



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2014

CONTACT: Garry Ford, City Engineer
424 S. Castell Avenue
New Braunfels, TX 78130
830-221-4645
gford@nbtexas.org

Regional MPO Requests Public Input on Bike/Pedestrian Topics

New Braunfels, Texas — The Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is seeking input from cyclists and pedestrians for the ongoing Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Study. The study has multiple overlapping areas of emphasis including: the assessment of current conditions and improvements in New Braunfels, Boerne and Seguin; creating a Pedestrian Master Plan for San Antonio and Bexar County; and, identifying transportation gaps and developing recommendations within the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park.

The final result of this study will be an integrated planning document that provides recommendations and guidance for individual communities and the Mission Trail Historical Park, while also coordinating planning efforts across the region.

The City of New Braunfels is a member of the MPO, which was created by federal law to provide a comprehensive, cooperative and continuous transportation planning process that brings the region over \$200 million annually in state and federal transportation funding for roadway, transit, rideshare, bicycle and pedestrian projects.

The organization is asking area residents to provide their opinions on Active Transportation via a survey and interactive map available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/alamoarebikeandpedsurvey>.

The MPO notes the following advantages of Active Transportation:

- Transportation Benefits - reduced traffic congestion, improved safety, calms traffic, preserves road infrastructure.
- Economic Benefits - increased retail sales (restaurants, lodging establishments, retail stores), job creation, and enhancement of nearby property values.
- Environmental Benefits - improved air quality and energy conservation.
- Social Benefits - quality-of-life benefits from living in communities with more open space and greenways and that provide more opportunities for walking or cycling.
- Health & Fitness Benefits - it is well recognized that Americans would benefit in many ways from a more active lifestyle. Bike lanes, sidewalks and trails promote healthy choices.

In addition to the survey, the MPO plans to conduct a public meeting in New Braunfels in January to engage a wider audience in information sharing and discussion, and to help identify pedestrian and bicycle needs and potential improvements in the New Braunfels area.

###