

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

BEXAR County

MINUTE ORDER

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SAN ANTONIO District

In Minute Order 109523, dated December 18, 2003, the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) authorized the creation of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (authority), formerly known as the Bexar County Regional Mobility Authority, with the boundaries of the authority to be the entire geographic area of Bexar County, Texas.

The Texas Department of Transportation (department) and the authority have worked together to identify an approach to provide for the funding and development of certain transportation system improvements within the jurisdictional limits of the authority.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) of the San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) identifies several projects within the jurisdictional limits of the authority to be developed as toll projects, including Loop 1604 from US 90 to I-35.

Transportation Code, §370.301 authorizes the department to provide for or contribute to the payment of costs of the design, financing, construction, operation, or maintenance of a turnpike project by a regional mobility authority (RMA) on terms agreed to by the department and the RMA. Transportation Code, §222.103 authorizes the department to participate, by spending money from any available source, in the acquisition, construction, maintenance, or operation of a toll facility of a public or private entity on terms and conditions established by the commission.

Pursuant to Transportation Code, §222.103, the commission adopted Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, §27.50-27.58 (toll equity rules) to prescribe conditions for the commission's financing of a toll facility of a public or private entity.

In accordance with Sections 27.53 and 27.54 of the toll equity rules, the commission, in Minute Order 111626, dated December 18, 2008, granted final approval of financial assistance in the amount of \$12.39 million, to be used to fund the costs of feasibility studies, environmental studies, public involvement, schematics, and preliminary financial plans associated with the addition of toll lanes on Loop 1604 from SH 151 to I-35, including the costs of necessary administrative, legal, engineering, and other services.

On February 3, 2009, the authority and the department executed the financial assistance agreement for the Loop 1604 project.

On December 7, 2009, the San Antonio-Bexar County MPO adopted the region's 2035 MTP, including a continuation of the roadway improvements along Loop 1604 to US 90.

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On December 23, 2009, the authority submitted a request to extend the project limits under the financial assistance agreement from SH 151 to US 90, and to amend the financial assistance agreement to allow for the expenditure of funds under the agreement on the additional adjacent segment of the project.

The adjacent segment is needed based upon compromised safety, decreased mobility, and operational efficiencies (as indicated by substantial traffic growth), and the need for expedited delivery and early implementation.

The project will benefit the state and the traveling public and improve the efficiency of the state's transportation system by enhancing mobility and safety within this busy corridor.

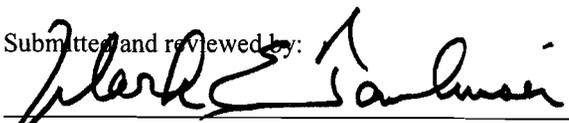
The project will expand the availability of funding for transportation projects or reduce direct state costs by the authority's issuance of bonds to finance other costs of the project.

The project is consistent with the approved Statewide Transportation Plan and the approved plan of the San Antonio-Bexar County MPO.

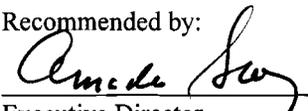
Based on the above information, the commission has determined that providing financial assistance to pay for costs of the Loop 1604 project from US 90 to I-35 will prudently provide for the protection of public funds, and that, given the level of project development to date, the project will provide for all reasonable and feasible measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DETERMINED that the request submitted by the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority to extend the Loop 1604 project limits under the financial assistance agreement from SH 151 to US 90 and to authorize the expenditure of funds under the agreement on the additional adjacent project segment in accordance with that agreement's terms and conditions is approved, and the commission authorizes the executive director to enter into an amendment to the financial assistance agreement with the authority consistent with this minute order.

Submitted and reviewed by:

  
Director, Texas Turnpike Authority Division

Recommended by:

  
Executive Director

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Minute Number      Date Passed