

Brownsville MPO

Newsletter



Issue 01

May 2019

IH-69 Pedestrian and Vehicular Overpasses

The Texas Department of Transportation continues to progress on the IH-69E northbound vehicular frontage road overpass, IH-69E southbound vehicular frontage road overpass and hike and bike-bridge projects. These structures are being build 0.4 mile south of Merryman Road and 0.35 mile north of Old Alice Road, over the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad.

The contractor has already installed the concrete bridge columns to support the overpass structures. Currently, ground work is being undertake to treat and prepare the foundation to where the retaining walls will be constructed.

The estimated total project cost for this project is approximately \$15 million dollars. Funding was obtained from categories 1, 2 & 7 federal monies. The estimated completion date for this project is February 2020.

The will help serve the community's needs in the following ways:

- Provide access for northbound travel during Hurricane Evacuation events.
- Serve emergency, fire and police travel when needed, during an accident that causes the IH69E main lanes to be blocked off.
- Bicyclists and pedestrians will be able to safely travel northbound and southbound.
- Hike and bike overpass will meet or comply with ADA and pedestrian requirements.



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Upcoming Policy Committee Meetings

- Wednesday, **May 15, 2019**

at 10 a.m.

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

- Wednesday, **June 19, 2019**

at 10 a.m.

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

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2019 Hurricane Season

The 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season officially begins on June 1st and it will come to an end on November 30th. Hurricanes pose hazards such as flooding, high winds, tornadoes, high surf and rip currents.



Hurricanes are powerful storms characterized by intense winds that begin at 74 mph and can reach up to 157 mph or higher. Being near the Texas Coast poses risks. Thus, it's imperative to take time to prepare for you and your family for this season. According to FEMA, a basic survivor kit consists of water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, non-perishable food; a battery-powered or hand crank radio, flashlight with extra batteries; a first aid kit; a manual can opener for food; local maps and a cell phone with chargers; and an inverter or solar charger. It is best to purchase the items for your preparedness kit ahead of time.



Some of the effects and aftermath resulting from hurricanes and other natural events can impact the transportation system and alternate routes may need to be utilized. Proper planning and being aware of alternate routes to travel is important to know .



The Brownsville MPO has provided helpful Hurricane Awareness information on both of its websites; brownsvillempo.org and mpo.cob.us. The following items may be found on our websites: Flood Zone Maps, FEMA Flood Hazards Areas tools, Hurricane Evacuation Route Maps, and web links.

On May 30, 2019 the Brownsville MPO will be participating at the Hurricane Awareness Fair hosted by the City of Brownsville. Everyone encouraged to attend.

Let's be prepared. Make a plan for this hurricane season.

CITY OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS
HURRICANE AWARENESS FAIR 2019

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019
5:00P.M. - 9:00P.M.
BROWNSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
2600 CENTRAL BLVD.

EQUIPMENT DISPLAYS,
PRESENTATIONS,
FREE FOOD &
DOOR PRIZES!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
546-HELP (4357) 546HELP@cob.us

Brownsville MPO Public Engagement Sessions



Throughout 2018 and 2019 the Brownsville MPO has held various Open House and Workshop events.

Information provided by the community at these events has helped the MPO in identifying transportation projects that can be considered as candidate projects for the 2020-2045 Brownsville Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

The MTP is a long-range transportation plan that is federally required for all MPOs. The MTP is a planning document that outlines future investments in transportation related activities and services. This plan is adopted every five years and identifies projects that are needed to accommodate the projected 25 year growth of the Brownsville MPO area.

In addition to seeking comments or recommendation for our MTP, the MPO is also receiving input on neighborhood mobility which will be incorporated into the Brownsville MPO Neighborhood Assessment.

Comments, recommendations and concerns provided by the citizen to the MPO, have been shared with the corresponding local partners and a follow-up correspondence has been sent to the citizens. We appreciate all who attended and participated in the past public engagements.

