

REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITIES

OVERVIEW

A Regional Mobility Authority (or “RMA”) is a political subdivision formed by one or more counties to finance, acquire, design, construct, operate, maintain, expand or extend transportation projects. These projects may be tolled or non-tolled. The Texas Legislature authorized the creation of Regional Mobility Authorities in 2002 (Chapter 370, Texas Transportation Code). There are currently nine Regional Mobility Authorities in Texas (*see Regional Mobility Authority map on the back*).

Regional Mobility Authorities are regionally focused transportation development authorities with some oversight from the Texas Transportation Commission. Regional Mobility Authorities are governed by a board of directors consisting of a presiding officer that is appointed by the governor and additional directors appointed by the county commissioner’s court or city council from the host Regional Mobility Authority city, county or counties. Board members are term limited and cannot be elected officials or an employee of a governmental entity, but may be re-appointed by commissioner courts. Regional Mobility Authority boards may also hire an executive director to operate the Regional Mobility Authorities and carry out duties assigned by the board.

Regional Mobility Authorities deliver transportation plans and projects in close and cooperative relationship with their host counties, TxDOT, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and other local entities. Regional Mobility Authority projects (or project plans) are generally included in a Metropolitan Planning Organization’s long range plan, known as Metropolitan Transportation Plan. In most cases, Regional Mobility Authorities are represented at the region’s Metropolitan Planning Organization on either the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s policy board or the Metropolitan Planning Organization technical advisory committee.

REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY FORMATION

A petition is submitted to the Texas Transportation Commission that includes a resolution from the commissioners court of the county or counties requesting the formation of a Regional Mobility Authority. After TxDOT reviews a petition and believes all requirements are met, a public hearing is scheduled to receive comments on the proposed Regional Mobility Authority. A county or counties will advertise a hearing as well. After public comments are received, the Texas Transportation Commission will consider the formation of the Regional Mobility Authority and approve or deny petition. If approved, county commissioners adopt a resolution that creates the Regional Mobility Authority.

REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY POWERS

- Develop a transportation project.
- Issue revenue bonds.
- Establish tolls.
- Acquire property for transportation projects.
- Use surplus revenue to finance other local transportation projects.
- Apply for federal highway and rail funds.
- Enter into contracts with other governmental entities and Mexico.
- Apply for State Infrastructure Bank loans.
- Set speed and weight limits consistent with state guidelines.
- Enter into agreements with other governmental entities to develop a transportation project on behalf of that entity.



Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) Map

