



December 2019

Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization

Volume 6, Issue 1



“Transportation ...is the glue of our daily lives. When it goes well, we don't see it.

Robin Chase

Co-founder and former CEO of Zipcar
Founder and former CEO of Buzzcar

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2020 UTP 1/3

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State of Texas Adopts Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Over \$77 Billion of Projects included.

WHAT IS A UTP ?

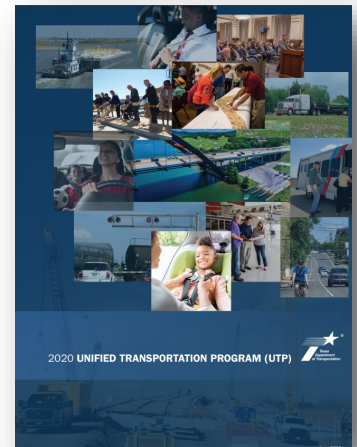
At the end of August the State of Texas approved its new 2020 Unified Transportation Program or UTP for short. The UTP is TxDOT's 10-year plan that is used to coordinate and guide transportation investments across the state. The UTP includes projects TxDOT is developing and preparing for construction letting within the next ten years. Projects listed in the UTP have been selected by TXDOT, a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or the Texas Transportation Commission. Projects can include improvements

for highways, public transportation systems, rail services, aviation, maritime sites, freight movement, and international trade and tourism.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What about funding?

Selected projects are organized into 12 funding categories addressing specific types of work or need areas. All projects included in the UTP are those that have been evaluated to fit within expected funding targets for the ten year time frame.



How are Prop 1 and 7 funds used ?

Funding from Propositions 1 and 7 is not limited to any specific category. Instead funds from these sources may be expended across the state on any non-tolled eligible projects which uses state funds.

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Meet Members of the Policy Board

Carl L. Johnson P.E. (TxDOT) Abilene District Engineer

Carl Johnson became District Engineer (DE) for TxDOT's Abilene District in 2017 after over 22 years of service in the Brownwood District with 5 of those being the Director of Operations. As DE, he oversees the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of state transportation assets in 13 counties. The TxDOT DE also serves as one of five voting members of the MPO Policy Board. In this role he provides a vital link in coordinating local and state efforts and in assisting our region to obtain state and federal



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Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Board Members

**Councilman
Shane Price
(Chair)**

**Mayor
Anthony
Williams**

**Judge
Dale
Spurgin**

**Judge
Downing
Bolls**

**Mr. Carl
Johnson, P.E.**

Abilene MPO Approves 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

On December 17, 2019 the Abilene MPO Policy Board approved a long-range (25-year), planning document for the Abilene area known as the 2020-2045 Abilene Metropolitan Transportation Plan or MTP for short. This plan, developed by the MPO Staff and our consulting partners at Walter P. Moore, provides a comprehensive vision for roadway, transit, airport, train, bicycle, pedestrian, and other modes of travel for both passengers and freight in our area. The plan serves an important role in integrating local, regional, state and national goals, priorities, and constraints into a single document.

Projects and programs included in the plan were selected to address both current and future needs after extensive analysis of existing and forecasted conditions. The public was invited throughout the process to participate through a comprehensive program of surveys, public meetings and opportunities to submit project suggestions or ideas directly to the MPO staff or the members of the Policy Board.

The legislation describing and requiring the MTP can be found under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 23 Section 134 (i) "Development of Transportation Plan". The MTP must be based on valid funding assumptions and revenue forecasts. It must also be compatible with the statewide (TxDOT) long-range transportation plan (SLRTP). The plan must be periodically updated at least once every 5 years.

Although no one knows for certain what the future holds or how technology or our society might change, history has shown that good transportation systems have played an important role in the success or failures of numerous civilizations. It seems likely that this reality will continue to be true for the foreseeable future. The goal of transportation planning and the MTP is therefore to develop a plan that coincides with the needs and wants of the MPO area while remaining fiscally constrained.

Want to know more ?

Visit us

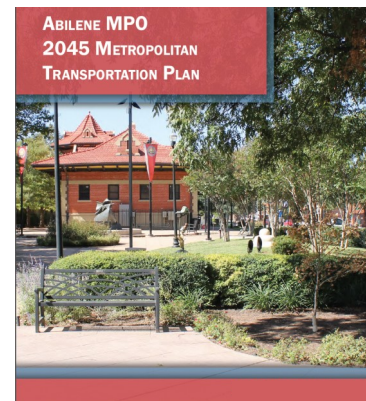
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ABILENE

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Mobility: What is it? Why is it important?

Mobility can be thought of as the ability or ease with which we can move from one place to another. Mobility is something many of us might treat like breathing or our heartbeat. We probably don't spend a lot of time or effort thinking about it until there is a problem. It is at that moment we come to realize how vital this basic human function is and how difficult life can be without it.

On a personal level, efficient, cost-effective, and reliable transportation provides us with the ability to obtain employment, acquire goods and services, attend educational, religious and entertainment events, and take advantage of opportunities we might otherwise miss. Now for just a moment think about how *mobility* effects a city, a region, or a state. How different would employment, education, housing, health care, markets, government, and social services be if it required twice or three times as much of our time or money to travel to the same places we go today and obtain the same goods and services. What if mobility was completely private or completely public instead of our current mix of public and private? What if the risks to your health or safety were substantially greater every time you needed to travel? Now how important do you think mobility is?



UTP (continued from Page 1)

Where does the money for the UTP come from?

Funding in the UTP comes from a variety of sources including Federal, State and even local sources which is applied

across funding categories as needed. Some funding such as that which comes from federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) pro-

grams however is highly controlled and therefore more narrowly associated with a specific funding category.

How can I suggest a needed project?

The Abilene MPO Policy Board typically meets every two months. The public is invited to participate. Use the contact information on [Page 2](#). Local TxDOT offices may also be contacted.

TxDOT Funding Sources by UTP Category

FUND DEFINITIONS		12 FUNDING CATEGORIES			FEDERAL FUNDS	STATE FUNDS	OTHER STATE & LOCAL FUNDS
FEDERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS THROUGH THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY TRUST FUND	1	PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION			●	●	○
	2	METRO AND URBAN AREA CORRIDORS			●	●	○
	3	NON-TRADITIONALLY FUNDED PROJECTS			○	●	●
STATE FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE THROUGH THE STATE HIGHWAY FUND	4	STATEWIDE CONNECTIVITY CORRIDORS			●	●	○
	5	CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY*			●	○	○
	6	STRUCTURES REPLACEMENT (BRIDGES)			●	●	○
OTHER STATE & LOCAL FUNDS INCLUDES THE TEXAS MOBILITY FUND, BOND REVENUE, CONCESSIONS AND REGIONAL TOLL REVENUE, AND LOCAL FUNDS	7	METROPOLITAN MOBILITY & REHABILITATION*			●	○	○
	8	SAFETY			●	●	○
	9	TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES*			●	○	○
	10	SUPPLEMENTAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS			●	●	○
	11	DISTRICT DISCRETIONARY			●	●	○
	12	STRATEGIC PRIORITY			●	●	○

*WHILE FUNDING IN THESE CATEGORIES IS PRIMARILY FROM FEDERAL SOURCES, STATE FUNDING MAY ALSO BE USED.

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funds vitally needed to construct, maintain, and improve critical regional infrastructure.

Carl began his engineering career in 1990 with Austin Bridge Co. In 1994 he was a field engineer and surveyor with Prater Equipment Co. before joining TxDOT in 1995.

Did you Know?

In the U.S. vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children age 13 and under.

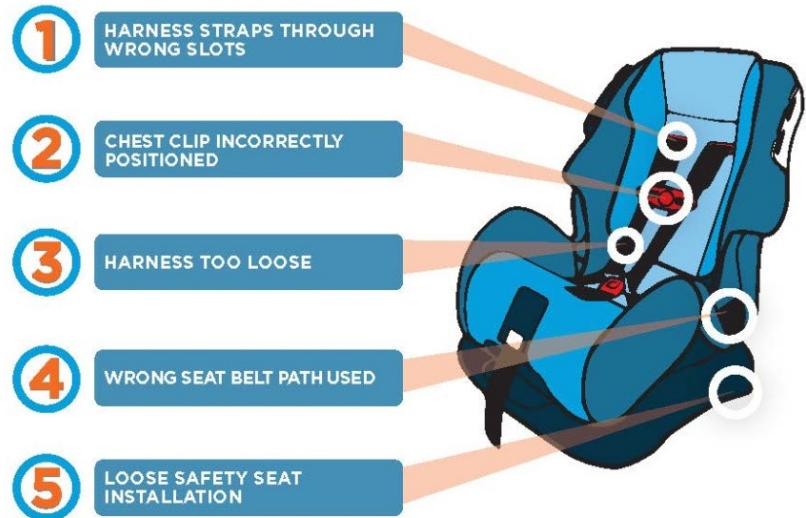
Seat belts are designed for use by adults. They do not protect children in the event of a crash.

Children under 13 should **always** ride in a back seat.

By law children under 8 must ride in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they are at least 4' 9" tall.

Source: TXDOT

FIVE MOST COMMON MISTAKES WHEN USING A CHILD SAFETY SEAT



Save me *with a seat*.com

Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation



Suddenlink Channel 2
AGEHD 89709

ATN Online
abilenetx.gov/live



MPO Policy Board meetings are streamed live on the Abilene Television Network. You can also watch meetings by visiting the City of Abilene's website at abilenetx.gov. Click on the "Watch a Meeting" icon.

Transportation Trivia: Why are tires Black?

Did you know that natural rubber is an off-white shade. Early tire manufacturers often added zinc oxide to strengthen tires. This meant the earliest of tires appeared white. So why are tires mostly black today? The answer is carbon black. Around the time of WWI tire makers started adding carbon black into the tire mixtures. Zinc Oxide was in short supply as it was needed to make ammunition. By adding carbon black, durability improved dramatically going from about 5,000 miles to 50,000. Carbon black helped block damage from UV rays and improved grip. It also changed tire color.

Source: Mental Floss, Jake Rossen, June 26, 2019

