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US 281 Super Street receives Environmental Clearance, project to move forward

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(SAN ANTONIO) – September 29, 2009 – The Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (Alamo RMA) received direction from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to proceed with a Categorical Exclusion and construct the US 281 Super Street project, finally bringing congestion relief to a community that has yet to see any.

A categorical exclusion allows the Alamo RMA to make traffic and safety improvements while staying within Federal environmental law requirements. The Super Street is an interim solution that will bring traffic relief without adding additional capacity until an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); a comprehensive detailed environmental study is completed over the next two and a half years.

“Today is a win for our community, one of the most heavily traveled corridors will have congestion relief soon,” said Dr. William Thornton, Chairman of the Alamo RMA Board of Directors. “Even though it’s a short-term improvement, our community won’t have to sit in traffic and stare at tail lights because the Super Street will get them moving faster and reduce traffic accidents.”

The Super Street concept was proposed by Pape-Dawson Engineers, a local engineering company, late last year after environmental groups sued and FHWA removed environmental clearance from the US 281 corridor, north of Loop 1604 . The Super Street concept has been a grass-roots community effort and is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Advanced Transportation District (ATD), and City of San Antonio.

The Alamo RMA held a public open house this past summer where the community viewed animations and time savings they will see by driving the Super Street. The Alamo RMA will award a construction contract in January 2010, with construction to be completed by the summer of 2010. To learn more about the 281 Super Street and other Alamo RMA projects visit www.411on281.com and www.AlamoRMA.org.

About the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

Overseen by a seven-member Board of Directors, the Alamo RMA includes a professional staff and consultant team that are committed to finding ways to empower our local community to take charge of our transportation future. The purpose of the Alamo RMA is to provide Bexar County with opportunities to accelerate needed transportation projects - through the direction of a local board making local choices about local mobility needs - that enhance the quality of life and economic growth for all residents in our region.