

Abilene MPO Insider

The Official Newsletter of the Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization

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A Look Back in History

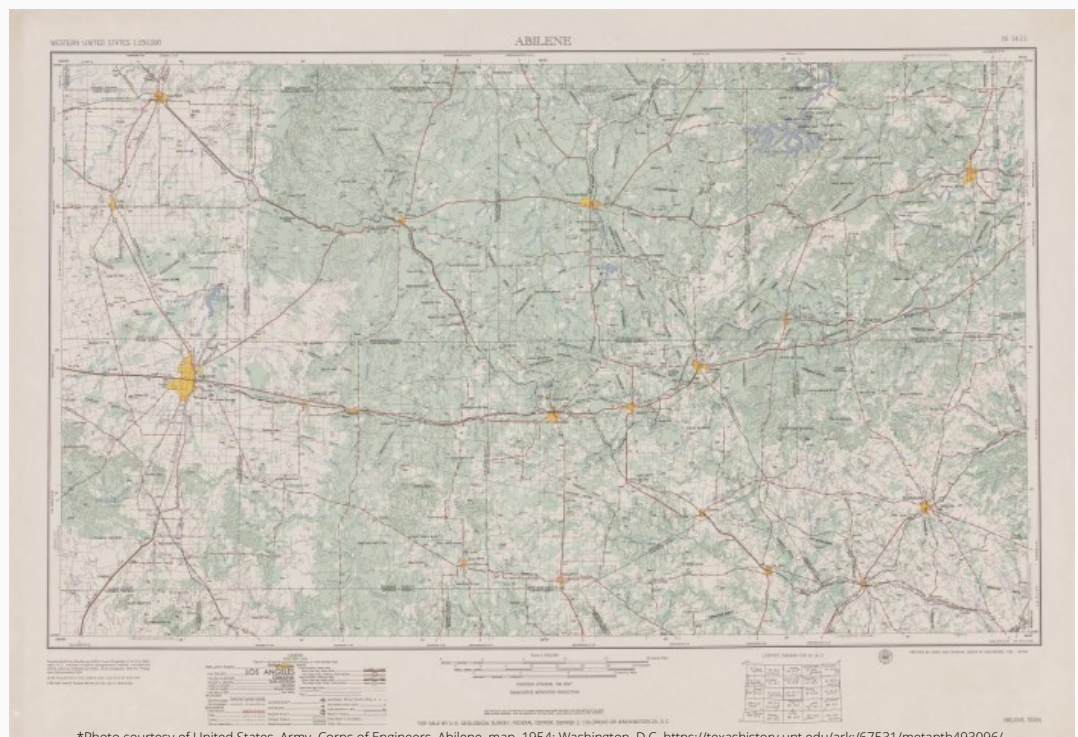
As a result of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962, a study of transportation in the Abilene urban area began in late 1964. The study covered ten basic elements and resulted in the publication of a two volume report.

An agreement between the City of Abilene and the State of Texas was executed on January 23, 1969. The agreement was revised on March 30, 1973 and provided the guidelines for the organization and function of the study. It also assigned responsibility for each of the ten basic study elements to the city, state or county. The 1973 agreement established a group structure to provide overall transportation policy guidance for the planning activities. The group structure was initially made up of two committees. It evolved in response to changes in legislation and contractual agreements, becoming a single committee with both voting and non-voting members. The group adopted the name Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board in 1993. It continues to act as the forum for cooperative transportation planning, decision-making, and overall transportation policy guidance to the MPO. The MPO, in cooperation with the State, has overall transportation planning responsibilities for the urbanized area.

In 2010 the MPO underwent a management review and as a result a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was established. The TAC provides professional and technical support to the Policy Board.

*"No road is
long with good
company."*

-unknown



*Photo courtesy of United States Army. Corps of Engineers. Abilene, map, 1954; Washington, D.C. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph493096/>



TxDOT's Info Spot

Since Nov. 7, 2000, fatalities resulting from vehicle crashes on Texas roadways have numbered almost 67,000. The leading causes of fatalities continue to be failure to stay in one lane, alcohol and speed. Last year, in the Abilene area, the leading causes of car crash fatalities were unsafe speed and alcohol.

