

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

EL PASO County

MINUTE ORDER

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EL PASO District

Pursuant to Chapter 370 of the Transportation Code, and 43 TAC Chapter 26 (RMA rules), the City of El Paso (city) petitioned the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) for authorization to form a regional mobility authority (RMA) in the city of El Paso. The original petition was filed on February 28, 2006.

By letter dated May 18, 2006, the Texas Department of Transportation (department) notified the city that the petition met the requirements of §26.11 of the RMA rules.

The petition identifies the completion of the outer Loop 375 by extending the existing terminus of the Loop 375 at the downtown area westward to Interstate-10 (I-10) at the US 85/NM 273 interchange, as the potential candidate project for development by the RMA. This project will increase mobility for the region through quality transportation infrastructure that allows for choices in reaching the region's transportation destinations.

The board of directors of the RMA, as set forth in the petition, will be composed of seven members, with six members appointed by the El Paso City Council, and the presiding officer, who will serve as chairperson, appointed by the Governor.

On June 12, 2006, the department conducted a public hearing in El Paso, pursuant to §26.12 of the RMA rules, to receive public comment on the proposed formation of the RMA. Notice of the public hearing was published in the *Texas Register* and in a newspaper of general circulation in El Paso County.

At the public hearing, fifteen individuals spoke in favor and five opposed the creation of the RMA. Nine individuals submitted written comments, eight in favor and one opposed to the creation of the RMA. The commission finds that the creation of the RMA has sufficient public support. The commission bases this finding on: (1) the resolution of support from the City Council of the City of El Paso; and (2) the support indicated at the public hearing and in the written comments.

The commission finds that creation of the RMA will result in direct benefits to the state, local governments, and the traveling public, and will improve the efficiency of the state's transportation systems. The RMA will benefit the state by constructing needed roadway projects, such as the projects identified in the city's petition, as the city's potential candidate projects. The RMA will benefit local governments by increasing local control over transportation planning and through additional transportation projects that may be funded through surplus revenue earned by the RMA. The traveling public will also benefit through improved mobility and traffic safety throughout the region encompassed by the RMA. The RMA will improve the efficiency of the state's transportation systems through the construction of the potential candidate project, which will enhance mobility and safety within these segments of the state highway system, and through the development and financing of additional projects in the future.

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The commission finds that the potential candidate project is consistent with the approved Texas Transportation Plan, included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and included in the approved plan of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Subject to commission approval of the project under §26.31 of the RMA rules, the commission also finds that the project will benefit the traveling public.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the commission authorizes the creation of the RMA.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the potential candidate project that may be developed, maintained, and operated by the RMA shall be the network identified above. This order does not constitute final commission approval of the project, which must be obtained under to Chapter 370 of the Transportation Code and the applicable provisions of the RMA rules.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the initial board of directors shall be composed of seven members, with six members appointed by the El Paso City Council, and the presiding officer appointed by the Governor.

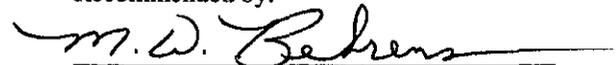
Submitted and reviewed by:



Hilary E. Russell

Director, Texas Turnpike Authority
Division

Recommended by:



M. D. Behrens

Executive Director

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Minute
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Date
Passed