minimum of two years, I additionally request the Alamo RMA work with TxDOT to identify and implement safety improvements within these project corridors as soon as possible. I understand that these improvements will not relieve congestion or the frustration now experienced by travelers, but they could help ensure their safe passage.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience the Alamo RMA's view of taking on this additional responsibility. Thank you and your organization for your continued work to improve mobility within Bexar County and for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely yours,


Nelson W. Wolff
NWW/shm



ALAMO RMA

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

"Moving people faster"

October 17, 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors;

The recent, sudden withdrawal of federal environmental clearance for improvements to the 281 North corridor has raised some questions from residents and businesses in this area. As the local entity responsible for transportation options in our community, the Alamo RMA would like to provide some answers and other options as the effort to relieve traffic in San Antonio's fastest growing area moves forward.

Two weeks ago, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) withdrew the environmental clearance for improvements on US 281. This devastating action has stalled any additional capacity on US 281 until a new environmental clearance can be granted. A new study is estimated to take between 2 to 5 years to complete.

This action was requested by the Texas Department of Transportation after it discovered irregularities in its procurement of portions of the scientific study team. TxDOT's requests, and FHWA's action, were not based on any finding that the environmental studies were flawed or inaccurate- their actions were based solely on procurement irregularities. The Alamo RMA was not involved in any way in the procurement or preparation of the environmental studies.

The withdrawal of the environmental clearance delays planned traffic relief efforts in the 281 North corridor. The project, which would have been publicly owned and operated, would have contained non-tolled and tolled lanes and was expected to open in approximately 44 months from the time construction started. The decision to remove the clearance - the second official clearance that this corridor has received this decade - means that no capacity improvements to the 281 North corridor, tolled or non-tolled, can happen until a new environmental study is completed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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JAMES R. REED

ROBERT S. THOMPSON

TERRY M. BRECHTEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority
16500 San Pedro, Ste 350 San Antonio, Texas 78232
(210) 495-5256 (210) 495-5403 Fax
www.AlamorMA.org

This situation raises questions about the near-term and long-term future of the corridor, which the Alamo RMA would like to address:

- An overpass only plan raises serious safety concerns for the driving public. As part of the last environmental clearance study, the FHWA found that building overpasses only is not a solution to relieving traffic congestion along this corridor; and it rejected plans that involved building overpasses only without building the expressway sections, similar to the rest of 281 south of Loop 1604. The FHWA determined that overpasses only, without additional lanes, would create unsafe driving conditions due to the number of driveways, which would still need access to the roadway to allow residents and customers to enter subdivisions and businesses.
- County Judge Nelson Wolff has requested the Alamo RMA take the lead role in preparing a new environmental document for 281 North and to find ways to improve the safety in this corridor while that new study is ongoing. It is the Alamo RMA's intent to manage the environmental process from this point forward. We are exploring options to alleviate traffic and improve safety along the corridor prior to the time new capacity can be added. New capacity will require environmental clearance, but we are confident we can find safety improvements which can help today without needing to wait for the new study to be complete. While these improvements will not alleviate congestion in this corridor, they may help to make travel in the corridor safer until meaningful improvements can be made through the addition of new capacity. In making any improvements the Alamo RMA is committed to doing so without violating federal and state laws to protect the sensitive environment which is important to our community.

This unfortunate delay is further evidence of the need for local leadership and local control over Bexar County's transportation projects. We will continue to work closely with our transportation partners – looking at all options for the community including light rail and other modes of transportation.

As we make progress, direct, two-way communication is important to ensure a productive dialogue. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Alamo RMA Community Relations staff at (210) 495-5256 or info@AlamoRMA.org.

Sincerely,



Dr. William E. Thornton
Chairman



ALAMO RMA
 Alamo Regional Mobility Authority
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Board Memorandum

To: Alamo Board of Directors

From: Terry M. Brechtel, Executive Director

TMB

Copies: File

Date: October 17, 2008

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DR. WILLIAM E. THORNTON
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ROBERT S. THOMPSON

TERRY M. BRECHTEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Agenda Item: 3 Discussion and appropriate action on the ratification of an application for financial assistance submitted by the Executive Director to the Texas Department of Transportation for project development and related environmental clearance costs for the Loop 1604 and IH 35 projects

On October 8, 2008, the Alamo RMA submitted an application for financial assistance, in the form of a toll equity grant for project development, to the Texas Department of Transportation to assist in the preliminary funding for project development costs, and environmental clearance costs, for the Loop 1604 project and the IH 35 project.

