


Brownsville MPO Newsletter

September/October 2009

MPO Policy Committee Public Input Meeting

TOPIC: MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
DATE: Wednesday, October 7, 2009
TIME: 7:00 pm
PLACE: Historic Brownsville Museum, (Mary Yturria Education Center),
641 E. Madison St., Brownsville, Texas

Please be advised that the Brownsville MPO is encouraging public input on the aforementioned topic. The MPO's staff will present information on these matters at this meeting. After this presentation has concluded, the Policy Committee members want to hear from you. There will be ample opportunities for public comments and/or questions. If you have any questions prior to this meeting, please call Mark Lund, MPO Director, at 548-6150.

MTP Update

The Brownsville Transportation System has a significant impact upon the quality of life in the Brownsville community. Rapid growth and economic development experienced in Brownsville in recent years have been supported in large measure by the existing area transportation system. Without

proper functioning of this arterial and collector road system, Brownsville businesses cannot develop or expand. So, it is a bit disconcerting that the very success of the Brownsville economy is placing serious demand upon this road system.



(Cont'd on next page)

MTP Update (Cont'd)

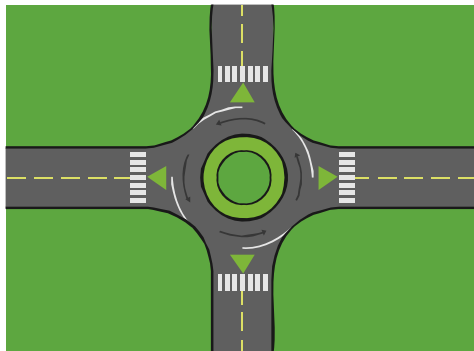
Also, roadway connections between Brownsville and its neighbors to the north—Los Fresnos and Rancho Viejo need to be improved to handle future travel demand. We have seen dramatic growth of the traffic volumes on our roadways, due to new jobs, creation of new businesses and continuing residential growth. Local motorists are encountering delays due to roadway congestion. Such delays can, in turn, adversely affect local businesses.

In the coming years, citizens will expect the area transportation system to meet these travel demands to allow continued economic growth. Meeting these challenges will be difficult, since the MPO's mobility needs are growing at a faster rate than the financial resources are expanding. Initial work on the Brownsville Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update is now underway.

Federal requirements dictate that the MPO conduct an update to its long-range plan every five years. A key point for MPO Policy Committee members to deal with is the federal requirement that the long-range plan be a fiscally-constrained plan. In other words, the MTP cannot be a mere "wish list" of desirable projects.

The MPO staff, in cooperation with TxDOT, will make a forecast of available financial resources for the upcoming twenty-year period. Then the hard work will take place to develop and select those improvement projects that best serve the objectives and goals of the MPO. The MPO Policy Committee members will make the final choices on project selection at the end of this planning process. Some proposed projects won't be selected or funded, due to financial constraints. Because financial resources are limited, listing of a project within the 2010-2035 Brownsville Metropolitan Transportation Plan becomes a very significant event.

The MPO Policy Committee members want to hear from the public on these matters as this planning process gets started. **Your input is needed. Please send us your comments about those transportation problems that need to be addressed by the MTP update.** Which projects do you want to see take place in the coming years?



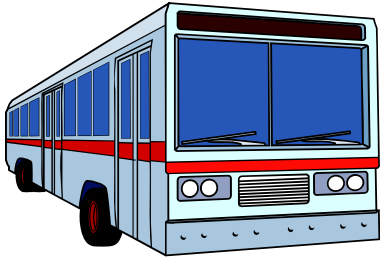
Please forward your ideas and comments to the MPO staff. Right now is a good time for the MPO staff and the MPO Technical Committee members to hear from you.

Please be advised that copies of the previous long-range transportation plan are still available from our office. The 2005-2030 Brownsville

Metropolitan Transportation Plan, adopted by the MPO in December 2004, includes two foldout maps showing which transportation improvement projects are listed for funding, plus charts and text. This document is available at the Planning & C.D. Department office for sale at \$8.00 per copy. Mail orders for this plan document cost an additional \$1.00 to defray the expense of postage and handling. Also, you can view these documents at no charge via the MPO's website at: www.cob.us/mpo/.

If you know of other persons with a strong interest in transportation matters, please encourage them to subscribe to the MPO newsletter, so that they can be better informed about upcoming events and MPO meetings.

The MPO newsletter is available at no charge. To subscribe, just fill out your name and mailing address on page 4 and return it at the address shown.



Public Transportation / Transit

Public Transportation benefits all who work, live or travel in the Brownsville MPO area. Transit service helps alleviate congestion on area roadways. Transit service enables employees to get to and from work sites, as well.

In this MPO, the Brownsville Urban System (BUS) provides transit services to residents and other patrons within this urbanized area. Fixed route service and paratransit service are provided by BUS. Public transportation is a key means of mobility for those who are unable to drive or for those persons unable to afford a vehicle.

Tom Logan, BUS Transit Planner, is the MPO staff person responsible for transit planning. This includes long range plans or MTP transit listings.

Mr. Logan can be reached at 956-541-4881.

September/October 2009

Brownsville MPO Staff

Mark Lund
MPO Director

Alfonso Vallejo
MPO Planner

Alicia Justilian
Administrative Specialist

Tom Logan
BUS/Transit Planner (541-4881)

If you have questions or comments about transportation planning, please use the telephone or fax to let us know.

We invite you to call the MPO staff for more information or to simply discuss ideas on the telephone.

Also, please be informed that MPO staff are available for speaking engagements to civic organizations, church groups or other group meetings.

Please invite us to speak about the MPO. We would like to inform you of our mission. We do not want to make plans for the community's growth and future development without you.

We believe that better plans will result if more citizens participate in shaping the transportation planning initiatives for the Brownsville community.



Sign Up for Our Newsletter

The Brownsville MPO newsletter features news items about the Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization. You can reach us by phone at (956) 548-6150 or by fax at (956) 548-6144.

If you wish to be added to our mailing list, please fill out the form below and send it to: Mark Lund, MPO Director, City of Brownsville, P.O. Box 911, Brownsville, TX 78522.

Name _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip Code _____

Comment Sheet

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

Re: 2010-2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
 to be held by the Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization
 Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Historic Brownsville Museum
 (Mary Yturria Education Center) at 641 E. Madison St., Brownsville, Texas

Name _____

Address _____

Please include your name and mailing address above. Comment sheets and/or letters may also be mailed to:

Mark Lund, MPO Director
 City of Brownsville/Planning & C.D. Dept.
 P.O. Box 911
 Brownsville, TX 78522
 Tel: (956) 548-6150 / Fax: (956) 548-6144 / E-mail: bmpo@cob.us



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TRANSPORTATION DIVISION