



Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

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ALAMO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY NAMES TERRY BRECHTEL AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(SAN ANTONIO) – The Alamo Regional Mobility Authority announced Wednesday that former City of San Antonio city manager, Terry Brechtel, has been hired to replace Tom Griebel as the agency's executive director. Griebel, who served as the Authority's executive director since the agency was created in 2004, announced in August that he would step down in order to move back to Austin where his family still resides.

Brechtel has been recognized both locally and nationally for her work history that spans a twenty-four year career in local government and as a consultant to municipalities. As city manager, Brechtel was responsible for the activities of all City departments that included more than 12,000 employees as well as for the development and oversight of a consolidated budget of more than \$1.5 billion and providing service to a community of 1.2 million residents. She has an extensive background in finance and regulations, as well as negotiations and management. She brings to the RMA the experience and knowledge of working cooperatively and collaboratively with multiple governmental organizations as well as a deep and abiding understanding of the community and its people.

Bill Thornton, chairman for the RMA, called the appointment, "an outstanding move." Thornton said of Brechtel, "She has the exact combination of skills and experience we need to move us forward -- from her financial expertise to an extensive background in managing complex contract negotiations." Thornton also praised outgoing executive director Tom Griebel, saying that he is "grateful for his excellent leadership in creating a strong foundation for the Alamo RMA and seeing that it is strategically positioned to fulfill its mission of accelerating the much-needed transportation projects for our county."

Brechtel said, "I am excited about the opportunity to serve as the next executive director and I look forward to helping move the agency into the next phase where we begin negotiating and financing for building the toll system for Bexar County." Brechtel says this position represents for her "a progression of involvement in this community and the continuing opportunity to deal with those key quality of life and economic development issues that face Bexar County."

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Joe Krier, president and CEO of The Greater Chamber, and this year's chairman of the San Antonio Mobility Coalition, said, "Terry Brechtel brings both a wealth of experience and the respect of her peers as a top administrator to this position. The Chamber supported the creation of the Alamo RMA, and as Chairman of the San Antonio Mobility Coalition, I know first hand the challenges San Antonio faces with regard to securing alternative funding for transportation enhancements and accelerating implementation of priority mobility infrastructure projects. In hiring Terry, the Alamo RMA has made a wise and thoughtful decision, one that will benefit our region as we work to relieve traffic congestion and prioritize transportation projects."

Although toll lanes are a part of the county's future, many citizens have little or no experience with how tolls work in general, and specifically how they will work in Bexar County. More importantly, they don't presently understand the need for tolls. According to two recent surveys – one conducted by the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority, and another one conducted by The Greater Chamber of Commerce -- an overwhelming majority of people asked, think traffic congestion in Bexar County is a problem. In addition, people, when citizens are presented basic information about why toll lanes are needed, along with details about how the system will work, an overwhelming majority express support.

In 2004, with input from representatives across the county, the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) identified an \$8 billion shortfall in highway funding for Bexar County's growing traffic needs, and determined that a system of user-pay toll lanes is the only funding mechanism that will get new lanes built along the county's most congested corridors within the next five years. Without toll lanes, the citizens of this region face waiting another 20 years or paying significantly more in gasoline taxes to get much needed added lane capacity. To address the shortfall, and avoid transportation gridlock, the MPO formally included toll lanes as a part of the county's 25-year transportation plan, and the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (Alamo RMA) was created as the local entity to implement this plan.

WHAT EVERY CITIZEN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE TOLL SYSTEM PLANNED FOR BEXAR COUNTY

- **Drivers will always have the choice** to use the toll lanes and only actual users of the lanes will pay tolls.
- **The toll plan will accelerate needed construction** of additional lanes without increasing the tax burden on all residents.
- **The new toll lanes will help reduce traffic congestion** and result in less time spent in traffic.
- **There will be no toll booths** in our local system as the new toll lanes will use advanced technology that electronically scans vehicles as they enter and exit the toll lane, preventing a back up of traffic.

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The Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

The purpose of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority is to provide this area with an opportunity to significantly accelerate needed transportation projects and have a local entity in place that will make its own mobility decisions for the community, while enhancing the economic vitality and quality of life for the residents in the San Antonio metropolitan area. The Alamo RMA will work in conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the San Antonio - Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and other agencies to formulate a strategy to implement a toll network that will generate and direct revenue to other long-awaited mobility projects that will improve the over-all transportation system.