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**Texas Transportation Commission Approves Funding for Smith  
County Multimodal Facility**

**Tyler, Texas – June 30, 2011**

Today, the Texas Transportation Commission approved \$14.9 million in federal funds under several FTA grant programs and almost 1.1 million in TDC for selected projects. Of those funds, \$120,000.00 was awarded to the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority to go towards the Smith County Multimodal Facility. The NET RMA Chairman Jeff Austin III stated that, "We appreciate being able to work with TxDOT and Smith County in this partnership and value the hard work of Mr. Jamal Moharer, Chairman of the East Texas Coordinated Regional Transportation Planning Steering Committee (ETCRTPSC) to take another critical step toward allowing this to become a reality."

Northeast Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA), through a broad partnership that includes the Smith County Commissioners Court and its Smith County Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC), the Tyler Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (Tyler MPO), the City of Tyler, Tyler Transit, NDMJ, Ltd., Greyhound Bus Lines, the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) and the East Texas Coordinated Regional Transportation Planning Steering Committee (ETCRTPSC) applied for this funding to undertake preparatory and planning activities for a Multi-Modal Facility (MMF) transit hub in Tyler. Chairman Austin said, "To fund the ultimate project, the Legislature has given RMA's new tools to work with the Counties in the area of project delivery including Design/Build and Design/Build/Finance to find the most cost effective and efficient manner to construct and fund the project. This is a great model to centralize multimodal facilities in a County and can be a model for other counties/cities to consider."

The Smith County Multimodal Facility (MMF) will consolidate and focus several transportation elements at a single site and allow for increased connectivity for residents of Smith County and the East Texas region to access other areas of Texas and the nation. Available transit services at the MMF will include Greyhound and Kerrville Bus Lines (intercity bus) and charter bus service, transportation to Amtrak train stops in the region, Tyler Transit, a park and ride lot, demand-response rural transit services. "This was the reason that RMA's were established: to partner to find transportation and mobility solutions for our region," stated Chairman Austin.

**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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