



December 2018

Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization

Volume 5, Issue 1



“When People want transportation, they want it now.”

- Logan Green

Co-founder and CEO of Lyft

“The road to success is always under construction.”

- Steve Maraboli

Author, Speaker, Consultant

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## Policy Board Approves FYs 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Over \$54 Million of Projects included

### WHAT IS A TIP?

A Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a federally required document that contains a prioritized list of surface transportation projects within a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) area that are expected to begin in the current Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) plus the next 3 program years. TIPs are updated at least every 4 years and include projects listed in a locally developed long-range plan known as a “Metropolitan Transportation Plan” or MTP. A TIP is approved by a Policy Board typically composed of local elected leaders and transpor-

tation officials. It provides information on qualifying capital and non-capital plans for such things as highway, safety, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit projects. Project descriptions, locations, expected timing, and details on funding sources can be found in the TIP.

A total of \$40,158,258 in funding for highway projects and \$14,157,869 for transit projects were included in the Abilene MPO’s FYs 2019-2022 TIP approved on April 17, 2018 by the Abilene MPO Policy Board. The four-year program includes funds for major highway improvements along Buffalo Gap Road (FM



89), a new overpass at the intersection of FM 3034 and US 83, new sidewalk facilities along US 277, Texas Ave and Clack Road, and improvements to the intersection of Buffalo Gap Road (FM 89) and Antilley Road. Potential transit projects include funds for planning, administration, paratransit, small capital pur-

*See TIP pg. 3*

### Meet the MPO Policy Board - Chairman Shane Price

Councilman Shane Price is the newest member of the MPO Policy Board. Appointed by Abilene Mayor Anthony Williams to fill the second position on the five-member Board set aside for the City of Abilene, he was elected Chairman by his fellow Policy Board members at his first meeting on August 21, 2018. Councilman (now Chairman) Price has been on the Abilene City Council since May, 2009.



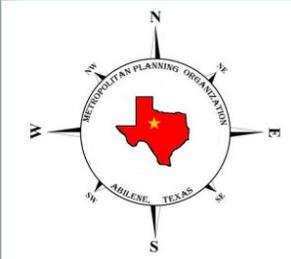
## Performance Measures

Performance Measures are used by organizations to gain knowledge about their operations, to set goals, to track outcomes, and to make decisions designed to achieve targets. Federal regulations approved with MAP 21 and the FAST Act now require State DOT's and MPO's to begin setting targets on certain performance measures and to consider these in project selection and investments. In 2018 the Abilene MPO adopted performance measure targets related to:

- \* Safety
- \* System Reliability
- \* Transit Assets
- \* Infrastructure (Paving and Bridges)

## Travel Demand Model

A travel demand model (TDM) is a computer software tool which looks at travel patterns in an area and assigns expected vehicle trips across available roadway networks. By using demographics and growth assumptions these models can be used to identify locations where existing thoroughfares may be over capacity and suffering congestion but more importantly they can help predict thoroughfares which are likely to become congested. Such predictions can help local officials make more informed decisions on transportation investments to evaluate the costs and benefits of different project opportunities. The Abilene MPO is partnering with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and the Texas A&M Texas Transportation Institute to update our local travel demand model. When completed, this will be a useful tool for local decision makers.



## Alphabet Soup— Know your Transportation Acronyms

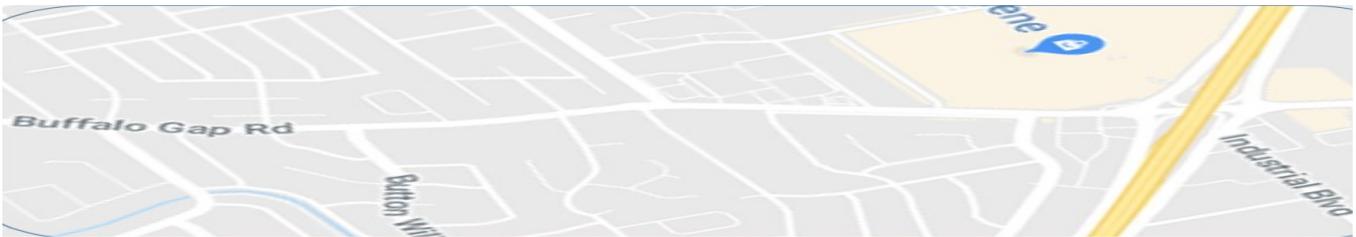
An acronym is an abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words and typically or often pronounced as a word. Can you guess the following transportation acronyms?

