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**NET RMA BOARD DISCUSSES CONTINUED PROGRESS FOR DESIGN-BUILD AGREEMENT FOR TOLL 49 SEGMENT 3B PROJECT, PROCUREMENT FOR A TOLL SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR AND CHAIRMAN AUSTIN IS SWORN IN FOR ANOTHER 2-YEAR TERM**

**Jacksonville, Texas – March 24, 2010** – The North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA) Board of Directors met Wednesday for its Board Meeting at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Texas. Among the topics of discussion were the continued procurement for the Toll 49 Segment 3B project through a Design/Build Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA) and the procurement for a Toll System Integrator.

“The Toll 49 project continues to move forward with great momentum. We have been working closely with our colleagues in the financial industry to prepare to sell bonds. They are very bullish on the deal and believe that there is no better time to sell a transportation bond than right now,” said NET RMA Project Director Everett Owen.

The Board voted unanimously to move forward with the procurement of a Toll System Integrator. Identifying the firm will be one of the final steps needed to take the project to Wall Street in the form of a bond. Dates for the Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) will be released shortly.

The Board also discussed bicycle lanes in reference to Toll 49. “The NET RMA is very supportive of all modes of transportation including hike and bike trails. However, there must be support for the financial component of this project outside of the NET RMA. Federal funding may not be available anytime soon, and additional opportunities we’ve investigated require the agency to provide a significant amount of money for the project. We welcome any additional funding ideas for this type of project,” said Chairman Jeff Austin, III.

Chairman Jeff Austin, III and Secretary Dave Spurrier were also sworn in for additional two-year terms by Texas Senator Robert Nichols of Jacksonville, Texas. Jeff Austin, III was reappointed to the Chairman position by Governor Rick Perry.

The NET RMA will hold its next board meeting May 19, 2010, details will be posted at [www.netrma.org](http://www.netrma.org).

**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 the State Legislature in 2001. The NET RMA was established in October 2004.

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