If you have been unable to attend, one of the previous events, you can still join us at our upcoming Open House event. The MPO Open House which will take place on May 09, 2019 at El Centro Cultural , 2100 Gregory Ave. Brownsville, Texas 78526 from 2:00pm to 5pm.

Also the Brownsville MPO will hold its July 2019 Policy Committee in the evening Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Brownsville City Hall, 2nd floor Commission Chambers. You may attend this meeting and present your comments, questions or recommendations. Even though Valley MPO's will likely merge, the process of soliciting your ideas will continue.



Metropolitan Planning Organization

OPEN HOUSE

WHEN:

THURSDAY - MAY 09, 2019
2:00PM - 5:00PM

LOCATION:

EL CENTRO CULTURAL
2100 GREGORY AVE.
BROWNSVILLE, TX 78526

How do you travel?
Do you use public transit?
Do you ride a bicycle?
Where do you travel to?
Your input will help the MPO in identifying mobility barriers and impediments that hinder the travel of pedestrians and bicyclists within our neighborhoods.



For more information
contact us at:
Call: (956) 548-6143
Email: bmpo@cob.us
Mail: 1034 E. Levee St.
Brownsville, TX 78520

The MPO invites you to attend this public engagement session, to share your views, comments, and suggestions on transportation issues. Your input will help guide the MPO in the upcoming selection of projects for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Personal Responsibility and Safer Streets

By: Mark Lund, Brownsville MPO Director

I recently read an editorial in the Houston Chronicle (February 6, 2019) that impressed me, entitled “Let’s Face the Truth: Safer Streets Are Ours to Create”. The piece was written by Bryan Dotson. Mr. Dotson’s basic premise is that we all have a role to play because driving behavior matters. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that “human choices...are linked to 94 percent of serious crashes”. What are some examples of these choices?

How about inclement weather? While almost every day our trips on a particular roadway are uneventful, what about dealing with morning fog? Do you reduce your speed under those conditions? Again, it is your choice. If getting to work on time is important, do you depart home earlier to allow for the extra time needed to make this journey a safer one?

Mr. Dotson suggests that we strive to re-balance or shift our road culture. Life and limb are more important than speed and convenience. As he phrases this point: “When you and I dedicate ourselves to the idea that ‘no one gets hurt on my trip’, we’ll pay attention to the task at hand, slowing down when we see potential hazards and blind corners ahead, maintaining a ‘space cushion’ around us, watching for pedestrians, pulling over and resting when we’re tired, along with the givens of wearing our safety belts and not driving impaired”.



Please consider and adopt your own strategies towards becoming a more responsible driver, as these small changes regarding individual behavior add up. You thereby increase the odds for your trip being a safe trip. This helps to augment safety for other motorists. As Mr. Dotson points out: “If our prime objective is ‘no one gets hurt on my trip’ and we act accordingly, we can all live better”.



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.

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.

Contact

Mark Lund, MPO Director
(956) 548-6154

Alfonso Vallejo, MPO Deputy Director
(956) 548-6158

Antonio Zubieta, MPO Planner II
(956) 574-6696

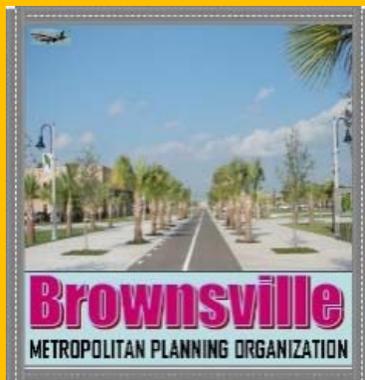
Tracie Orcillez, MPO Transit Planner
(956) 574-6663

Alicia Justilian, Administrative Specialist
(956) 548-6143



c/o City of Brownsville Planning Department
PO Box 911
1034 E. Levee Street 2nd floor
Brownsville, TX 78520

Fax: (956) 548-6135
E-mail: bmipo@cob.us
Visit: <http://brownsvillempo.org>
or
<http://mpo.cob.us>



Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization
City of Brownsville Planning Department
PO Box 911
1034 E. Levee Street 2nd floor
Brownsville, TX 78520

[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>	