



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2014

**CONTACT: Scott Ericksen
San Antonio/Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization
210-230-6902**

MPO to Conduct Public Meetings for Transportation

New Braunfels, Texas — By 2040, the greater San Antonio area will have nearly 1.5 million new residents, raising the region's population to over 3.4 million people. That could mean an additional one million motor vehicles on the already congested roadways. To meet this challenge, the area's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) must have both long and short range plans. The City of New Braunfels is a partner in the MPO.

The 25-year Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is the blueprint for that future transportation system, while the first four years of the plan is also called the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Public input is crucial to good planning, so the MPO is conducting a series of six identical public meetings in late February and early March, including one in New Braunfels. The meetings are to receive public input on: 1) projects proposed for funding using the MPO's discretionary funding source, 2) other federally funded roadway and transit projects, and 3) three potential long term population and employment growth scenarios to be used for developing the region's long range transportation plan.

For the TIP, 55 projects totaling approximately \$435 million have been requested by partner agencies for MPO funding. As expected, the funding requested far exceeds the available funding of about \$55 million. Public input is needed to help the MPO Transportation Policy Board decide which projects should be funded. Public input is also needed for three potential growth scenarios developed for the MPO's next long range plan, Mobility 2040. The growth scenario (or combination of scenarios) selected by the Transportation Policy Board will be used with the MPO's transportation demand model to determine future transportation needs.

New Braunfels and Comal County submitted the following projects for consideration:

- FM 2252 from Evans Road to FM 3009 – Expand from two to four lanes with a center median, bike lanes, sidewalks and widen the bridge. Amount requested \$19 million.
- FM 306 from River Chase Way to Hunter Lane – Expand from two to four lanes with continuous two-way left turn lanes or raised median, bike accommodations and sidewalks. Amount requested \$15 million.
- Loop 337 Expansion (South) from SH 46 to IH 35 Southbound Frontage Road – Expanded to four lane divided highway. Amount requested \$14.1 million.

- Loop 337 Expansion (North) from River Road to Hillcrest Drive – Expand to four lane divided highway. Amount requested \$8.5 million.
- SH 46 from Old Boerne Road to Sun Valley Drive – Expand to four lanes with bike access and sidewalks from Old Boerne Road to River Way and expand to two lanes with continuous two-way left turn lanes from River Way to Sun Valley Drive. Amount requested \$19.6 million.

The New Braunfels and Comal County meeting will be held from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 26th at the New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 S. Castell Avenue, New Braunfels. The meeting will begin with a presentation, followed by small group discussions and then two input exercises.

MPO meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. To request special assistance or an interpreter, please call 210-227-8651 or TDD 1-800-735-2989 (Relay Texas) at least five working days in advance. For more information, please call 210-227-8651.

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