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Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization

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“Transportation is the center of the world! It is the glue of our daily lives. When it goes well, we don’t see it. When it goes wrong, it negatively colors our day, makes us feel angry and impotent, curtails our possibilities.”

- Robin Chase

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Project Updates

SH 351

This project consists of widening the roadway to provide bicycle lanes for students and commuters. Access management and safety improvements will consist of adding a raised median, curb & gutter, and consolidating driveways. The project will also feature five-foot sidewalks on both sides of the corridor. Additionally, traffic signals and safety lighting will be added at select intersections. This project is jointly funded with Proposition 1 funds and traditional funding allocated to the Abilene MPO and TxDOT.

Treadaway

The purpose of this project is to restore the roadway’s surface to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods through the area. The proposed project will mill off the existing roadway surface and replace it with a new hot mix surface. Bridge rail and metal beam guard fence would be upgraded where necessary. Additionally, transverse in-lane rumble strips would be added at select intersections. This project will use FYs 2016 and 2017 Proposition 1 funding along with TxDOT funding.



Transportation Improvement Plan 2017-2020

The Abilene MPO staff have been working on the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). This document is based on, and required by, Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 450, Subpart C, , §324. It contains a prioritized list of surface transportation improvement projects that are expected to begin in the

current Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) plus the next three (3) FFY program years. These projects are planned to develop, improve, and maintain an integrated transportation system for the Abilene Metropolitan Area. The program is intended to efficiently use resources to improve the mobility of people and goods

within and through the urbanized area and minimize transportation-related fuel consumption and air pollution.

The public will be asked to comment on this document later this year.





TxDOT's flashing yellow arrow left-turn signals .

TxDOT Yellow Flashing Arrows

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will soon activate a new left turn signal at the intersection of SH 351 and FM 2833 (East Lake Road) in Abilene. The signal includes a flashing yellow arrow to indicate that left turns are permitted, so the driver must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

Benefits of this signal are:

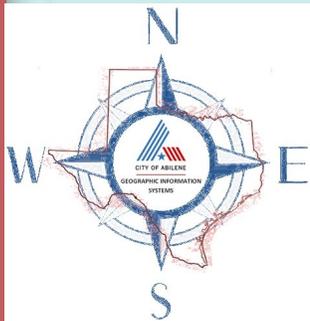
- Safety– A national

study demonstrated drivers had fewer crashes with flashing yellow left turn arrows than with traditional signals.

- Less traffic delay– Motorists have more opportunities to make a left turn with the flashing yellow left-turn arrow than with the traditional yielding left-turn indications, which keeps traffic moving.

- More flexible– The new yellow flashing turn display provides more options to most effectively handle all types of traffic volume and reduce traffic back-ups.

For more information, visit www.txdot.gov online with the keyword Flashing Yellow Arrow.



City of Abilene Geographic Information Systems

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) plays an integral role in the City of Abilene's transportation planning process. With GIS the City Planners can accurately visualize roads, sidewalks and other transportation related assets, as

well as other pertinent datasets within the project area, to mitigate oversights and efficiently plan future projects. Much more than a map, GIS is a Relational Database that can connect to multiple other databases to foster data sharing and

consistency across the City. The City's GIS Portal can be found at <https://gis.abilenetx.com/portal>

CityLink and TTI

CityLink Transit has partnered with the Texas Transit Institute (TTI) to assist in the geographic coding of all CityLink Transit bus stops. This project would allow CityLink passengers to utilize the latest technology in

stops, number of transfers, bus routes and length of time necessary for the trip. This is the first step of several that are planned to bring additional technology to the passengers of CityLink Transit and enhance their riding experience

with CityLink Transit.



D.R.I.V.E. Safe Coalition

Managed by the Texas Department of Transportation's Abilene district, The D.R.I.V.E (Decisions, Responsibilities, Initiatives, Visions, and Education) Safe Coalition has been active since November 2013. Our mission is to create a partnership to raise public awareness and reduce the number of traffic-related incidents throughout our communities.

The D.R.I.V.E. Safe Coalition's focus areas are: impaired driving, distracted

driving, seat belt usage, child passenger safety, motorcycle safety, teen drivers, underage drinking, pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, and school bus safety.

D.R.I.V.E. covers 13 counties: Borden, Callahan, Fisher, Haskell, Howard, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall, and Taylor.

The coalition meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month to collaborate on traffic safety ideas and events. They

meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Texas Department of Transportation – Abilene District Office, located at 4250 N. Clack St. Abilene.

For more information please contact, Jill Collett, Traffic Safety Specialist, at (325) 676-6808 or email at jill.collett@txdot.gov or Mary Belle Turner, Public Information Officer, at (325) 676-6817 or email at marybelle.turner@txdot.gov



FAST Act

On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, or "FAST Act." It is the first law enacted in over ten years that provides long-term funding certainty for surface transportation, meaning states and local governments can

move forward with critical transportation projects like new highways and transit lines with the confidence that they will have a federal partner over the long term. The FAST Act largely maintains current program structures and funding shares between highways and transit. It is a down-

payment for building a 21st century transportation system, increasing funding by 11 percent over five years. The law also makes changes and reforms to many federal transportation programs, including streamlining the approval processes for new transportation projects,

providing new safety tools, and establishing new programs to advance critical freight projects.



Proposition 1 / Proposition 7

TxDOT began awarding contracts for Prop 1-funded projects March 2015, and expects to let all of the Prop 1 projects by the end of 2015.

For fiscal years 2016-2017, the General Appropriations ACT (84th Legislature,

Regular Session) authorized Prop 1 funds to be allocated at 45 percent distributed to metropolitan planning organizations to address mobility and added capacity in urban areas.

<http://www.txdot.gov/government/legislative/>

[state-affairs/ballot-proposition.html](http://www.txdot.gov/state-affairs/ballot-proposition.html)

On Nov. 13, 2015, Texans voted and passed Prop 7. Beginning in Sept. 2017, if states tax revenue exceed \$28 billion in a fiscal year, the next 2.5 billion would be directed to the State

Highway Fund. Beginning in Sept. 2019, if state motor vehicle sales exceed \$5 billion, 35% of the amount in excess would go to the State Highway Fund.

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The Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the regional transportation planning agency responsible for working with local, state, and federal agencies along with many community partners, transportation providers, and citizens. The goal is to accomplish regional planning under one voice, which will provide the greatest benefit while at the same time reflecting the concerns of the communities within the study area.



We're on the web!
abilenempo.org



Policy Board Meetings now live

Our Policy Board meetings are now streaming live. You can watch our meetings by visiting the City of Abilene's website at abilenetx.com and clicking on the Watch a Meeting icon.

Upcoming Policy Board meetings :

- February 16, 2016
- April 19, 2016
- June 21, 2016
- August 16, 2016
- October 18, 2016
- December 20, 2016

