



**CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority**

August 6, 2015

Mayor Thom Farrell
City of Rollingwood
403 Nixon Drive
Rollingwood, Texas 78746

Dear Mayor Farrell,

Thank you for your recent letter sharing your thoughts and concerns with the Mobility Authority regarding the MoPac South project. We appreciate the City's support for mobility and safety improvements to the MoPac South corridor and your willingness to partner with us as we further develop our Express Lanes alternative. As you mentioned in your letter, the Mobility Authority has extended the environmental study process to allow for additional community input and engineering analysis on the project. In addition to the concept that was presented at our last Open House - two express lanes in each direction with a direct connection in to downtown, the study team is developing five additional operational concepts, including a concept provided by the City of Austin. The review and analysis of these concepts is ongoing, and we look forward to sharing the new information with the community at our next Open House. All or parts of these concepts could become part of the preferred alternative – or none at all.

While I understand your concerns regarding the elevated lanes, if the original MoPac had never been built due to similar concerns, we would have had an additional 150,000 vehicles winding their way through neighborhoods and city streets on their way to downtown and area employment centers. Your statement concerning the traffic flow to downtown (“will not improve traffic flow”) may be your opinion, but is not necessarily factual. The Mobility Authority, as you well know, is engaged in studies to determine the net impact downstream – and anticipates their release in the next few weeks.

You are correct to point out that CAMPO supports the two express lanes in each direction – in fact it was a unanimous vote. And again, we welcome your “not generally opposed” support of the project.

The next Open House will also afford us the opportunity to advance our Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process, a collaborative approach to develop transportation facilities that fit within its surroundings. The CSS approach leads to preserving and enhancing scenic, aesthetic, historic, community and environmental resources, while improving or maintaining safety, mobility and infrastructure conditions. As we advance the Express Lanes alternative and we narrow the different operational concepts, we will begin discussions regarding aesthetics and structures.

3300 N IH-35, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78705
Telephone: (512) 996-9778 / Fax: (512) 996-9784 / www.MobilityAuthority.com

Ray A. Wilkerson, *Chairman* • James H. Mills, Jr., *Vice-Chairman* • Robert L. Bennett, Jr., *Treasurer*
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Prior to the next Open House, we will host our fourth technical work group meeting. As with the Agency Scoping Meeting and three previously held technical work group meetings, I will ensure an invitation to City staff is extended and look forward to your participation.

In regard to the intersection of MoPac and FM 2244, multiple improvements have been proposed as part of this project. Non-signalized u-turns (Texas turnarounds) on the Barton Skyway Bridge have been included as well as modifications to the southbound FM 2244 exit ramp to allow for better sight distance and extended merging time for drivers exiting MoPac and turning west on FM 2244. Continuous sidewalks for pedestrians are also planned, to facilitate mobility for all users. We look forward to continuing our work together with the City, but significant improvements have already been incorporated into the corridor.

Again, thank you for your input and feedback on the study. We will continue to work with the community to develop the best possible options for improving mobility and upholding community values.

Regards,



Mike Heiligenstein
Executive Director
Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority

Cc: Al Alonzi, Federal Highway Administration
Russell Zapalac, Texas Department of Transportation
Ashby Johnson, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization