

# Abilene MPO Insider

The Official Newsletter of the Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization



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\*Photo courtesy of: Belden, Dreanna L. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph5267/>

## What is a TIP?

A Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a federally required document that contains a prioritized list of Surface Transportation Projects. These projects are expected to begin within the next 3 program years. TIPs are updated at least every 4 years and include projects listed in a locally developed long-range plan. A TIP is approved by a Policy Board which is typically composed of elected officials.

## When will the road construction be completed?

Information on project descriptions, locations, expected timing, and details on funding sources can be found in the TIP.

Over \$54 million in Highway and Transit projects are included in the FYs 2021-2024 TIP. The four year program includes funds for major highway improvements along Buffalo Gap Road, a new overpass at the intersection of FM 3034 & US 83, and intersection improvements at Antilley Road and Buffalo Gap Road. It also includes a project to widen the road at FM 3034 from US 83 to FM 600.

Additionally, there will be improvements to a variety of operations within the transit system. They will include a number of improvements to bus facilities, shelters and benches. There will also be multiple bus replacements purchased.

*"Traveling – it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller."*

*-Ibn Battuta*

# Transportation Trivia

1. The first stop sign in the U.S. was put up in what city?
2. What city in the United States had the first subway system?
3. (True or False) Design requirements for interstate highways require that one out of every five miles are straight so airplanes can land on them?
4. Located in the Texas Hill Country northwest of San Antonio, what are Ranch Roads 335, 336 and 337 collectively referred to as?







## ***Meet the Board: Judge Dale Spurgin***

*County Judge of Jones County*

Judge Dale Spurgin is the longest serving member of the MPO Policy Board. He began his service on the Board on January 1, 2003 after being elected County Judge of Jones County. At that time the organization was still known as the "Abilene Urban Transportation Study Policy Board". As one of the two county government representatives on the Board, he helps ensure Jones County interests within the MPO's Planning Area are considered. Judge Spurgin has been a resident of Jones County since he was in second grade. He graduated Texas A&M University with a bachelors degree in agricultural engineering. In addition to his work with the Abilene MPO, he also serves on the Board of the Aspermont Small Business Development Center. The ASBDC operates the Double Mountain Coach rural transit system. This vital public transit system provides non-emergency medical transport in our region for eligible Medicaid participants who rely on this service.

## ***In Sync with***



CityLink has several projects that we are working on:

- An Automated Voice Annunciation system will be released in the coming months
- Mobile Ticketing coming soon
  - Contactless Fare System
- Bus Shelters and other amenities to be placed in various locations
- TransLoc system and app is up and running
  - TransLoc provides a GPS system that will allow CityLink to track buses and provide passengers accurate arrival predictions
  - The app can help passengers explore transit stops and service
  - You can also sign up for the text messaging feature for bus arrival predictions

**CityLink**  
ABILENE

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Are you...

## *In the know with the MPO?*

So what **does** the Abilene Metropolitan Organization do? A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a federally mandated and federally funded transportation policy-making organization that is made up of representatives from the local government and local transportation authorities. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962 passed by the United States Congress required the formation of an MPO for any urbanized area with a population greater than 50,000. Federal funding for transportation projects and programs go through the MPO's planning process. The MPO uses a (3-C) continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process to ensure that funds are spent appropriately and that plans reflect a shared vision of the future of transportation for our area. Did you know 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 also 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](http://www.abilenetx.gov/561/Live-Archived-Video).

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[www.abilenemppo.org](http://www.abilenemppo.org)

## **Transportation Trivia Answers**

1) The first stop sign was installed in Detroit in 1914.

Source - <https://www.roadtrafficsigns.com/first-stop-sign>.

2) Boston built the first subway system in the United States in 1897.

Source - <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/new-york-city-subway-opens#:~:text=While%20London%20boasts%20the%20world's,became%20the%20largest%20American%20system>.

3) False. This is a commonly believed myth. Although airplanes have landed on interstates at times, there are no federal regulations requiring a design to accommodate this.

Source -

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/interstate/interstatemyths.cfm#:~:text=To%20Top-,One%20in%20five%20miles%20of%20the%20Interstate%20System%20is%20straight,%2C%20design%20manual%E2%80%9494or%20fact>.

4) The Twisted Sisters.

Source - <https://ridermagazine.com/2013/07/08/twisted-sisters-the-texas-hill-countrys-most-famous-trio/#:~:text=July%208%2C%202013,and%20far%20to%20enjoy%20them>.