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### NET RMA ACCELERATING PLANS TO COMPLETE TOLL 49 – SEGMENT 3B

Tyler, Texas – June 1, 2009 – The North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA) is accelerating completion of the Toll 49 Segment 3B engineering plans in anticipation of releasing the project to the bond market. Toll 49 Segment 3B is an approximately 9.7-mile stretch of highway traveling from SH 31 northerly to I-20. (See map on page two of this release.)

At its board meeting on May 20, 2009, the NET RMA Board of Directors formally granted General Engineering Consultant (GEC) PBS&J permission to move forward with a proposed scope of services related to environmental permitting and plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E) for Toll 49 Segment 3B. Coordination and oversight will be provided by PBS&J, while construction plans will be designed by two separate engineers, Bucher, Willis & Ratliff (BWR) and Chiang, Patel & Yerby (CPY).

"The purpose of hiring multiple design firms is to expedite the process," said NET RMA Project Director Everett Owen. "This particular segment has quite a few bridges and creeks, and putting both BWR and CPY on the job will reduce the timeline from 14 to 18 months down to approximately a year or less."

Segment 3B is an important stretch of highway because it will provide an alternate, direct route to I-20 for citizens in south Tyler and surrounding areas. The NET RMA hopes that the project, which will open as a two-lane toll road, will be ready for letting by summer 2010 or earlier. PBS&J Corridor Manager Charlie Varnell said that he anticipates construction to take approximately 36 months or less.

Another important milestone was reached for Segment 3B when the NET RMA Board of Directors voted to secure a pool of underwriters at its last board meeting. Merrill Lynch was chosen as Lead Senior Manager and Estrada Hinojosa as Co-Senior Manager to lead a team of ten financial firms that will provide underwriting services as the NET RMA seeks financing options for their priority projects.

Austin said the RMA is aggressively taking steps so that Segment 3B will be ready to go to the bond market as soon as possible.

"These firms will help the NET RMA navigate the many options we have to finance all of our projects, including Segment 3B," said NET RMA Chairman Jeff Austin, III. "Merrill Lynch and Estrada Hinojosa will serve as strong leaders of the great team we've put together."

### 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.

### Toll 49 – Segment 3B Map



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