

## TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

BRAZOS County

### MINUTE ORDER

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BRYAN District

Pursuant to Chapter 370 of the Transportation Code, and 43 TAC Chapter 26 (RMA rules), Brazos County (county) petitioned the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) for authorization to form a regional mobility authority (RMA) in Brazos County. The petition was filed on November 1, 2018.

By email dated April 3, 2019, the Texas Department of Transportation (department) notified Brazos County that the petition met the requirements of §26.11 of the RMA rules.

The petition identifies the upgrade of an approximately 1.2-mile section of University Drive (FM 60), from Wellborn Road (FM 2154) to Texas Avenue (SH 6 Business), as the initial project for development by the RMA (FM 60/University Drive Project). The FM60/University Drive Project will provide for multi-modal improvements to address significant safety and mobility issues. A 0.6-mile section of University Drive from Boyett Street to College Avenue will be recessed in a cut and cover scenario, making at-grade right-of-way space available to accommodate active transportation options and public gathering spaces, and create numerous economic development opportunities.

The board of directors of the RMA, as set forth in the petition, will be composed of five members, with four directors appointed by the Brazos County Commissioners Court, and the fifth member, the presiding officer, appointed by the Governor. The Brazos County Commissioners Court will appoint at least one resident of the City of Bryan as a director, and at least one resident of the City of College Station as a director.

On May 7, 2019, the department conducted a public hearing in Brazos County, pursuant to §26.12 of the RMA rules, to receive public comment on the proposed formation of the RMA. Notice of the public hearing was published in the *Texas Register* and in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

At the public hearing, four local elected officials spoke in favor of creation of the RMA. In addition, eight individuals expressed unqualified support for creation of the RMA. One individual opined that traffic congestion should be addressed at the state level and expressed concern about the possibility of tolls. He also submitted written comments opposing creation of the RMA. One other individual submitted written comments opposing the conceptual plan for the initial project described in the RMA petition. Another individual submitted a series of questions regarding funding mechanisms to which the district staff provided written answers.

The commission finds that the creation of the RMA has sufficient public support. The commission bases this finding on (1) the resolution of support from the Commissioners Court of Brazos County; and (2) the support indicated at the public hearing.

The commission finds that creation of the RMA will result in direct benefits to the state, local governments, and the traveling public, and will improve the efficiency of the state's transportation systems. The RMA will benefit the state by constructing needed roadway projects, such as the projects identified in the county's petition, as the county's initial project and other potential candidate projects. The RMA will benefit local governments by increasing local control over transportation planning and through additional transportation projects that may be funded through surplus revenue earned by the RMA. The traveling public will also benefit through improved mobility and traffic safety throughout the region encompassed by the RMA. The RMA will improve the efficiency of the state's transportation system through the construction of the initial project and other potential candidate projects, which will

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enhance mobility and safety within these segments of the state highway system, and through the development and financing of additional projects in the future.

The commission finds that the RMA's potential candidate projects are consistent with the approved Texas Transportation Plan and included in the approved plan of the Bryan-College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization. Subject to commission approval of the project under §26.31 of the RMA rules, the commission also finds that the projects will benefit the traveling public.

The commission finds that the composition of the board of directors of the RMA as described in the petition will adequately represent affected political subdivisions.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the commission authorizes the creation of the Brazos County Regional Mobility Authority.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the initial project that may be developed, maintained, and operated by the RMA shall be the FM60/University Drive Project identified above. This order does not constitute final commission approval of the initial project or other potential candidate projects, which must be obtained pursuant to Chapter 370 of the Transportation Code and the applicable provisions of the RMA rules.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the initial board of directors shall be composed of five members, with four directors appointed by the Brazos County Commissioners Court and the presiding officer appointed by the Governor.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Roger A. Beall, P.E. FOR  
Director, Transportation Planning and  
Programming Division

Recommended by:

James M. Bross  
Executive Director

115491 MAY 30 '19  
Minute Date  
Number Passed