

Brownsville

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Issue 03

Newsletter

July 2017



IH-69E Continuous Illumination Project Is Underway

Beginning in the month of April 2017, work on IH-69E lighting improvements started in Brownsville. At times some lane closures were encountered. The purpose of this project is to upgrade all highway light fixtures for portions of the interstates in the Rio Grande Valley, by installing energy efficient LED (Light Emitting Diodes) lighting.

This project will not only help to increase visibility for drivers during night-time, but it will also help reduce the cost of electricity from the lighting fixtures on IH-69E. Funding for this project came via Proposition 1 TxDOT funds that were allocated to Brownsville, Harlingen-San Benito, and Hidalgo MPOs.

Total cost for the Continuous Illumination project was estimated or calculated at 3 million dollars. Brownsville MPO allocated or authorized an amount of \$825,000 for the portion of the project that's within the MPO's boundary area.

In conclusion, the continuous illumination project is helping to improve driving conditions during the night hours and also reducing the use of electricity. The LEDs or Light Emitting Diodes have a longer useful or service life than regular lighting.



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Upcoming Policy Committee Meetings

-Wednesday, **August 09, 2017**
at 10 a.m.

City Hall-Commission Chambers
1001 E. Elizabeth 2nd floor
Brownsville, Texas 78520

- Wednesday, **September 13, 2017**
at 10 a.m.

City Hall-Commission Chambers
1001 E. Elizabeth 2nd floor
Brownsville, Texas 78520



August 2017 TIP Revisions

Brownsville MPO is preparing to present and submit a project to TxDOT via the STIP portal for the upcoming August 2017 **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** Revision. On July 12, 2017, the Policy Committee members voted to include the following project in the MPO's TIP:

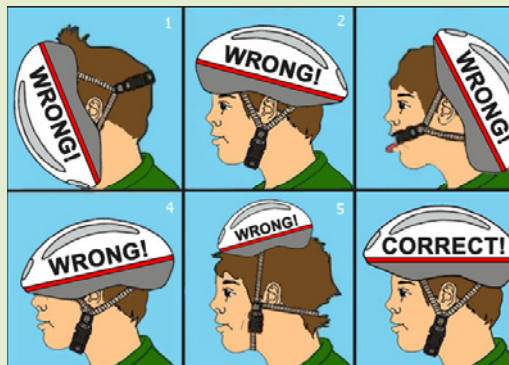
- The **BND Internal Port Roads** Project, is scheduled to let in Fiscal Year 2018. The construction of internal roads at the Port of Brownsville. The estimated total project cost is \$1,629,889 and will be funded by **Category 10** monies.

Revisiones del TIP para agosto del 2017

Brownsville MPO presentará un proyecto que será presentado a TxDOT para la revisión del “**Transportation Improvement Program**” (TIP) de agosto del 2017. El 12 de julio de 2017, los miembros del Comité Político votaron para incluir el siguiente proyecto:

- El proyecto de **BND Internal Port Roads** esta programado para el inicio del año fiscal 2018. El proyecto consiste en la construcción de carreteras internas en el puerto de Brownsville. El costo total aproximado del proyecto es de \$ 1,629,889 y será financiado por la **Categoría 10**.

Bike Safety



2017 International Trade Symposium

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in partnership with the City of Brownsville, local and international stake holders, held the 2017 International Trade Symposium on June 8, 2017 at the Brownsville Event Center. This was the first International Trade Symposium event, with the purpose to share ideas and information with international stake holders. This event was jointly sponsored by the Brownsville Licensed United States Customs Brokers Association, City of Brownsville (location), International Bank of Commerce (food), Brownsville Chamber of Commerce (presenters) and Brownsville Licensed U.S. Customs Brokers Association. Other organizations and stakeholders present at the event were:

- 1.City of Brownsville
- 2.Brownsville MPO
- 3.City of Harlingen
- 4.Harlingen/San Benito MPO
- 5.Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority
- 6.Brownsville Navigation District Port of Brownsville
- 7.Asociacion de Maquiladoras de Matamoras
- 8.Aduana de Mexico
- 9.Camara Nacional del Autotransporte de Carga
- 10.Asociacion de Agentes Aduanales De Matamoras
- 11.Texas Transportation Institute
- 12.Texas Chamber of Commerce
13. Cameron County Bridge System
- 14.U.S Small business Administration Lower Rio Grande Valley District Office



The event had a great turnout and it surpassed the expectations for being the first event of its type.

The main focus of the symposium was to discuss international trade in relation to an International Trade Plan that will promote the future growth of trade. Information and comments received at the 2017 International Trade Symposium will allow for better trade planning, and management of resources to meet the trade needs of Brownsville & Cameron County. Also, input will be used to develop a five year trade plan.

During the symposium, MPOs began by explaining the affiliation that each have with Federal, State and local entities. In addition, stakeholder representatives explained the major role of U.S international trade in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Dependent upon the different border crossings with Mexico, Brownsville allows goods to be exported or imported via alternate modes such as:

- Shipping (Port of Brownsville)
- Rail
- Aviation (Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport)
- Highway (Trucks)

Brownsville MPO and City of Brownsville staff will provide information about any upcoming International Trade events.

Updates on TxDOT Projects

A. Brownville Historic Battlefield Hike and Bike Trail

CSJ: 0921-06-270

Estimated Cost: \$899,908.00

Contractor: Aranda Brothers Construction, INC.

February 2016 Letting



Updates: One item pending on Brownville Historic Battlefield Hike and Bike Trail. Sidewalks and ADA ramps are being constructed along the trail. This project is expected to be completed July 2017.

B. US 281 Widen Roadway

CSJ: 0220-04-035

Estimated Cost: \$14 million

Contractor: Foremost Paving

January 2016 Letting



Updates: Contractor is removing hot mix on the north-side of roadway. This project will widen U.S 281 from a two lane to a four lane road starting at F.M. 3248 and ending on F.M. 1421. The estimated completion date for this project is March 2018.

C. FM 803 Project

CSJ: 1138-02-015

Estimated Cost: \$10,494,854.48

Contractor: Foremost Construction

September 2014 Letting



Updates: Project is almost complete and is mainly pending completion of old FM 803. The project is expected to be completed by August 2017.



Brownsville Metro Comprehensive Strategic Transit Plan

Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates with the collaboration of BMetro and Brownsville MPO, have completed the Brownsville Metro Comprehensive Strategic Transit Plan. On June 20th staff from Nelson/Nygaard held a small workshop prior to the City Commission Meeting. A copy of the Brownsville Transit Plan was provided to city commissioners and city officials. Nelson/Nygaard staff provided a brief overview about the newly created plan and answered any questions.

The transit plan offers short term and long term goals that will improve and provide better transit service to our area. The City of Brownsville and BMetro are anticipating to implement the short goals by the latter part of 2017.

If anybody wishes to obtain a copy of the Brownsville Metro Comprehensive Strategic Transit Plan you may contact Brownsville MPO or BMetro at:

Brownsville MPO
1034 E. Levee St. 2nd floor
Brownsville , Texas 78526
(956) 548 6150

BMetro
755 International Blvd.
Brownsville , Texas 78520
(956) 548 6050





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 Department
PO Box 911
1034 E. Levee Street 2nd floor
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Visit: <http://brownsvillempo.org> or <http://mpo.cob.us>



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]
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 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>	