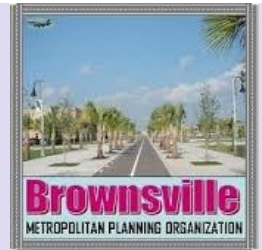


# Brownsville

## Metropolitan Planning Organization



Newsletter

January 2017

### Annual Listing of Projects and Annual Performance & Expenditure Report

What is the MPO's Annual Listing of Projects (**A.L.P.**)?

The **A.L.P.** is a list of those improvement projects which were started in Fiscal Year (F.Y.) 2016 with MPO funds.

What is the MPO's Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (**A.P.E.R.**)?

The **A.P.E.R.** outlines F.Y. 2016 planning work tasks conducted by the MPO; as well as the associated financial outlays or costs.

Please be advised that the Brownsville MPO Policy Committee members will hear (take) public comments or questions on the MPO's Annual Listings of Projects (A.L.P.) and the MPO's F.Y. 2016 Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (A.P.E.R.) at the MPO meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at Brownsville City Hall Commission Chambers, 2nd floor, 1001 E. Elizabeth St., Brownsville, Texas.

Persons may view the contents of both documents via the MPO's website at [www.brownsvillemo.org](http://www.brownsvillemo.org) or [mpo.cob.us](http://mpo.cob.us).

These documents are available for public inspection at the MPO Department, located at City Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 1034 E. Levee St. Brownsville, Tex-



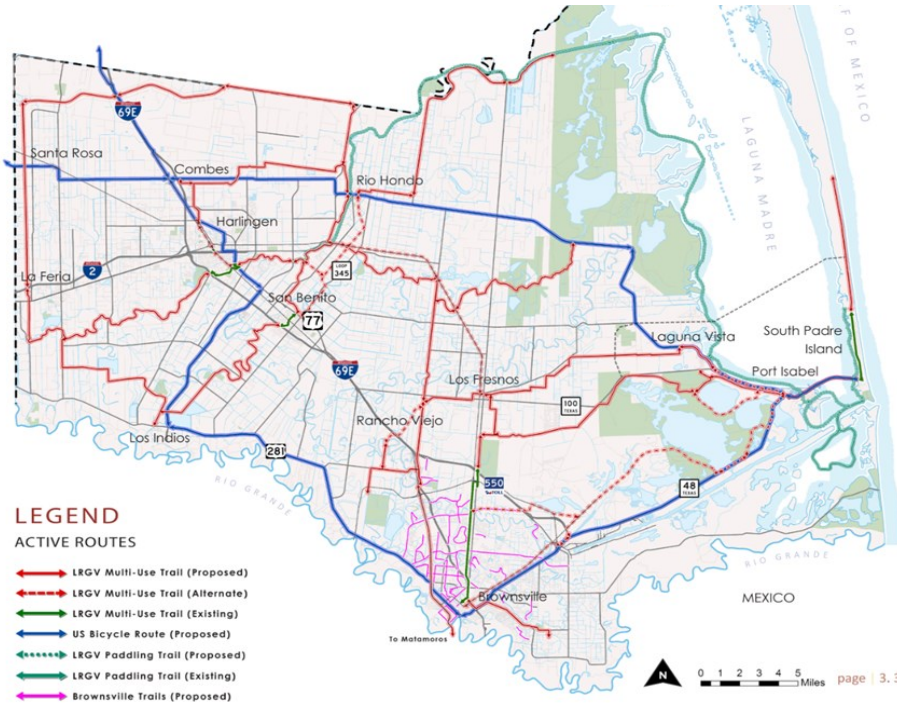
**START THE YEAR  
BIKING!**



**Wishing you a Happy  
New Year 2017!**

### In This Issue

- The Active Plan Pg. 2
- U.P.W.P. Pg. 3
- Town of Rancho Viejo Master Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Pg. 4



ACTIVE PLAN MAP

## Upcoming Policy Committee Meetings

- January 11, 2017  
City Hall-Commission Chambers  
1001 E. Elizabeth Street  
2nd floor  
Brownsville, TX 78520
- February 08, 2017  
City Hall-Commission Chambers  
1001 E. Elizabeth Street  
2nd floor  
Brownsville, TX 78520

## The Active Plan

On Wednesday, November 16, 2016, the City of Brownsville hosted “The Active Plan” signing ceremony at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts.