Earlier this year, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, traffic levels on Texas highways dropped nearly 44 percent in some parts of the state. This decrease in traffic encouraged TxDOT to think the horrific streak might finally come to an end. Instead, the death rate was unchanged, even with fewer drivers on Texas roads.

To decrease the chances of roadway crashes and fatalities, TxDOT reminds drivers to:

- Buckle seatbelts – all passengers need to be buckled
- Pay attention – put phones away and avoid distractions
- Never drink and drive or do drugs and drive –get a sober ride home
- Drive the speed limit – obey speed limits and drive slower when weather conditions warrant

Last year, in the **Abilene** area, the leading causes of car crash fatalities were unsafe speed and alcohol.

Let's end the streak, Texas.

#EndTheStreakTX



#EndTheStreakTX

End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.



Meet the Board: Mayor Anthony Williams

Mayor of the City of Abilene

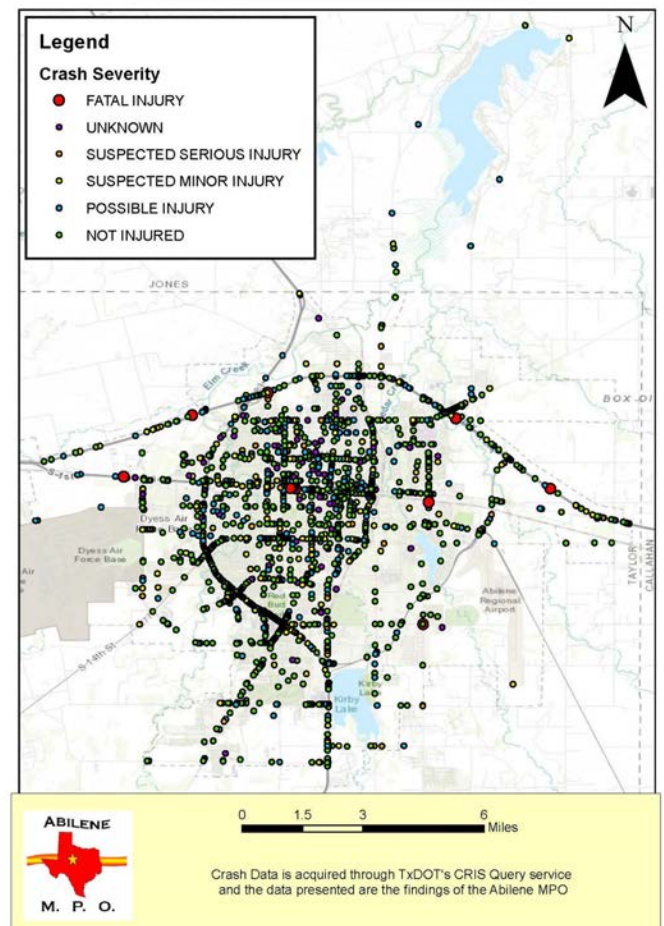
Mayor Anthony Williams has been a member of the Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board since he was elected as the Mayor of the City of Abilene in 2017. He is currently serving in his second term of office. Mayor Williams, a lifelong Abilene resident, graduated from Abilene High School and McMurry University. During his time as Mayor he has focused on growing the economy and working toward the many goals he has for the City. Some of those goals are continuing to work on efforts to conserve water usage, developing better communication between City Government and its citizens, promoting equality and opportunity for the entire community, and more. Mayor Williams has also served as a member of Abilene's City Council for nearly 20 years. In his downtime Mayor Williams enjoys various outdoor activities. One he is especially passionate about is the regularly held Mayor's hikes with the community. You can join him at the upcoming Spring Mayor's Hike along the Cedar Creek Waterway, on March 27, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

TxDOTs Info Spot (continued)

The map below shows crash data from 2019 for the Abilene area. In 2019 there were 2,996 crashes with 9 of those being fatal crashes. The red dots indicate the location of a traffic related fatality. Even one red dot is too many. You can help #EndTheStreakTX!

TxDOT has set a target goal of zero fatalities on Texas roadways by 2050. One of the ways they plan to achieve this goal is through the use of Performance Measures. The Abilene MPO is committed to plan and program projects compatible with the achievement of TxDOTs target goal. To accomplish that the Abilene MPO drafted a Resolution adopting TxDOTs targets for the Safety Performance Measures (PM1). The Performance Measures (PM1) establishes state-wide safety targets in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan for the number of fatalities, rate of fatalities, number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries, and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. The Abilene MPO will work closely with TxDOT and other agencies to improve safety on our roadways as we work towards the *Road to Zero* together.

Abilene 2019 Crash Locations



Transportation Word Search

H T O F R Y A W H G I H G T E N D
I R S T O P K O T U R N E U G P S
W A T R A F F I C T I S N R A T T
A V B E D E S T I N A T I O N E E
T E E R T S R D N D B I K W M D E
B L O N O I T A T R O P S N A R T
U E K I B T L I N G I N I L P I R
S A T N R P C R U I S E G A B V A
W R M O T O R C Y C L E N K O E C

CAR	TRANSPORTATION	STREET	TRANSIT	STOP
PLANNING	ROAD	BUS	CRUISE	TURN
TRAVEL	SIGN	MAP	BIKE	DESTINATION
MOTORCYCLE	HIGHWAY	TRAFFIC	GPS	DRIVE

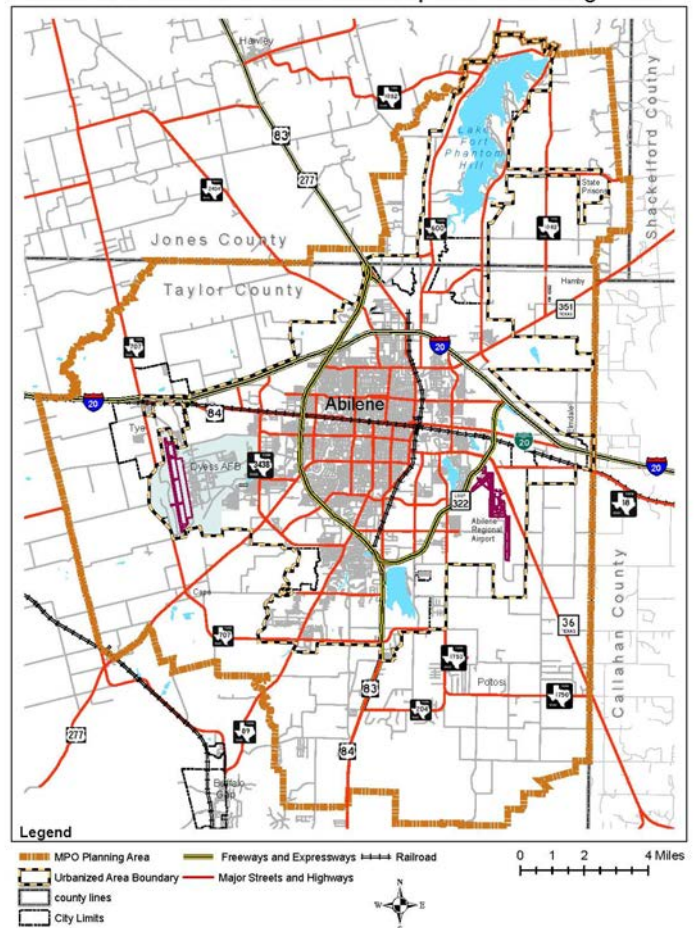
Are you...

In the know with the MPO?

Did you know that there are over 400 Metropolitan Planning Organizations throughout the United States? Though the saying goes that "everything is bigger in Texas," it's actually the state of Florida that has the most MPOs. Florida currently has 27 MPOs with Texas not far behind having 23 MPOs. Rhode Island has the fewest with just 1 MPO to cover the entire state. The Census Bureau designates a new list of Urbanized Areas every 10 years following the conclusion of each Census. As a result of the 2010 Census there were 36 new Urbanized Areas identified throughout the United States. Each one of the new areas were required to establish and staff a new MPO or merge with an existing one. The U.S. Census Bureau shows the Abilene area covers 110.6 square miles. The Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization's study area includes the Cities of Abilene, Impact, and Tye. It also covers the communities of Caps, Elmdale, Hamby, and Potosi. Additionally, it encompasses the entire Lake Fort Phantom area in the southeastern corner of Jones County along with some rural areas in Taylor County that are adjacent to the Abilene city limits. Don't forget, MPO Policy Board meetings are open to the public! Members of the public are encouraged to join meetings and voice your concerns and opinions on transportation. You can watch MPO Policy Board meetings from the comfort of your own home. All MPO Policy Board meetings are streamed live on the Abilene Television Network or you can watch a meeting by visiting the City of Abilene's website at, www.abilenetx.gov/561/Live-Archived-Video. Our next meeting will be on April 20, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.



Abilene Urbanized Area and Metropolitan Planning Area



Let's Get Social



TWITTER
AbileneMPO



FACEBOOK
Abilene MPO



WEBSITE
www.abilenempo.org



Construction of an overpass at
Clark Rd & US 83/84



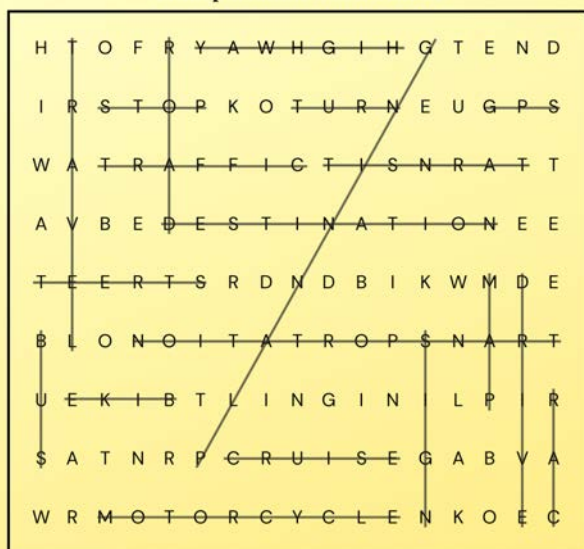
Construction of sidewalks at
Texas Ave & US 277



Construction of a frontage road
from FM 707 to Antilley Rd



Transportation Word Search



VISIT US AT:
209 S DANVILLE DR
SUITE B-212
ABILENE, TX 79605
325-437-9999



PUBLIC NOTIFICATION REQUEST FORM

Name: _____

Title: _____

Agency: _____

Contact # (opt): _____

I would like to notified via:

☐ Mail

Address: _____

☐ E-Mail

Topics of Interest:

☐ MPO Policy Board Meetings

☐ Public Meetings

☐ Specific Project: _____

☐ Other: _____

Please return form to:

Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization
209 S Danville Dr., Suite B-212, Abilene, TX 79605

•or via•

E-mail: abilenempo@abilenetx.gov

Fax: (325) 676.6398



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Name: _____

Agency: _____

E-mail: _____

Contact # (opt): _____

Comments:

If more space is required to make your comments, please use as many sheets of paper as necessary.

Thank you for your involvement in Transportation Planning. We appreciate your comments.

If you'd like a response please provide a contact number or e-mail.

The Abilene MPO staff will make every effort to respond to your comments.

Please return form to:

Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization
209 S Danville Dr., Suite B-212, Abilene, TX 79605

•or via•

E-mail: abilenempo@abilenetx.gov

Fax: (325) 676.6398