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NET RMA BOARD DISCUSSES SELECTION FOR REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR BOND COUNSEL SERVICES, FORMATION OF A REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Carthage, **Texas** – **December 1**, **2009** – The North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA) Board of Directors met Tuesday for its Board Meeting at the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame in Carthage, Texas. Among the topics of discussion were the selection of a firm to provide bond counsel services for the Toll 49 Segment 3B project and the formation of a Regional Transit Advisory Committee.

NET RMA Project Director Everett Owen said, "There were 6 firms that responded to the RFQ for bond counsel. After qualifications were reviewed and independent evaluations were complete, Andrews Kurth LLP was the highest scoring firm." The firm has ranked among the nation's top debt and equity legal advisors in the U.S. Capital Markets Review for Year-End 2008. Andrews Kurth LLC has also worked with RMAs previously. "We received qualified submissions from various firms throughout the country. We are delighted to have accomplished another significant step in the Toll 49 Segment 3B project," Owen stated.

The NET RMA originally released the RFQ for Bond Counsel Services for the Toll 49 Segment 3B project with a submission deadline of 4 p.m., October 26, 2009. Toll 49 Segment 3B is a 9.7-mile section of roadway that stretches between State Highway 31 and Interstate 20.

The NET RMA Board also voted during the meeting to create a new Regional Transit Advisory Committee. This new committee was based on the desire to help coordinate multimodal projects in the NET RMA. Currently, a grant application is being forwarded to Smith County for a multimodal project and Longview is also exploring a multimodal project.

"These facilities are great local solutions to bring together many different means of transportation in one place with logical, safe and convenient transfers," said Board Member Jamal Moharer.

The NET RMA will hold its next board meeting January 20, 2010.

About the NET RMA

The NET RMA is an independent government agency created to accelerate the development of transportation projects in northeast 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 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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