

ALAMO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY  
OPEN HOUSE  
U.S. 281/LOOP 1604 INTERCHANGE PROJECT  
PUBLIC COMMENTS

HARVEST FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH  
1270 NORTH LOOP 1604 EAST  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78232

AUGUST 25, 2009  
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

1                   MR. PATRICK DOSSEY: (202 Basswood; San  
2 Antonio, Texas 78213) My name is Patrick Dossey. I  
3 wish to file my opinion on building half of an  
4 interchange at 1604 and 281.

5                   I think it's ill conceived to use the  
6 Obama stimulus money to only build half of an  
7 interchange which is only going to create more traffic  
8 hazards in the area, more pollution, and actually delay  
9 the fix that we need on 281. They should use the Obama  
10 money, plus what money they have available, currently,  
11 to finish 281 and the whole interchange so that we can  
12 have -- get rid of the traffic problems and create --  
13 eliminate the traffic hazard that we have on 1604 and  
14 281 north of 1604. Thank you.

15                   \*\*\*\*\*

16                   MR. DON P. DIXON: (206 Morningside Drive;  
17 San Antonio, Texas 78209) I just looked at the  
18 schematic and they're going to spend \$140 million  
19 building these ramps, but it looks like they're only  
20 going to build the south side rams. Now, if they're --  
21 if they're going to build this project as a priority,  
22 they should build eight connectors rather than four  
23 connectors and scrap some of -- some of this periphery  
24 stuff way -- way down away from the intersection.

25                   But, actually, this particular

1 intersection should not be the priority to spend the  
2 money. The first priority, definitely, should be 281  
3 north of 1604 building an expressway type road with  
4 under -- underpasses, and then finish that project first  
5 because that is, by far, the most critical project.

6 Now, the organization that's doing this is  
7 the Regional Mobility Authority. Now, that organization  
8 should not be doing this project. This project should  
9 be done by the State of Texas, TxDOT, because we -- we  
10 have been paying these people to build our roads, design  
11 our roads for generations; probably since the early  
12 1900s we have done this. They should be doing this  
13 project. We shouldn't have another sequitur of  
14 bureaucracy coming in taking jobs away from these people  
15 and -- and having to -- having to pay another  
16 bureaucracy to do this job. We're already paying TxDOT  
17 to do design work so they should be doing this job.

18 The -- the stimulus money that's coming  
19 in, and what other money that they're gathering in  
20 should be prioritized, certainly, for the 281 project  
21 north with the inter- -- the overpasses and -- and a  
22 freeway there. That would be, by far, the better use.  
23 Whatever TxDOT needs to do to get that done, that's what  
24 they need to do.

25 \*\*\*\*\*

1 MR. RUSSEL SEGUIN: (4340 Laurie Michelle;  
2 San Antonio, Texas 78261) Okay. My name's Russell  
3 Seguin and I've been living in San Antonio my entire  
4 life. I am adamantly opposed to tolling an existing  
5 road of any type. There is absolutely no reason why,  
6 with the taxes that have been funneled into this area,  
7 that we should not have our overpasses put in already.

8 If Comal County can put in their overpass  
9 at 46 and 281 ten years ago, there's no reason why Bexar  
10 County cannot put our overpasses in where they're  
11 needing to be at this point. I guess that's it.

12 \*\*\*\*\*

13 MR. DON P. DIXON: (206 Morningside Drive;  
14 San Antonio, Texas 78209) My name is Don Dixon and I  
15 came to -- came to the meeting to check on the  
16 categorical exclusion for the environmental study and to  
17 take a look at that along with the plan, and they don't  
18 have that. So that's part of the -- part of the process  
19 of this meeting, so, you know, the -- I didn't get to  
20 learn everything I was supposed to because they didn't  
21 have their categorical exclusion ready to go. So that's  
22 it.

23 \*\*\*\*\*

24 MS. DEBORAH WALL: (20561 Wind Springs;  
25 San Antonio, Texas 78258) I came to see the categorical

1 exclusion and it's not here. Where is it?  
2 \*\*\*\*\*  
3 MR. DAVID WALSWORTH: (607 Belmark Court;  
4 San Antonio, Texas 78258) Okay. I'm David Walsworth.  
5 I want to go on public record as supporting the 1604/281  
6 project. And my wife supports it as well. That's it.

7 \*\*\*\*\*  
8 MR. ROBERT WALTER: (17318 Fountain Bluff;  
9 San Antonio, Texas 78248) Yeah. I think that this --  
10 there should be appropriate polling, opinion polling of  
11 whether or not the people in the community want toll  
12 roads or freeways. I mean, it just seems relatively  
13 simple to me. I think it would reduce the arguments.

