

Brownsville

Metropolitan Planning Organization



Newsletter

Issue 01

January 2018

Public Input is needed for the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan

As the population continues to rise for the Brownsville Metropolitan Area, urban infrastructure will be under immense pressure to serve the demand of its residents. A strong regional transportation system is vital to the region's economy and livability.

As part of Federal requirements, All MPOs are required to submit two types of plans, a long range and short range plan, in order to continue receiving federal transportation funds. The Brownsville Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a long-range transportation plan that is created with the goal of meeting the different transportation needs for the next 25 years. The long-range plan lists goals, visions and future transportation projects for the region. The long-range plan will help guide decisions about which transportation projects to fund and implement via the short range plan or Transportation Improvement Program, (TIP). Long term transportation planning is very critical to ensure that our transportation system is able to handle increases in population, employment, or traffic, in order to ameliorate or lessen problems due to increased congestion.

Brownsville MPO staff, in collaboration with TxDOT, will make a forecast of available financial resources and identify candidate improvement projects that best serve the objectives and goals for the MPO.

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Upcoming Policy Committee Meetings

-Wednesday, January 10, 2018
at 10 a.m.

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

-Wednesday, February 14, 2018
at 10 a.m.

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

No Texting while Driving

With the constant upgrade of technology, we can now do practically anything on a device which can fit in the palm of our hands. Staying in touch with friends and family becomes a very practical and easy task to accomplish at anytime and anywhere.

Within the last few years, it has been observed that the use of mobile devices while driving has drastically increased. In fact, about 25% car accidents that occur, are due to drivers getting distracted with a mobile cellular device. Aside from talking on the phone, majority of cell phone use by drivers is to read or send a text message.

In Texas, various efforts have been made by local and state authorities to diminish the accidents and fatalities that are caused by texting while driving. As of Sept 1, 2017, Texas House Bill 62 prohibits the use of cellular devices for texting while operating a motor vehicle. Violators will face a misdemeanor charge and a fine that can range from \$25 to as much as \$200.

In the year of 2016, TxDOT stated that 455 people were killed and more than 3,000 were seriously injured in crashes due to driver distractions. Studies show that the reaction of a driver that is sending or reading a text message is reduced by as much as half.

Ensuring that all drivers in Texas do not text while driving is a tough task, but local and state authorities will ensure its enforcement. In addition, Texas motorists may help. Please report any drivers that are texting while driving, and putting the lives of others at risk.



MTP (cont'd from page 1)

Public input is very important in the development of this long range plan. The Brownsville MPO welcomes any comments, opinions, ideas or feedback on these matters as this planning process gets started. Please send us any comments about those transportation problems that need to be addressed by the MTP Update. Let the MPO know which projects should take place in the upcoming years. You may forward any of your ideas and comments to the MPO staff via email: bmppo@cob.us. Also, the public may forward their input by mail or in person to: Brownsville MPO Department- 1034 E. Levee St. 2nd Floor Brownsville, Texas 78520.

The MPO Policy Committee members will make the final choices on project selection in late 2019, at the end of this planning process. Not all proposed projects will be selected or funded, due to financial constraints.

Copies of the 2015-2040 Brownsville Metropolitan Transportation Plan, are available at our office and also on our website www.brownsvillemppo.org or <http://mpo.cob.us>.

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.) 2017 with MPO funds.

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

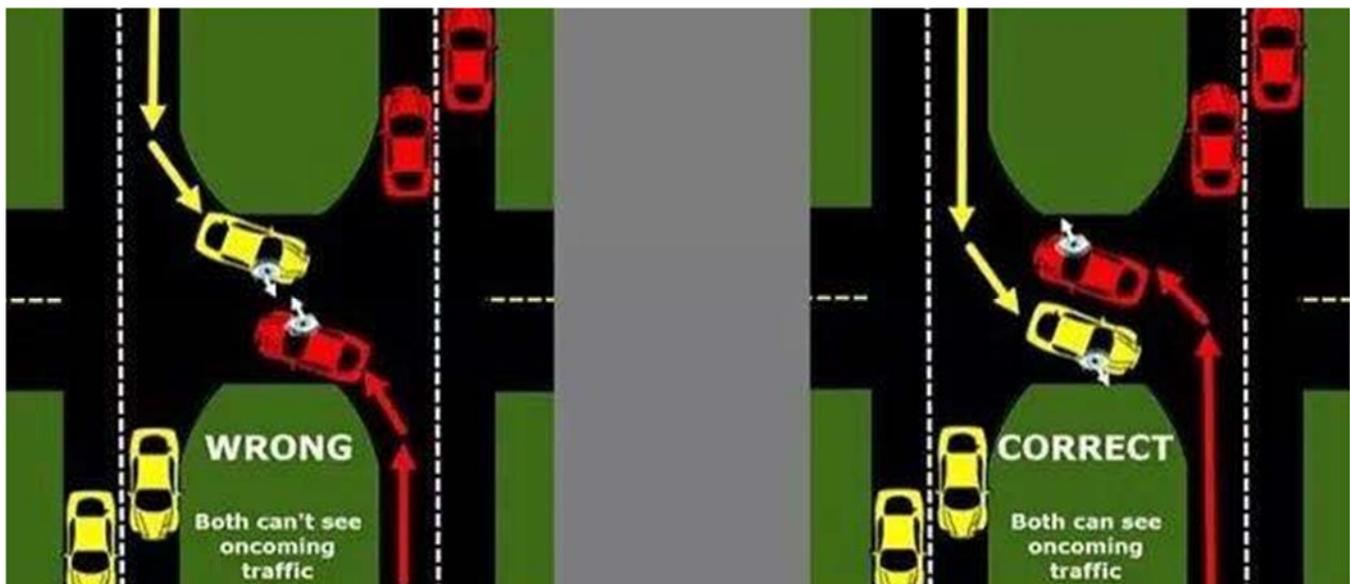
The **A.P.E.R.** outlines F.Y. 2017 planning work tasks conducted by the MPO; as well as the associated financial outlays or costs.

