



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MOPAC INTERSECTIONS ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

On **July 30, 2015**, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Mobility Authority) will conduct a Public Hearing regarding the proposed improvements on MoPac at the intersections of Slaughter Lane and La Crosse Avenue, located in Austin, Texas.

The Public Hearing will be held in the:

Bowie High School (cafeteria)
4103 W. Slaughter Lane
Austin, TX 78749
Open House: 5 to 6 p.m.

Technical presentation: 6 p.m. followed by a public comment period

The purpose of the hearing is to present the planned improvements for the MoPac intersections at Slaughter Lane and at La Crosse Avenue. The proposed project limits are from approximately 2,500 feet north of Slaughter Lane to approximately 3,700 feet south of La Crosse Avenue, in the city of Austin, Travis County, Texas. The proposed project is approximately two miles long. Displays will be available for viewing at 5 p.m. and staff will be available to answer questions. The formal hearing will commence with a presentation at 6 p.m. followed by a public comment period.

Within the project limits, MoPac consists of a four-lane divided arterial, with at-grade, signalized intersections at Slaughter Lane and La Crosse Avenue, consisting of two 12-foot lanes, a 10-foot outside shoulder and a 4-foot inside shoulder in each direction. The purpose of the project is to improve intersection operations (reduce travel delay) and enhance safety. The need for the project arises from historic population and employment growth in the surrounding area, which has led to traffic congestion, increased delay and a high crash rate at the intersections. The improvements being considered would involve grade separating the cross streets of Slaughter Lane and La Crosse Avenue such that MoPac would pass under the existing cross streets. Traffic traveling northbound and southbound in this corridor would no longer need to stop at a signalized intersection to travel through the area. The proposed improvements to MoPac consist of two 12-foot lanes, 10-foot outside shoulders and 4-foot inside shoulders in each direction. The grade separation at La Crosse Avenue and MoPac would be configured as a conventional diamond interchange. The grade separation at Slaughter Lane and MoPac would be accomplished with a diverging diamond interchange (DDI). A DDI is an innovative intersection that shifts traffic approaching the interchange to the left, then back to the right after the interchange to allow drivers who want to turn left to keep moving and reduce the number of traffic signal intervals. The proposed improvements would be constructed within the existing right-of-way (ROW).

There is an existing recreational trail outside of the ROW from Slaughter Lane to Slaughter Creek on the west side of MoPac. An additional 10-foot wide Shared Use Path is proposed within the existing ROW on the west side of MoPac from Slaughter Creek to La Crosse Avenue. These improvements in combination with existing and other pedestrian and bicycle facilities would provide a continuous bicycle and pedestrian connection between Slaughter Lane and La Crosse Avenue.

The Draft Environmental Assessment evaluated the social, economic and environmental impacts of one build alternative and the no-build alternative. The proposed project would not displace any residences or businesses. Portions of the proposed project fall within Federal Emergency Management Agency 100-year floodplain. The placement of temporary or permanent dredge/fill material into a tributary of Slaughter Creek would be authorized under U. S. Army Corps of

Engineers Nationwide Permit 14 without a Pre-Construction Notification. The proposed project crosses a portion of the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer which is designated as a sole-source aquifer. A Water Pollution Abatement Plan will be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality prior to construction.

The Draft Environmental Assessment, maps and other information concerning the proposed project are available for public review online at www.MoPacSouth.com/intersections/. These materials will also be available for public review at the following locations:

1. TxDOT Austin District Office, 7901 North IH-35, Austin, Texas 78753
2. Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, 3300 North IH-35, Suite 300, Austin, TX 78705

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding this project are requested. Written comments not submitted at the Public Hearing can be submitted through the project website www.MoPacSouth.com, by fax to (512) 996-9784, or mailed to: Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, c/o MoPac Intersections Environmental Study, 3300 North IH-35, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78705. All comments received by **August 10, 2015**, will be included in the official Public Hearing record.

The Public Hearing will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs, or need an interpreter, are encouraged to call Melissa Hurst at (512) 996-9778. Requests should be made at least two days prior to the Public Hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs. If you have general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project, you may contact Ms. Hurst at the above-referenced phone number.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

