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Alamo RMA Responds to Latest Lawsuit Filed by TURF ***Environmental clearance for 281 improvements already granted by Federal Highway Administration***

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(SAN ANTONIO) – February 26, 2008 – The Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (Alamo RMA) has received notice that TURF (Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom) and AGUA (Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas) will file a lawsuit challenging the environmental clearance on the 281 North toll project granted by the Federal Highway Administration in 2007.

In 2006, stemming from another lawsuit filed by these same groups, a comprehensive environmental study was conducted on the 281 North corridor to determine the environmental and economic impact, if any, of construction of the much-needed added capacity lanes. That Environmental Assessment cost taxpayers \$2 million dollars and took two years to complete. In August of 2007, with the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), the Federal Highway Administration cleared the way for relief to be brought to this corridor.

“It’s a sad day when tens of thousands of motorists are being forced to suffer through even more congestion due to the filing of a lawsuit whose only purpose is to delay a project which needs to be in place now,” said Dr. William Thornton, chairman of the Alamo RMA Board of Directors.

“The local control granted to the Alamo RMA guaranteed local involvement and control over the tolled lane system and helped bring an end to the rhetoric of fear that our community has been subjected to for the past few years. Yet, today, we are being held hostage by a relatively small group unwilling to accept the reality of the funding situation our region is in when it comes to road projects,” said Thornton.

Henry R. Muñoz, III, chairman of the Alamo RMA Finance Committee called the lawsuit, “disingenuous,” calling it a “thinly veiled attempt to force our community to accept a band aid approach to solving the very real problems with congestion we have in this corridor.” He said, “We need a quick resolution to the lawsuit to bring relief to the gridlock we used to call a daily commute. *We don’t need* a repeat of the 281/410 interchange which took 30 years to build due to delay tactics by special interest groups.”

The potential impact of the lawsuits is unknown at this point, but with possible air quality issues approaching, and with increased costs of materials due to global demands, additional delays on this project could severely impact the ability of any construction in this corridor, which will only further impact the residents who live and work along 281 North.

“We will continue to do all we can to expedite this needed project for our community,” said Terry Brechtel, executive director of the Alamo RMA, “We will continue to work diligently to start construction as soon as possible to bring the much-needed relief to all drivers and residents in the 281 North corridor.”

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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