The item before the Board ratifies the application submitted by the Executive Director which was necessary to be included on the October 30, 2008 agenda for the Texas Transportation Commission.

Specifically, the application for toll equity, which is estimated to cover a four year period for environmental clearance and project development, would be used to fund the amounts shown below:

	<u>IH 35</u>	<u>Loop 1604</u>
<u>Feasibility Studies</u> ¹	\$900,000	\$500,000
<u>Environmental Studies</u> ²	\$5,400,000	\$7,200,000
<u>GEC Program Management</u>	\$645,000	\$790,000
<u>Alamo RMA Administration</u>	\$1,600,000	\$3,200,000
<u>Public Involvement</u> ³	\$650,000	\$700,000
<u>Total</u>	\$ 9,195,000	\$ 12,390,000

Staff recommends ratification of this item.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
ALAMO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY**

RESOLUTION NO. 08-28

WHEREAS, the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (“Alamo RMA”) was created pursuant to the request of Bexar County and in accordance with provisions of the Transportation Code and the petition and approval process established in 43 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 26.01, *et. seq.* (the “RMA Rules”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Alamo RMA has been constituted in accordance with the Transportation Code and the RMA Rules; and

WHEREAS, the 281 North Project was identified as one of the Alamo RMA’s initial projects in the petition to form the Alamo RMA; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2007, pursuant to Senate Bill 792 and Section 228.0111(g) of the Transportation Code, the Board of Directors of the Alamo RMA exercised its option to develop the 281 North Project; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2008, the Texas Transportation Commission approved Minute Order No. 111257 authorizing the removal from the state highway system and transfer to the Alamo RMA of the portion of US 281 comprising the roadway and associated right of way from Loop 1604 to the Bexar/Comal County line; and

WHEREAS, the 281 North Project is subject to review under the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”), 42 U.S.C. Section 4321, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, NEPA requires analysis of the impacts of proposed federal actions having the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment and preparation of documentation evidencing that analysis and the resulting conclusions reached concerning potential impacts of a project on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation (“TxDOT”) previously prepared an environmental assessment (“EA”) for the 281 North Project, and, on August 14, 2007, the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”) issued a finding of no significant impact (“FONSI”) based on the results of the EA; and

WHEREAS, at TxDOT’s request, FHWA recently withdrew the FONSI for the 281 North Project in light of potential irregularities in TxDOT’s procurement of a scientific services contract related to the preparation of the EA; and

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of the FONSI requires a new process for preparing required documentation to secure environmental clearance the 281 North Project; and

WHEREAS, the Loop 1604 project is currently undergoing study as required by NEPA and preparation of documentation necessary to evidence environmental clearance for the project; and

WHEREAS, Loop 1604 is a project for which the Alamo RMA anticipates assuming development authority; and

WHEREAS, FHWA, TxDOT, and the Alamo RMA desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the respective roles and responsibilities of the parties regarding the preparation and development of environmental documents for the 281 North Project and the Loop 1604 project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director of the Alamo RMA is hereby authorized to undertake necessary steps for the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between FHWA, TxDOT, and the Alamo RMA concerning the respective roles and responsibilities of the parties regarding the preparation and development of environmental documents for the 281 North Project and the Loop 1604 project.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority on the 22nd day of October, 2008.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Approved:

Terry M. Brechtel
Executive Director for the
Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

William E. Thornton
Chairman, Board of Directors
Resolution Number 08-28
Date Passed 10/22/08



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October 8, 2008

Mr. Amadeo Saenz, Jr., P.E.
Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Saenz,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (Alamo RMA), I am pleased to submit to you the enclosed Application for Financial Assistance – Advanced Toll Equity Grant. We are submitting this application to secure funding for the development, feasibility, and related environmental clearance costs of projects previously transferred and to be transferred to the Alamo RMA by the Texas Transportation Commission. These projects are: 1) Interstate Highway 35 from the Bexar/Guadalupe County Line south to Interstate Highway 37 in the Central Business District of San Antonio, and 2) Loop 1604 from State Highway 151 to Interstate Highway 35.