Please be advised that the Brownville 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. 2017 Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (A.P.E.R.) at the MPO meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at Brownville 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.brownvillempo.org or <http://mpo.cob.us>.

These documents are available for public inspection at the MPO Department, located at City Plaza, 2nd floor, 1034 E. Levee St. Brownsville, Texas. Please call ahead before visiting us.

Proper Median U-Turn



Compliance with the NEPA Environmental Process for Transportation Projects

As our population grows, we are sometimes faced with the need to expand or extend our roadways, in order to improve our transportation system. A new roadway project often involves use of undeveloped land, which may impact ecosystems and/or historic or cultural resources.

In 1969, the National Environmental Policy Act was enacted in order to ensure that federal agencies consider the environmental-related social, historic and economic effects of their proposed actions. The MPO is not a federal agency per se, but the MPO allocates federal funds. Thus, the MPO is subject to these federal regulations.

The environmental review process helps to analyze the impact proposed improvements. The goal is to derive a conclusion as to whether or not the proposed project will have a negative impact on the environment, or no effect. The environmental review process requires consultation with the different review agencies or entities that check on the various areas of compliance. Areas of consideration include: historic preservation, ecological, natural resources, wildlife, environmental justice, and other factors.

All federally funded projects are required to follow and comply with the NEPA environmental review process. Federal funds may not be utilized to commence the construction improvements until clearance has been met.

While it's very important to maintain and improve our roadway system, it is imperative that we also make transportation decisions that are not only safe for the environmental, but are in the public's interest.

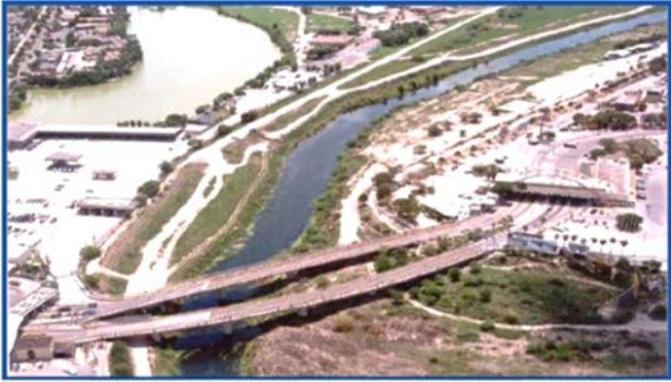


We are now on Facebook!

Follow us and give us a like.

[facebook.com/BrownsvilleMPO/](https://www.facebook.com/BrownsvilleMPO/)





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.

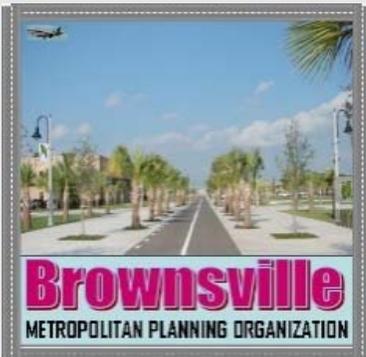
Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization

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E-mail: bmpo@cob.us

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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Brownsville, TX 78520

[Addressee]

[Street Address]

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| NAME/NOMBRE | COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS |
| ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN | |
| PHONE/TELÉFONO () | |
| 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: Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization c/o City of Brownsville – Planning Department PO Box 911 1034 E. Levee Street 2nd floor Brownsville, TX 78520 | |
| POR FAVOR AYUDENOS A MEJORAR EL SISTEMA DE TRANSPORTE EN BROWNSVILLE. ENVÍENOS SUS IDEAS Y COMENTARIOS QUE QUEREMOS ESCUCHAR DE USTED. ENVIE SUS COMENTARIOS Y PREGUNTAS A LA SIGUIENTE DIRECCIÓN: Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization c/o City of Brownsville – Planning Department PO Box 911 1034 E. Levee Street 2nd floor Brownsville, TX 78520 | |