



TESTIMONY

TxDOT Austin District Toll Initiatives

**Testimony Before the
Senate Committee on Infrastructure Development and Security
Austin, Texas**

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Robert B. Daigh, P.E.**Testimony before the Senate Committee on
Infrastructure Development and Security****INTRODUCTION**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) appreciates the opportunity to brief the Committee on the activities of the Department's Austin District Office. TxDOT's mission is to work cooperatively with our transportation partners to provide safe, effective and efficient movement of people and goods.

The Department has been asked to provide the Committee with testimony regarding toll-related initiatives in the Austin District.

AUSTIN DISTRICT TOLL INITIATIVE STATUS

The Austin District currently has the following toll initiatives underway:

Central Texas Turnpike System

The 65.7 mile Central Texas Turnpike System 2002 project is under construction. This project includes a Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA), for 49 miles of SH 130 and 16.7 miles of SH 45 and Loop 1. The SH 45 and Loop 1 projects have traditionally been developed as design /bid /build projects.

Toll Implementation Program

A \$2.2 Billion turnpike system proposal is currently being developed jointly with the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority. This program will leverage Texas Mobility Fund proceeds through tolling to construct over 64 miles of roadways which will bring much needed safety and mobility improvements to Central Texas. The proposed system utilizes three Comprehensive Development Agreements. They are for the US 290 project from US 183 to SH 130, the US 183A project from SH 45 to the San Gabriel River and the SH 45SE Project from IH 35 to US

183. The Program also proposes the use of a franchise for eleven miles of improvements on LP 360.

Pass Through Tolling

Additionally, pass through tolling is also being considered to advance construction on several projects such as FM 1626 from IH 35 to FM 2770.

CENTRAL TEXAS TURNPIKE SYSTEM 2002 PROJECT STATUS SUMMARY

The 2002 Project is a 65.7-mile system of new alignment toll roads being constructed by the Texas Department of Transportation in the north and east Austin metropolitan region. This project has three elements, State Highway 45 North, Loop 1 and State Highway 130. Current projections show the 2002 Project to be progressing under the Engineer's estimate and on schedule for a total project opening of December 2007, with some sections opening ahead of schedule. A more detailed description of the project segments and status follows.

SH 45 AND LOOP 1 PROGRESS

The SH 45 North and Loop 1 elements are 16.7 miles of six-lane divided roadway with discontinuous frontage roads, toll facilities, and direct-connectors at the interchanges. All construction contracts for SH 45 North and Loop 1 have been let using the traditional design-bid-build project delivery process. The first of seven sections was let in October 2002 and the last was let in March 2004, for a total letting amount of \$528,450,000. Six of the seven sections are currently under construction, with the last section scheduled to begin construction in June 2004. All right of way parcels were obtained on a fast track schedule and are available for construction. The majority of utility relocations have been completed, with the remaining relocations being constructed on a schedule that does not impact the construction contractors. All construction on SH 45 North and Loop 1 is tracking ahead of schedule. Current projections indicate the sections from Parmer Lane to IH 35 could be open to traffic in January 2007, which is eight months ahead of schedule.

SH 130 PROGRESS

The SH 130 element is a 49-mile, 4-lane divided roadway with toll facilities and discontinuous frontage roads. SH 130 is being constructed utilizing a Comprehensive Development Agreement

with Lone Star Infrastructure. This contract has a guaranteed schedule and lump sum cost for design, right of way acquisition services, utility relocation, construction and construction engineering and inspection services. The current contract amount is \$972,778,000 for the SH 130 element of the 2002 Project.

The SH 130 contract was awarded on June 19, 2002, notice-to-proceed number one for design was issued on July 8, 2002 and notice-to-proceed number two for construction was issued on January 4, 2003. The SH 130 element is divided into 4 segments for the purposes of managing and tracking design, right of way acquisition, utility relocation and construction.

Segment 1 is from IH 35 to US 79. Construction began on this segment in October 2003 and is progressing on schedule. Design, right of way acquisition and utility relocation is ongoing. This segment is currently scheduled to open to traffic in August 2007, slightly ahead of schedule.

Segment 2 is from US 79 to US 290. Construction began on this segment in December 2003 and is progressing on schedule. Design, right of way acquisition and utility relocation is ongoing. This segment is currently scheduled to open to traffic in January 2007, which is 8 months ahead of schedule.

Segment 3 is from US 290 to SH 71. Design, right of way acquisition and utility relocation is ongoing. Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2004.

Segment 4 is from SH 71 to US 183. Design, right of way acquisition and utility relocation is ongoing. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2004.

CONCLUSION

TxDOT appreciates the opportunity to address the Committee on the progress of toll initiatives in the Austin District. The Department recognizes the importance of working together in partnership and has committed resources to making sure that the needs of Texans are addressed. TxDOT looks forward to working with the Committee on these objectives and others in the future.