

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" (program) that provides for the funding and development of certain transportation system improvements within the jurisdictional limits of the CTRMA.

On July 12, 2004, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Transportation Policy Board approved amendments to CAMPO's 2025 Transportation Plan and the FY 2004-FY 2008 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), authorizing the development of projects in the program as toll roads subject, in certain instances, to conditions imposed by certain clarifying resolutions.

Projects added to the 2025 Transportation Plan and the FY 2004-FY 2008 STIP as part of the program include: (1) US 290 West/SH 71 interchange (the "Y" in Oak Hill), (2) US 183 East from I-35 to SH 71, (3) SH 45 Southwest from Loop 1 to FM 1626, (4) US 290 East from US 183 to east of SH 130, and (5) SH 71 East from I-35 to the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (Phase 2 projects).

In Minute Order 110053, dated April 28, 2005, the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) requested that the CTRMA take such actions or conduct such studies and evaluations as may be necessary to determine the viability of jointly developing and financing with the department the Phase 2 projects, and to present proposals identifying the relative rights and obligations of the department and the CTRMA in the planning, design, financing, construction, operation, and ownership of the Phase 2 projects.

CTRMA has proposed an innovative plan for the financing and development of the US 290 East project that contemplates the planning, financing, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the project by the CTRMA. CTRMA would be provided a license to use state-owned right of way to construct and operate a CTRMA owned toll project in the median of US 290 East, with the highway reconstructed and expanded to provide, on the highway and adjacent facilities, an equivalent or greater number of nontolled lanes than currently exist. The nontolled portion of the project would remain under the jurisdiction of the department. The CTRMA proposal would provide leveraged funding for the expeditious financing and construction of the project, including the proceeds of toll revenue bonds issued by the CTRMA or other funding provided by the private sector.

The reconstruction and expansion of US 290 East from US 183 to east of SH 130 is a project of significant importance to mobility in the Austin metropolitan area and in the jurisdictional limits of the CTRMA. The commission recognizes that innovative financing methods, including tolls, are an effective means of maximizing the use of limited available resources, without compromising the quality of Texas' transportation system. The commission encourages the development of partnerships (particularly with regional mobility authorities) and the employment of innovative methods to finance and construct needed transportation improvements.

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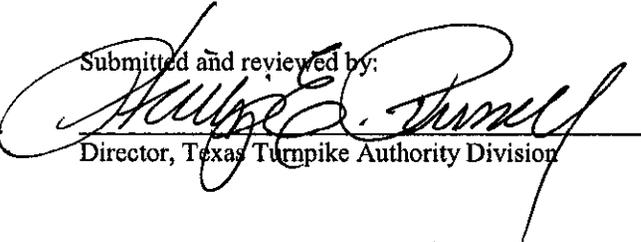
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AUSTIN District

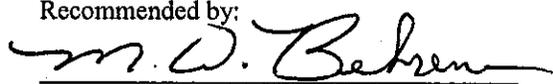
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the executive director is authorized to negotiate and develop an agreement with the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority for the planning, financing, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the US 290 East project by the CTRMA, including a license of state-owned right of way to the CTRMA for the purpose of developing a CTRMA toll project in the median of US 290.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the executive director is directed to present the agreement to the commission for its future consideration.

Submitted and reviewed by:


Director, Texas Turnpike Authority Division

Recommended by:


Executive Director

110190 AUG 25 05

Minute
Number

Date
Passed