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Alamo RMA statement on U.S. 281 Environmental Clearance

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(SAN ANTONIO) – August 15, 2007 – The Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (Alamo RMA) has been notified by the Texas Department of Transportation that the Federal Highway Administration has concurred with environmental clearance on the proposed improvements on U.S. 281.

This notification, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), allows for the development of added capacity tolled lanes on US 281, as recommended in the Environmental Assessment prepared on this roadway.

“For three years drivers have been stuck in traffic. For three years, we have watched construction costs increase. For three years, we have been in a position of watching while other communities were able to move forward with needed toll projects benefiting their regions. The decision by the Federal Highway Administration now means that our region can stop watching and waiting, and start addressing the serious congestion clogging our roadways,” said Dr. William E. Thornton, Chairman of the Alamo RMA.

The proposed improvements on U.S. 281 call for the addition of added capacity tolled lanes and the preservation of the same number of non-toll lanes, providing motorists a choice in their daily commutes. .

“No one will ever be forced to use a tolled lane in Bexar County. There will always be a choice between a toll and non-toll lane. A choice that doesn’t exist today, and a choice that will ensure our region continues to be prosperous and grow in the coming years,” said Terry M. Brechtel, Executive Director of the Alamo RMA.

In June 2007, the Alamo RMA Board of Directors signaled their intent to exercise a right of first refusal, authorized in the last Legislative session, to take control of the U.S. 281 and Loop 1604 project.

“We have heard the concerns of our community on the role of a private concession with the toll improvements on U.S. 281 and Loop 1604. The Alamo RMA Board is committed to bringing relief through local means, using local leadership and control, to develop the first toll project in our region as a public project by the Alamo RMA,” said Thornton. “We look forward to the start of construction and the start of new choices for drivers.”

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.

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