14 \*\*\*\*\*  
15 MS. KAREN WALTER: (17318 Fountain Bluff;  
16 San Antonio, Texas 78248) Basically, what I would like  
17 to see is for them to fund an interchange at 281 and  
18 1604 to better fit everyone that uses that interchange.  
19 I'm against adding additional lanes and I'm, mostly, in  
20 fear of toll roads because I have personal experiences  
21 from the State of Illinois and Indiana on how the roads  
22 are taken care of and what the costs are that are  
23 involved. And I'm concerned about the fact that we  
24 don't have proper access.

25 For instance, improving just 1604 access

1 roads so we can travel across the City from Highway 10  
2 to Highway 35 on an access road that goes at a slower  
3 speed limit than the main 1604. And, also, I believe if  
4 we did something to add lanes on the access roads at 281  
5 that we would relieve a lot of congestion without  
6 spending a lot of money on all of these additional parts  
7 of 281 and 1604. I think that's it.

8 The other thing I'm concerned about is the  
9 money. Because I keep hearing that we're going to use  
10 this stimulus money and, I think, we all know that, for  
11 years, you fund a project and then it's got cost  
12 overruns, we very seldom can contain the costs. And  
13 you've got the stimulus money, and then what happens  
14 when the stimulus money is gone and nothing else is  
15 finished? So that's it. Thank you.

16 \*\*\*\*\*

17 MS. TESSYE MAURER: (17055 Highway 46  
18 West; Spring Branch, Texas 78070) Okay. This is what I  
19 would have said the other night. Today is what you've  
20 got today. All right. Can you hear me now? Okay.  
21 Thank you very much. I'll go on.

22 My name is Tessye. I've been here a long  
23 time in San Antonio. I -- I took my driving lessons on  
24 McCullough, which was a little tiny street when I was  
25 16 -- No, I wasn't 16. I was thirteen. I beg your

1     pardon -- driving. Anyway, that's old history. I don't  
2     have a horse in this race. I've heard that; that's not  
3     my own expression. I don't drive anymore. My eyes are  
4     bad. But if I did, I would probably be with all of  
5     these wonderful people -- and thank God I already am --  
6     who want no toll roads.

7             And I understand this meeting is not the  
8     toll roads, but I can't understand why this meeting is  
9     just for the purpose of an interchange that still won't  
10    do us on the north side of 281 too much good. With the  
11    stimulus money -- that money belongs to us, too, on 281,  
12    and why are they planning an interchange that will help  
13    the south side and not the north side, particularly.  
14    Not that we have anything against the south side. We  
15    want them to do good, too.

16            Also, there's money, I understand, enough  
17    to build the overpasses that we've been crying -- the  
18    overpasses that we've been talking about and hoping for.  
19    Is it too much?

20            I wish I had a list of people that you  
21    folks, and the City Council, and the Mayor are always  
22    trying to inveigle into San Antonio and attract them. I  
23    would write them a warning, don't -- you know of what's  
24    waiting for them here. A group of people who are bound  
25    and determined to have their way with toll roads and not

1 to do the will of the people.  
2 Why doesn't Dr. Thornton -- and I'm  
3 sorry -- he's probably a wonderful dentist. Why doesn't  
4 he stick to his dentistry? How about this Terry  
5 Brechtel? What horses do they have in this race and why  
6 are they so adamant?

7 Again, I know that's not the subject  
8 tonight (toll roads) but we are wondering why we, the  
9 people who drive 281 -- not necessarily Wurzbach  
10 Parkway -- 281, why we can't have those overpasses. If  
11 the money is there, why not now? And if not now, when?

12 You know, if I drove and these things are  
13 not done for us -- well, I don't know what -- anyway,  
14 I -- I don't know why you people in the RMA do not want  
15 to do the will of the people.

16 The interchange, I understand, won't be  
17 tolled, but, again, why not the overpasses, too, if you  
18 have the money to build them? The people would thank  
19 you. That might not mean much to you. I mean, I don't  
20 know what you're getting out of what you're getting out  
21 of, but, you know, you're human beings, too. Why don't  
22 you want to do the will of the people? That's it.

23 \*\*\*\*\*

24 MR. RICHARD ALLES: (233 Meadowbrook; San  
25 Antonio, Texas 78232) Okay. The new elevated lanes for

1 the Loop 1604/U.S. 281 interchange will increase noise  
2 pollution for the existing residents and businesses.

3 My neighborhood of Hollywood Park has a  
4 number of people living on lots within four hundred feet  
5 of the elevated lanes. Even at a low level chronic  
6 noise of every day local traffic can cause stress in  
7 children, and raise blood pressure, heart rates, and  
8 levels of stress hormones. And the source on that is a  
9 Cornell University research published in the Journal of  
10 the Acoustical Society of America in 2001.

11 Another report by the World Health  
12 Organization, Noise Environmental Burden on Disease  
13 Working Group, showed that long-term exposure to traffic  
14 noise may account for, approximately, three percent of  
15 coronary heart disease deaths. The noise threshold for  
16 cardiovascular problems was determined to be a chronic  
17 nighttime exposure of, at least, 50 (5-0) A weighted  
18 decibels which is the noise level of light traffic.

19 So Hollywood Park property owners,  
20 including some who have lived here for almost 50 years,  
21 are being asked to suffer the effects of this huge,  
22 noisy project. It's simply wrong to impose this  
23 unhealthy nuisance land use on the existing property  
24 owners.

25 In addition, there are many variables that

1 may not be accurately evaluated by the noise models.  
2 One is the above-average vehicle size in this area of  
3 San Antonio. Many people drive pickups, SUVs, and  
4 diesel-powered trucks.

5 Another is the affect of air temperature  
6 and wind direction on noise. I know from personal  
7 experience that noise levels are much higher during the  
8 winter when the air is cold.

9 So to summarize, I'm opposed to the  
10 categorical exclusion for this project because of the  
11 noise impacts and because it's entirely located on the  
12 aquifer recharge zone and my drinking water comes from a  
13 well not far from this proposed project. Finished.

14 \*\*\*\*\*

15 MR. BOB HAAG: (2055 Adobe Trail; San  
16 Antonio, Texas 78232) Okay. I'd like to see the  
17 overpasses and bridges constructed on 281 that was  
18 passed in a bond referendum many, many years ago. I  
19 would like to know why that did not happen when it was  
20 supposed to happen, and why is it getting hung up in all  
21 of this bureaucratic red tape?

22 The only other thing I have to add is that  
23 I'm sick and tired of traffic congestion being held up  
24 because of technicalities that are trumped up by RMAs  
25 and other institutions such as TxDOT. I'll conclude by

1 saying they're both worthless. That's all I've got to  
2 say.

3 \*\*\*\*\*

4 MR. BYRON JUEN: (214 Silentbluff; San  
5 Antonio, Texas 78216) Yes. We need overpasses.  
6 However, the stimulus money -- there was enough stimulus  
7 money to build all four overpasses, now they're only  
8 building two; however, I feel as if the most urgent need  
9 is for 281 north to the county line.

10 Multiple times Chairman Bill Thornton of  
11 the Alamo RMA stated, "If a pile of money was to fall  
12 out of the sky, the RMA would build 281 north as a  
13 freeway." Low and behold, the Obama money fell out of  
14 the sky. As a result, he changed his mind and said,  
15 "Let's build some interchanges so that we can still keep  
16 that toll plan on the books."

17 I think that the stimulus money would  
18 be -- would serve the citizens of San Antonio better on  
19 281 north up north of the county line -- excuse me --  
20 north of 1604 to the county line. I don't like the fact  
21 that we're paying the -- paying the full price for half  
22 of the interchanges.

23 In addition, it was my understanding that  
24 a categorical exclusion was going to be presented here  
25 tonight for the interchange. At this time, I have yet

1 to see the categorical exclusion for the interchange.

2 Thank you.

3 \*\*\*\*\*

4 MR. MEL BOREL: (703 Turtle Hill; San  
5 Antonio, Texas 78260) I'm a little concerned about  
6 the -- the way this whole interchange is being proposed.  
7 It looks like we're getting the cart before the horse,  
8 so to speak, because we're having a meeting with  
9 approvals that have not been gained.

10 I know that the RMA has talked about  
11 categorical exclusions and I don't understand how you  
12 can have a categorical exclusion on such a large, major  
13 project like this even though they are -- they (TxDOT)  
14 got a categorical exclusion for the overpass at the  
15 Dominion, and they even violated, in some respects,  
16 the -- the NEPA requirements for a categorical exclusion  
17 in that they added capacity by adding additional lanes  
18 of traffic, and then that should have made it an  
19 automatic environmental impact study issue. But, here  
20 again, the RMA and TxDOT seem to be doing whatever they  
21 want to do to push their agenda in opposition to the  
22 will of the people of San Antonio.

23 The -- And if I get more specific on the  
24 interchange, I can't understand why that they are not  
25 focusing on the major traffic problem, which is 281

1 north, and they have not done anything with the money  
2 that fell out of the sky, so to speak, which was the  
3 stimulus money. Why they have not attacked the problem  
4 on the northbound 281 which is where the real issue is.  
5 Yet they've come in and only want to do the southbound  
6 interchange for southbound on 281 from 1604.

7           So that is -- I just don't understand  
8 that. And at one time there was moneys to do the total  
9 interchange and, now, effectively, they're doing half of  
10 the interchange for the same amount of money. I -- I  
11 don't understand why we aren't spending more time  
12 focusing on the problems of northbound 281 and solving  
13 that problem which is where the real congestion is.

14           That's -- that's about it. You know,  
15 it -- I know an interchange is going to be required in  
16 the future, but it seems like we've got the --  
17 essentially, the cart before the horse. That we are not  
18 getting the proper documentation in place for doing the  
19 interchange properly. The categorical exclusion seems  
20 to be circumventing the issues and we're not focusing on  
21 where the real problem is. We ought to be spending the  
22 money that was available from the stimulus for  
23 northbound issues. And that's about it.

24           So, basically, I'm opposed to the way it's  
25 being done. And again, what -- what appears to be going

1 on is that since the toll road is being planned by the  
2 RMA everything is being done to permit a toll road for  
3 being built and not a -- a freeway on the northbound  
4 traffic. That's it.

5 \*\*\*\*\*

6 MS. SUDIE SARTOR: (505 El Portal; San  
7 Antonio, Texas 78232) Okay. My big concerns are: I'm  
8 concerned that the fly over from 1604 East to 281 South  
9 does not allow for traffic from Stone Oak Boulevard and  
10 Voigt Drive to get on the fly over and they have to go  
11 through the traffic light. Is that good?

12 Okay. Why can't they build the entire  
13 interchange as originally planned for the same money  
14 they are telling us that this one -- that half of the  
15 interchange will cost? I think that's it. Did that  
16 make sense?

17 And the last thing is, why when we are --  
18 were promised by the RMA that if moneys became available  
19 the 281 north project original plan would be built --  
20 the money became available with the stimulus bill yet  
21 they still will not do the overpasses on 281. And I am  
22 against tolling 281 and any part of this interchange --  
23 and 1604. That's good.

24 \*\*\*\*\*

25 MS. ROSEANN MAURER: (16901 Highway 46

1 West; Spring Branch, Texas 78070) Okay. We need the  
2 four overpasses on 281! They are the logical most  
3 cost-efficient solution! They can be done in three  
4 years whereas the toll roads will take ten years! Thank  
5 you. We don't want toll roads!! Toll roads are not  
6 fair and they will hurt America. No, wait a minute.  
7 They are not fair and they will hurt America because  
8 they are -- you are taking a free road and turning it  
9 into a toll road with a non-compete -- non-compete --  
10 hold on -- non-compete what? -- clause or some --  
11 yeah -- clause is good enough. Yeah. That's good  
12 enough.

13 We -- You will be happier in your heart  
14 for doing the right thing. We need those expressways --  
15 I mean, we need those overpasses. Thank you.

16 \*\*\*\*\*

17 MS. LIESA WARDLOW: (15150 Blanco Road,  
18 #8323; San Antonio, Texas 78232) Well, when you go to  
19 the H-E-B (or the grocery store) or other stores in the  
20 1604/281 interchange area you cannot -- you cannot go  
21 through the traffic to take the turnaround to get back  
22 to Bitters or to get back going south, because all of  
23 the traffic is going north and they have to -- they back  
24 up at the light to try to get onto 1604 because they  
25 exit 281 right there where those stores are, therefore,

1 the traffic's backed up for, at least, a good half mile  
2 to a mile. And the traffic's also backed up on 281  
3 exiting to get onto that interchange part where they  
4 have to go from 281 to 1604 and it makes it really  
5 difficult for people trying to shop or people trying to  
6 give business to that area to, actually, productively go  
7 there.

8 I just don't -- I don't think toll roads  
9 are a solution to the problem. I don't know what -- I  
10 don't have an answer to what is, but I don't believe  
11 toll roads are the answer to the problem. I don't think  
12 they're going to alleviate the problem because people  
13 will take the access roads and then the problem will  
14 still be there on the access roads. So it's not going  
15 to be an answer.

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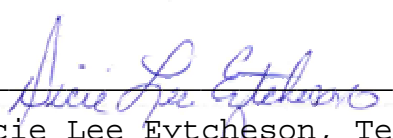
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STATE OF TEXAS )

I, Dicie Lee Eytcheson, a Certified  
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And further certify that I am not a  
relative or employee of any of the parties hereto, nor  
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WITNESS MY HAND, this the 31st day of  
August, A.D. 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Esquire Deposition Services, Inc.  
9901 IH-10 West, Suite 630  
San Antonio, Texas 78230  
Phone: (210) 331-2280  
Fax: (210) 358-3670

