



July 15, 2015

# Unified Planning Work Program

MPO Policy Committee Members approved contents of the the F.Y. 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) on July 8, 2015. The work program is composed of five tasks.

Task 1.0 Administration / Management:

The Brownsville MPO staff provide administrative support, liaison work and coordination of transportation planning activities.

Activities include directing program support, providing grant administration, overseeing MPO/Consultant firm contracts, assisting both the MPO Policy and Technical Committees, overseeing and coordinating transit planning efforts and providing information to the public.

Task 2.0 Data Development:

Socioeconomic data is collected by the MPO staff on a continuous basis. One use of this demographic information is to perform Travel Demand Modeling. This “model” is used by MPO staff to forecast future traffic volumes and assignments. MPO staff regularly monitor growth patterns in the MPO study area for their impact upon the community’s transportation system.

Task 3.0 Short-Range Planning:

The objective of this task is to plan activities that will be carried out in the near future. These include Transit/General Development and Comprehensive Planning, Transit/Short Range Transportation Planning, Transit/Transportation Improvement Program, Short Range Planning (Non-Transit), Bicycle/ Pedestrian Planning, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Category 7 Project Selection & Implementation and annual UPWP developments. (cont’d on page 4)

**Brownsville**  
Metropolitan Planning Organization

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*El Tapiz Building, 1150 E. Adams St. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Brownsville, TX*

## Upcoming Policy Committee Meetings

**Wednesday, August 12, 2015**  
At 10 a.m.  
Port of Brownsville  
(Security Dept. Meeting Room)  
1000 Foust Rd.  
Brownsville, TX 78520

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015**  
At 10 a.m.  
City Hall, City Commission Chambers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
1001 E. Elizabeth St.  
Brownsville, TX 78520

**Wednesday, October 14, 2015**  
At 10 a.m.  
City Hall, City Commission Chambers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
1001 E. Elizabeth St.  
Brownsville, TX 78520

# Coming Soon to a Street Near You

In the Fall of 2013, the Brownsville Bicycle and Trail Master Plan was rolled out; a vision outlining the groundwork for a more connected, health conscious community. Some of the proposed improvements serve to invite the cyclist to enjoy existing scenic treasures.

There are numerous locations throughout the City of Brownsville that are proposed for future bicycle infrastructure, such as off-street facilities (bike paths) and on-street facilities (bike lanes). Off-street facilities consist of pathways that are used by multiple users. On-street facilities consist of parallel roadside markings allowing the bicycle to

maneuver similar to an automobile.

The Brownsville MPO Policy Committee is considering amendments of the MPO’s plan to list bike lanes and bike ways from the City’s Plan. MPO approval of the listings located south of Boca Chica Boulevard is the first phase. The second phase will consist of those facilities to the north of Boca Chica. All things considered, the plan is to connect Brownsville as a whole, neighborhoods, schools, work, retail, and municipal sites.

These listings may one day become projects, that are subsequently implemented as funding becomes available.



## Title VI



The Brownsville MPO has developed a Title VI Discrimination Complaint Procedure. As a newly designated Transportation Management Area (TMA), this MPO is taking steps to put a process in place that meets with the federal requirements. Title VI document was approved by the MPO Policy Committee on June 10, 2015.

In summary, this MPO process addresses questions as to when and where to file, what to include in the complaint, how records will be kept and a general overview of the complaint process.

Title VI stems from the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which makes it unlawful for a government agency that is financed federal funds, to discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

## Get Your Wheels On!

Are you looking for a great challenge for yourself? A long distance ride? Coming this August 2015, the **Gran Fondo** will be enthusiastically received by local cyclists; the event unfolds on the streets of Brownsville and surrounding Lower Rio Grande Valley cities.

This international cycling event is to be considered a challenge. The route is two-part; cyclists can choose between a 100 mile or 60 mile scenic (controlled-pace) ride. The event is for all ages, all bicycle styles and guarantees a fun individual or family experience. At the event, participants can enjoy a properly marked route, police regulated traffic, right of way at intersections, Expo at start/finish line, filling stations, and mechanical support. Volunteers will provide help and offer encouragement all day.

**Gran Fondo** was created by Raúl Alcalá, a pioneering professional Mexican cyclist and Mercedes Martinez. Among Alcalá's accomplishments is being the first person from Mexico to participate in the Tour de France in 1986.

Raúl Alcalá invites you to be a part of the movement; send a positive message, promote the sport of cycling and give importance to one's health.

**Gran Fondo** is scheduled for Sunday, August 23, 2015. Stay tuned for more details or visit:

<http://www.active.com/brownsville-tx/cycling/raul-alcala-challenge-gran-fondo-brownsville-tx-2015>

Come out and ride!

*Ride with*  
R.A.  
Raúl Alcalá

**RAUL ALCALA**  
CHALLENGE

**CONTACT:**  
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Kendra Stine  
e-mail:kendra.stine@cob.us  
Tel: 956-547-6531 | Cell: 956-204-8712

**SAVE THE DATE**

Brownsville  
See the Empire. Live the Sun.