- |           |          |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|
| 1) MAP 21 | 4) TxDOT | 7) ADA  |
| 2) TIP    | 5) ROW   | 8) MTP  |
| 3) FHWA   | 6) APER  | 9) CMAQ |

Answers on Page 4

## MPO joins D.R.I.V.E. Safe Coalition on Child Car Seat Use

On Saturday, September 29, 2018 personnel from the Abilene MPO joined volunteers of the Drive Safe Coalition at the HEB parking lot on Barrow St. to assist parents and caregivers with information, and tips on the correct placement of a child in a child safety seat. Volunteers also checked seats for recalls and offered tips on how to choose an appropriate seat based on their child's age height and weight. Proper use and installation of a child safety seat is one of the best ways to reduce the risk of injury or death to children in an accident.



### TIP (continued from Page 1 )

chases and potential replacement of rolling stock.

#### Buffalo Gap Road (FM 89)

This project includes plans to expand the existing street to a total of 6 lanes along the most traveled portions from Clack St. to Rebecca Ln. Other major features include a plan for the installation of a center median with left-turn lanes, underground stormwater facilities, sidewalks, signal, signage and striping improvements and finally a potential signalized turn around at Rebecca Ln. large enough to allow

large trucks to make a 180 degree turn.

Moving southwest from Rebecca Ln. the project includes expansion of ROW, the addition of sidewalks, intersection improvements, and potential improvements to benefit future transit operations.

Improvements at the intersections of Industrial Blvd. and Antilley Rd. are also possible. These options however are still under study.

#### FM 3034

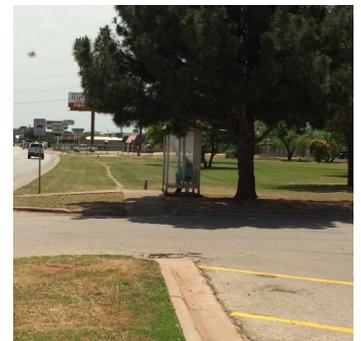
TxDOT has been studying options for an overpass at FM 3034 and US 83. This at grade inter-

section near the Abilene Landfill has a substantial mix of high-speed through traffic, slow turning vehicles, heavy commercial trucks, and lighter passenger vehicles. An overpass at this location is expected to provide a sizable reduction in risk by separating these traffic types and eliminating a number of conflict points.

#### US 83/84 Sidewalk

In 2017, the City of Abilene was awarded up to \$524,129 from the State in a 50/50 match for the construction of sidewalks through the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA)

program. When completed a sidewalk on one side of the street will be constructed. Beginning at Corsicana St. it will follow Texas Ave eastward to US 277. From there the sidewalk will turn northeast to Clack St finally turning south to Catclaw St. where it will connect to an existing sidewalk.



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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](http://abilenempo.org)



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AGEHD 89709

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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](http://abilenetx.gov). Click on the "Watch a Meeting" icon.

## Acronyms—Answers

How many did you get right?

- 1) MAP 21 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century
- 2) TIP Transportation Improvement Program
- 3) FHWA Federal Highway Administration
- 4) TxDOT Texas Department of Transportation
- 5) ROW Rights of Way
- 6) APER Annual Performance and Expenditure Report
- 7) ADA Americans with Disabilities Act
- 8) MTP Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- 9) CMAQ Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality