



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeff Austin, III
903-541-2093
Fax: 903-593-2518
www.netrma.org

**NET RMA HOLDS SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS
TOLL 49 SEGMENT 3B, LOOP 571 AND BUDGET**

Tyler, Texas – August 17, 2009 – The North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA) Board of Directors held a special meeting Monday to discuss the development of Toll 49 Segment 3B through a Design-Build Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA). The Board also considered issuing a work authorization for the Loop 571 project in Rusk County, and concluded the meeting with a workshop to review the proposed 2010 NET RMA budget.

Since May 2009 the NET RMA has been focused on accelerating the development of Toll 49, a 9.7-mile section of roadway that stretches between State Highway 31 and Interstate 20. In June the NET RMA directed its General Engineering Consultant (GEC), PBS&J, to move forward with a proposed scope of services related to environmental permitting and plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E). At its special meeting on Monday, the Board was presented with two ways of developing the project: Design-Bid-Build or Design-Build. While Design-Bid-Build has been the traditional way of developing projects in the past, the Design-Build process has several distinct advantages, including a shorter construction timeframe because construction can begin before the design is 100 percent complete.

"In addition to a faster construction time, the Design-Build process also transfers the project risk from the RMA to the contractor," said NET RMA Chairman Jeff Austin, III. "Our team has done a great job in laying out all of our options, and we want to choose the process that will use our money most efficiently while getting the project on the ground quickly."

The NET RMA voted to move forward with the Toll 49 Segment 3B project using the Design-Build process. That action led to further action items on the agenda, including directing the NET RMA team to prepare technical documents and loan applications for Design-Build CDA procurement and bond support.

"There is considerable work to be done to prepare for a Design-Build CDA procurement," said NET RMA Project Director Everett Owen. "In addition to engineering project management and financial support as the project reaches the bond market, we will also be drafting Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) and Requests for Detailed Proposals (RFDP) in order to select the Best Value Proposer."

In other action, the Board voted to approve a work authorization to begin the 3.4-mile extension of Loop 571 in Rusk County. The work will include Right-of-Way procurement; environmental surveys, reports, and permits; and engineering coordination and management. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is providing project design and utility services for the project.

The meeting concluded with a budget workshop that allowed Board Members to discuss the proposed 2010 NET RMA budget.

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.

###