**BROWNSVILLE**  
See the Empire. Live the Sun.

**AUGUST 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015**  
BROWNSVILLE, TX  
GRAN FONDO

## Unified Planning Work Program (cont'd from page 1)

### Task 4.0 Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

Under this task, activities will focus on issues involved with long-range planning.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2015-2040 will be maintained and updated. MPO staff will periodically update the Travel Demand Model with current network maps and socio-economic data.

Additionally, MPO Committees will coordinate with TXDOT on TXDOT long range plans and the 10-year Unified Transportation Plan (UTP).

### Task 5.0 Special Studies:

Special (one time) activities are conducted under this task.

The MPO will continue monitoring the Congestion Management Process (CMP) to comply with federal requirements. Completion of the Congestion & Delay Study in 2012 has led to the selection of operational improvements that are being funded and executed. These improvements will increase mobility and reduce roadway delay and congestion.

Moreover, in 2016 the Brownsville MPO will conduct a planning effort to enable the Town of Rancho Viejo to complete a Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. A consultant firm will be hired to help examine existing subdivision ordinances, provide cost estimates, and determine available right-of-way at roadways and easements. Rancho Viejo has great potential in becoming a bike friendly and walkable community.

Brownsville Metro will be developing a Comprehensive Strategic Plan that will identify capital programs and operational services to be prioritized. This study may take two years to complete, but will help in developing a new Transit Development Plan (TDP).

The MPO's proposed work program will be reviewed by FHWA staff. If any changes are indicated, MPO staff will make additions and/or changes.

If you wish, stop by El Tapiz Building to pick up a free copy of the UPWP.

## Federal Certification Update

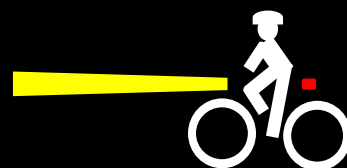
During early June 2015, the Brownsville MPO hosted members of the staff from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In cooperation with TxDOT staff, a review of MPO functions was conducted. This examination is to ensure that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is large enough to be a Transportation Management Area, is conforming to federal guidelines.

Topics and discussions focused on the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), Title VI, Travel Demand Model, Congestion Management Process, Safety, Security, Transit, Freight and Bicycle/Pedestrian Livability Issues.

Being the first time the Brownsville MPO underwent such an evaluation, staff at the Brownsville MPO are pleased at the positive responses and constructive feedback received. BMPO staff will continue to work on making improvements in the MPO's overall planning process.

The Final Certification Review will take place October 20-22, 2015. An evening public meeting, where residents of the urbanized area can have their voices heard is scheduled for October 21, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the City of Brownsville City Hall, City Commission Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 1001 E. Elizabeth St.

LIGHT THE BIKE AT NIGHT!!







### WHAT IS AN MPO?

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a regional policy board, required in urbanized areas with populations over 50,000 and designated by local officials and the governor of the state.

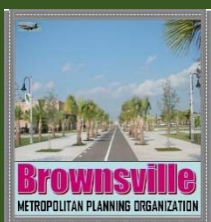
# Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization

c/o City of Brownsville Planning  
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P.O. Box 911  
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Brownsville, TX 7852

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Visit the MPO webpage: [mpo.cob.us](http://mpo.cob.us)



## About Us

The Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization provides administrative support and technical services to coordinate, carry out and conduct transportation planning for Brownsville, Los Fresnos, the Town of Rancho Viejo and unincorporated parts of the MPO study area.

The activities conducted by the Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) are intended to identify policies, programs and improvement projects to address area transportation activities and needs. The adoption of transportation plans and policies by the MPO is an integral step in the process of obtaining federal funding for transportation improvements, and transit activities.

## Contact

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## Border Crossing Information

Are you ready to plan your next trip across the border? Going shopping, grabbing dinner with friends, or attending your cousin's birthday party? Ever wonder how long it is going to take to cross the international bridge? Didn't get to hear the border crossing time update on the local radio station or television newscast? Take a look at the following link provided by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and stay informed with up to the hour details, 24 hours a day:

[www.bwt.cbp.gov](http://www.bwt.cbp.gov)

For commercial vehicle crossing time refer to:  
[www.bcis.tamu.edu](http://www.bcis.tamu.edu)

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City of Brownsville Planning Department  
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[Addressee]  
[Street Address]  
City, ST, Zip Code

NAME/NOMBRE	COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN	
PHONE/TELÉFONO	
<p>PLEASE HELP US IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION IN BROWNSVILLE BY SENDING US YOUR IDEAS AND COMMENTS. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS CAN BE ADDRESSED TO:</p> <p>Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization c/o City of Brownsville – Planning Department P.O. Box 911 1150 E. Adams St. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Brownsville, TX 78520</p> <p>Or E-mail: <a href="mailto:georgina.lopez@cob.us">georgina.lopez@cob.us</a></p>	
<p>POR FAVOR AYUDENOS A MEJORAR EL SISTEMA DE TRANSPORTE EN BROWNSVILLE. QUEREMOS ESCUCHAR DE USTED. ENVÍENOS SUS IDEAS, COMENTARIOS Y PREGUNTAS A LA SIGUIENTE DIRECCIÓN:</p> <p>Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization c/o City of Brownsville – Planning Department P.O. Box 911 1150 E. Adams St. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Brownsville, TX 78520</p> <p>O Correo Electrónico: <a href="mailto:georgina.lopez@cob.us">georgina.lopez@cob.us</a></p>	