If you have any questions please contact me at (210) 495-5256 or email tbrechtel@AlamoRMA.org. We look forward to continuing the partnership with TxDOT on the development of needed added capacity projects within Bexar County.

Sincerely,

Terry M. Brechtel
Executive Director

Enclosure – Toll Equity Grant Application for Project Development

cc:

Alamo RMA Board of Directors
Phillip Russell, P.E., - Assistant Executive Director for Innovative Project Development
James Bass -- Chief Financial Officer
Robert Jackson – General Counsel
Mario Medina, P.E., District Engineer, San Antonio District
Mark Tomlinson, P.E. – Director, Texas Turnpike Authority Division

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority
16500 San Pedro, Ste 350 San Antonio, Texas 78232
210.495.5256 / 210.495.5403 (Fax) www.AlamorMA.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ROBERT S. THOMPSON

TERRY M. BRECHTEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Application for Financial Assistance Toll Equity Grant (Project Development)

Section I – Application Information

Applicant Name: Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

IRS Employer ID#: N/A **Project Name:** IH 35, Loop 1604 Project Development

Business Address: 16500 San Pedro Ave, Ste 350, San Antonio, Texas 78232

Business Phone: 210-495-5256

Business Fax: 210-495-5403

Contact Person (s):

Applicant is a Regional Mobility Authority consisting of Bexar County, created pursuant to Chapter 370 of the Texas Transportation Code and the 43 Texas Admin. Code Section 26 and authorized by a minute order of the Texas Transportation Commission approved on December 18, 2003.

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority:

Terry M. Brechtel
Executive Director
Alamo Regional Mobility Authority
16500 San Pedro Avenue, Suite 350
San Antonio, Texas 78232
(210) 495-5256

Staff Technical Contact:

Patrick L. Irwin, P.E.
Director of Engineering and Operations
Alamo Regional Mobility Authority
16500 San Pedro Avenue, Suite 350
San Antonio, Texas 78232
(210) 495-5256

Section II (continued) – Financial Information

	<u>IH 35</u>	<u>Loop 1604</u>
<u>Feasibility Studies</u> ¹	\$900,000	\$500,000
<u>Environmental Studies</u> ²	\$5,400,000	\$7,200,000
<u>GEC Program Management</u>	\$645,000	\$790,000
<u>Alamo RMA Administration</u>	\$1,600,000	\$3,200,000
<u>Public Involvement</u> ³	\$650,000	\$700,000
<u>Total</u>	\$ 9,195,000	\$ 12,390,000

- 1) Includes financial feasibility studies, (i.e. traffic and revenue studies up to and inclusive of investment grade preparation,) engineering feasibility and related studies and analysis
- 2) Includes public involvement required under NEPA standards
- 3) Includes additional public involvement which may involve context sensitive design solutions, public working groups and other outreach opportunities above the standard NEPA process

Bond rating letter from Moody’s, Standard and Poor’s, etc.:

Bond rating will be sought after the completion of the Investment Grade Traffic and Revenue Study, the adoption of the final financing plan and trust agreement and the Texas Transportation Commission authorization to construct each project.

Board of Directors resolution authorizing application: The Alamo RMA Board of Directors will ratify this application at the next meeting of the Board and copies of the resolution and minutes will be forwarded at that time.

Description of projects and their need including the potential impact on traffic congestion and mobility:

The Alamo RMA, an entity under local control but working in cooperation with TxDOT, seeks to develop turnpike projects and provide support to other transportation improvements in the region which otherwise might depend solely on traditional State or Federal funding.

The proposed IH 35 and Loop 1604 toll projects total 54 miles in length and are located within Bexar County.

Over recent years, Bexar County has experienced growth rates that are among the highest of any area in the country. Improvements to transportation infrastructures are vital to meet the demands resulting from this growth. The current roadways carry traffic volumes

that far exceed the safe and efficient carrying capacity of facilities of their configuration. The IH 35 and Loop 1604 Toll Projects will serve to add capacity to those existing corridors.

These Toll projects will be important additions to the highway system within Bexar County. The traveling public will benefit from these Toll Projects as integral parts of the highway system along existing corridors experiencing the largest amount of growth and will be delivered sooner than would otherwise be possible under traditional methods of transportation funding and project development. These Toll Projects will also enhance safety, decrease travel time, and generally improve the quality of life of citizens of the region.

