

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NET RMA DISCUSSES 2017-2018 BUDGET AND A MAINTENANCE SERVICES CONTRACT

(Tyler, TX) – – **August 14, 2017** Finance, a maintenance contract, the annual budget and Segment 4 (the Lindale Relief Route), Toll 49 construction and Segment 3B (SH31 to I20), maintenance activities were among the topics discussed during the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority's (NET RMA) board meeting last Tuesday at the Mineola Civic Center in Wood County.

The main topic of discussion was the proposed 2017-2018 budget, which was originally presented to the board in July. The board discussed variances in the budget from last year and ultimately, passed the new fiscal year's budget, which starts October 1. One highlight to note, is the continuation of the Priority Projects Grant program. The NET RMA budgeted \$500K to provide to members counties to advance transportation projects in their areas.

Chairman Linda Thomas advised, "This continues to be a great benefit of the NET RMA to our East Texas communities. The NET RMA is happy to be devoting revenues to be utilized locally, and in a meaningful way to member counties. The NET RMA has awarded \$900K to its member counties in the last two years. We are implementing our mission by supporting transportation projects in East Texas," she stated.

Also during the board meeting the NET RMA awarded a contract for roadway maintenance services for Toll 49 to the lowest bidder, IIPPL, in the amount of \$887,747. Three bids were received. The contract includes handling items like cement treatments, tree removal, debris and graffiti removal and enhancing pavement edges and making fixes to name just a few.

The board agreed to widen and install additional asphalt on Segment 4 (the Lindale Relief Route) of Toll 49. This enhancement to the new construction will make that specific segment of the road similar to section 3B (SH31 to I20), so there will be 4 foot flush medians, with rumble strips and reflectors in the medians.

In other business, the construction of Segment 4 of Toll 49 is continuing with the following:

- Earthwork
- Culvert work
- Bridge work
- Environmental controls
- Pavement Activity at FM16N and north of I20

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Finally, ongoing maintenance activities on Segment 3B include:

- Completion of excavation, flexible base placement and prime coat
- Placement of hot mix asphalt
- Guardrail placement, ditch grading and other activities associated with widening

**About the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA)**

The NET RMA is an independent government agency created to accelerate the development of transportation projects in North East Texas. Our mission is to implement transportation solutions that will enhance the quality of life and the economic environment in our area. The NET RMA is governed by a 19-member board of directors that represent each of the member counties: Bowie, Kaufman, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Panola, Rusk, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Wood and Van Zandt. Texas RMAs were made possible through an initiative passed by State Legislature in 2001. The NET RMA was established in October 2004.

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