



ALAMO RMA

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

"Moving people faster"

October 22, 2008

The Honorable Nelson W. Wolff
Bexar County Judge
100 Dolorosa, Suite 1.05
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Dear Judge Wolff:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the 281 North project. As you pointed out, the mission of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (Alamo RMA) is to be the local voice for transportation projects within our community, and it is entirely within our purview and authority to exercise the local control you have requested we take in regards to the 281 and Loop 1604 projects.

The Alamo RMA today authorized our Executive Director to take the necessary steps to allow our organization to become the lead agency for the new environmental clearance necessary for improvements to occur on the 281 corridor, and the Loop 1604 corridor. We have heard from many individuals and neighborhoods along these corridors. It is the Board of Directors belief that the Alamo RMA must be in the lead role moving forward in order to respond to the community concerns.

While these clearances are being pursued, our staff has also identified possible safety improvements for the 281 corridor which may not be required to wait until the completion of the new environmental document in order to implemented. Further discussion with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) may be necessary to ensure the implementation, but we are confident that these interim solutions will help increase the travel safety in the 281 corridor while we all work toward environmental clearance for the long term capacity solution.

At this time, our engineering staff has proposed four solutions which will not, we believe, impact the environmental clearance, and would be able to be implemented in the very near term.

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Letter to The Honorable Nelson W. Wolff
October 22, 2008

First, from a safety and access standpoint, we are examining construction of an auxiliary lane on north bound US 281 between Evans and Stone Oak, including a dedicated right turn lane at Evans as part of this auxiliary lane. This would help relief the unsafe condition created by traffic being forced onto Evans instead of being allowed to continue up to Stone Oak where the majority of right turn movements occur for East moving traffic.

Second, from a safety and access standpoint, we are examining the construction of dual left turn only lanes on north bound US 281 at Evans Road. This would be in response to the currently high demand for left hand turns which is present at the intersection.

Third, from a safety standpoint to accommodate the current high right turn demand at Evans Road, we are examining the construction of a right turn only lane, and an optional right turn lane on east bound Evans on the approach to the US 281 intersection. To ensure effective operations of this solution, a south bound free entry lane must be constructed on 281 to receive the traffic from this right turn only lane. This would compliment a proposal currently under consideration by the City of San Antonio.

Fourth, convert the south bound right turn lane at Stone Oak to a through lane to match the third south bound lane south of Stone Oak. This option will require additional evaluation to determine if the operation of the design out performs the current Free-Entry lane configuration.

As we move forward, we will find ways to include the public in our evaluation process, and will do all we can to go beyond the traditional limited public involvement and outreach which is normally associated with transportation projects. We will be proactive in how we approach the environmental studies and will continue to do all we can to keep the community informed and involved during each step of the process.

If I or the staff of the Alamo RMA can be of any further assistance to you or the Commissioners Court, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Thornton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. William E. Thornton
Chairman