The active plan signing ceremony celebrates the adoption of The Active Plan by the municipalities of Brownsville, Combes, Harlingen, Laguna Vista, Los Fresnos, Los Indios, Port Isabel, Rancho Viejo, San Benito, and South Padre Island.

The Active Plan provides a strategic framework for the development and promotion of biking and walking throughout Cameron County. In addition, it is designed to provide participating municipalities with a coordinated approach to attract tourists to Cameron County and provide active amenities to permanent residents through area-wide bicycle and pedestrian transportation investments and the development of targeted tourism development strategies.

The Active Plan is a “tool kit” that the signing municipalities will implement to develop a regional network of paths and trails that will promote active transportation in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.





## Brownsville Transit Plan

We want to hear from **YOU**. Tell us about what works well with B Metro and Metro Connect. Also, what doesn't work so well. Please share how you think things could be improved.

Please take the following survey, and let us know what you think:

<http://brownsvillitransit-plan.com/survey/>



### Unified Planning Work Program

MPO Staff and BMetro staff recently met to discuss the use of unspent federal (**Sec. 5307**) funds.

To resolve this problem, MPO staff have proposed to allocate unspent (Sec. 5307) funds to several transit planning subtasks listed on Unified Planning Work Program, (U.P.W.P.). .

On Wednesday, January 11, 2017, MPO Policy Committee members will consider amending the MPO's F.Y. 2017 Unified Planning Work Program, (U.P.W.P.).

Federal (Sec. 5307) and local funds are proposed to be added to the following subtasks:

**Subtask 1.2** – The Brownsville Metro Transit Planner will administer, coordinate and monitor the associated transit planning activities in the area for compliance with federal and state requirements of Map-21.

**Subtask 2.1** – MPO staff periodically undertake analysis, produce reports and associated graphics for socio-economic data collected for geographic areas via the Geographic Information System (GIS).

**Subtask 3.2** - Transit staff participation in the MPO's planning process is essential for the coordination and implementation of transit and transportation planning programs. The Brownsville Metro Transit Planner's involvement in the transit and transportation planning process includes participation in planning work sessions of the MPO Technical Committee.

**Subtask 5.3** - Brownsville Metro staff will undertake activities to secure public input to the MPO-sponsored B-Metro Strategic Transit Plan.





## **Town of Rancho Viejo Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**

The MPO-sponsored Town of Rancho Viejo Master Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan will commence this fiscal year.

Just over two months ago, the MPO Policy Committee members authorized the MPO Director to negotiate a Scope of Work and Contract with Halff Associates Inc.,.

In recent weeks, Brownsville MPO staff has nearly finalized work on several items pertaining to this study.

First, Halff Associates Inc, has developed a proposed Scope of Work, which is acceptable to the town officials and the MPO Staff.

Second, a draft MPO: Consultant Contract has been developed. This contract is pending final legal review. After this review has been completed, an agenda item will be placed before the Brownsville City Commission for their consideration and action.

The City of Brownsville is the MPO's fiscal agent and thus the potential contract award must be approved by the City Commission.

Subsequently, a notice to proceed will be issued to the consultant firm; after procurement items have been finalized.

This plan will identify gaps within the existing infrastructure. With public input, the MPO-sponsored plan will include recommendations to create a user-friendly system of alternative transportation. The plan aims to provide safe access to walking, running, and cycling by analyzing and recommending the implementation of bike lanes, sidewalks, and trails.

Recommendations will include near term and long term (phased) improvement projects.



## 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

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## About Us

The **Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** provides administrative support and technical services to coordinate, carry out and conduct transportation planning for Brownsville, Los Fresnos and the Town of Rancho Viejo to conform to federal highway and transit regulations.

The activities conducted by the **Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization** 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 of various transportation improvements, including transit activities.

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[Addressee]

[Street Address]

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 PO Box 911 1034 E. Levee Street 2nd floor Brownsville, TX 78520</p>	
<p>POR FAVOR AYUDENOS A MEJORAR EL SISTEMA DE TRANSPORTE EN BROWNSVILLE. ENVÍENOS SUS IDEAS Y COMENTARIOS QUE QUEREMOS ESCUCHAR DE USTED.</p> <p>ENVIE SUS COMENTARIOS Y PREGUNTAS A LA SIGUIENTE DIRECCIÓN:</p> <p>Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization c/o City of Brownsville – Planning Department PO Box 911 1034 E. Levee Street 2nd floor Brownsville, TX 78520</p>	