Application for Financial Assistance Toll Equity Grant (Project Development)

Section III – Project Information

Type of Project: Highway Project

IH 35 and Loop 1604 Toll Projects

1) Initial Routes and Potential Alignments:

The Alamo RMA will develop the projects. The projects consist of IH 35 from the Bexar / Guadalupe County Line to IH 37 / US 281 in Bexar County, and Loop 1604 from SH 151 to IH 35, as well as other potential facilities to the extent necessary for connectivity and financing. These corridors are in line with Texas Transportation Commission Minute Order 110974, listing corridors for development, construction, and operation as toll projects.

2) Projects' Logical Termini and Independent Utility:

The logical termini are described in the “Initial Route and Potential Alignments” section. These potential Toll Projects are crucial elements in responding to severe traffic congestion that exists and will significantly worsen in the San Antonio area.

3) Potential Revisions or changes to state highway system facilities:

The IH 35 and Loop 1604 Toll Projects have been included in the San Antonio – Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization’s approved Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and are a part of TxDOT’s “The Plan” as toll projects. These corridors are also part of the statewide listing of designated potential toll corridors under actions taken by the Texas Transportation Commission in Minute Order 110974.

4) Environmental Review of Projects:

A) Environmental Impact and Compliance with Local, State and Federal Environmental Laws:

The Alamo RMA will complete the Environmental Impact and Compliance Studies initiated by TxDOT and will identify and secure federal and state environmental permits, issues, and commitments necessary for the development of IH 35 and Loop 1604. The Alamo RMA will assume responsibility for completing the ongoing environmental clearance work being conducted on the Loop 1604 project by the TxDOT San Antonio District.

Section III (continued) – Project Information

B) Implementation of all Environmental Permits, Issues, and Commitments (EPIC):

The Alamo RMA will identify and secure federal and state environmental permits, issues, and commitments necessary for the development of the IH 35 and Loop 1604 toll projects.

C) Supplemental Environmental Information and Data:

Portions of the information required under “Project Impacts” are reflected in the records of TxDOT, including without limitation other initial records of decisions obtained by TxDOT.

5) Toll Interoperability

The Alamo RMA will require and specify that the IH 35 and Loop 1604 Toll Projects will implement an electronic toll collection system that will be compatible (interoperable) with other toll collection systems operated in the State of Texas.



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Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

"Moving people faster"

October 13, 2008

Mr. Amadeo Saenz, Jr., P.E.
Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

RE: Submission of information required under 43 TAC 27.53 (b) 12 for Loop 1604 and IH 35 Toll Equity Grant Application

Dear Mr. Saenz,

The Alamo RMA provides this supplemental information to meet the requirements of the above referenced portion of Texas Administrative Code for the Loop 1604 and IH 35 toll equity grant application for project development.

As you may recall, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) had previously proposed the addition of tolled lanes to Loop 1604 and conducted public meetings and a public hearing on this proposal during 2007 as part of ongoing environmental studies. Additionally, the concept of additional tolled lanes on Loop 1604 and IH 35 have been included in the San Antonio Bexar County Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2030, approved in 2004, and, in December 2007, Texas Mobility Funding was allocated by the MPO to the Loop 1604 project.

The Alamo RMA is committed to going beyond the minimum requirements for public involvement as called for under the National Environmental Policy Act process and procedures. For IH 35 and Loop 1604, the Alamo RMA envisions engaging in a number of public meetings, stakeholder functions, and utilizing other outreach tools to involve the community during the environmental clearance process for both of these projects. As referenced in the application for toll equity, the Alamo RMA also anticipates the modification of existing animation files to visually show the preferred alternative, once identified, under consideration as the environmental process moves forward.

If you have any questions please contact me at (210) 495-5256 or email TBrechtel@AlamoRMA.org. We look forward to continuing the partnership with TxDOT on the development of needed added capacity projects within Bexar County.

Sincerely,

Terry M. Brechtel
Executive Director

cc:

Alamo RMA Board of Directors
Phillip Russell, P.E., - Assistant Executive Director for Innovative Project Development
James Bass -- Chief Financial Officer
Robert Jackson - General Counsel
Mario Medina, P.E., District Engineer, San Antonio District
Mark Tomlinson, P.E. - Director, Texas Turnpike Authority Division

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