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Alamo RMA Chairman Thornton releases statement on TxDOT proposal on tolling existing Interstate Highway lanes

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(SAN ANTONIO) – August 31, 2007 – The Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (Alamo RMA) Board Chairman, Dr. William E. Thornton, today released the following statement regarding recent TxDOT proposals to potentially toll existing Interstate Highways.

“Since our formation in December 2003, the Alamo RMA has always said no existing lanes would be converted to toll lanes. All of our proposals and plans include non-toll options, providing our community with a choice in their daily commutes.

“State legislators had great foresight in ensuring and enabling more local control during this last session. We fully intend to make use of all of these rights to provide more capacity and more choices for our driving public. We are not here to limit anyone’s freedom of movement, goods, or services.

“The local control granted to the Alamo RMA ensures that, within Bexar County, we will never allow an existing Interstate Highway lane to be tolled. If we add a new lane, and add more choice to the roadway, we will pursue tolling of only those new lanes.

“The Alamo RMA is here to provide local control and leadership on the toll system within Bexar County. We will continue to work closely with our local elected and appointed officials and with TxDOT to develop and implement sound, rational public policy, responding to the needs of our community while finding avenues to help promote needed multi-modal solutions to fight congestion in our region.”

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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