



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOLL 49 SEGMENT 3A RECEIVES STIMULUS FUNDING

Tyler, Texas – March 5, 2009 – The North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA) received notification today that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has approved nearly \$38 million in economic stimulus funding for Segment 3A of Toll 49. The stretch of road will connect to the existing segments of Toll 49 at SH 155, and proceed northwest to SH 31.

NET RMA Chairman Jeff Austin, III said the development affirms the hard work and partnership that the local communities have put forth toward the Toll 49 project.

"This was accomplished because everyone was singing off of the same sheet of music," Austin said. "We all put this project as our number one priority, and I am extremely pleased to see this move forward as a result of our efforts."

Chairman Austin recognized the support and dedication of the City of Tyler, Smith County, the Tyler Chamber of Commerce, the Tyler Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and the TxDOT Tyler District for their roles in seeing this project come to fruition.

In addition to the stimulus funding, Segment 3A will benefit from MPO funding, as the Tyler MPO voted on Monday to use its \$4.7 million in stimulus funding for the road. Construction on Segment 3A is scheduled to let to contract in July, with construction to begin as early as September.

Within a six- to nine-month period, the NET RMA hopes to move Segment 3B of Toll 49, which stretches from SH 31 to I-20, through the bond market and into the construction process. The NET RMA Board of Directors released a Request for Proposal for Bond Underwriting services in February to support that effort.

Chairman Austin said he appreciated the support and teamwork shown by the NET RMA Board and key personnel, including Project Director Everett Owen, legal counsel Brian Cassidy of Locke, Lorde, Bissell & Liddell, and General Engineering Consultant PBS&J.

"I am privileged to work with such a great group of dedicated professionals," Austin said.

About the 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, Cass, 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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