



# Abilene MPO Newsletter



Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization

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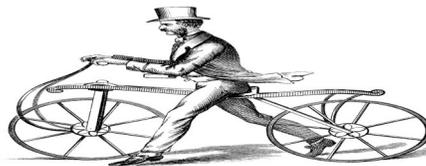
## MPO Promoting Bicycle Awareness



### City of Abilene Bicycle Plan

The City of Abilene’s Bicycle Plan recognizes the importance of addressing the access and mobility needs of bicyclist to travel to work and other destinations. It serves as a guide for the continuing expansion of facilities and the encouragement of alternative transportation modes (such as bicycling) as an enjoyable and healthy means of travel.

This plan provides the blueprint for creating an environment where people could choose to use their bicycle to travel to their destinations. It provides guidance for the development and implementation of an interconnected network of designated on-street bicycle facilities (lanes and routes) as well as off-road trails



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## Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)



**ABILENE MPO**  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN  
Final Year: 2015-2040  
Approved by the Policy Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

We have just completed the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The MTP identifies transportation improvement projects that the Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) area will need over the next 25-years based on the demand on the current system and input from the community. This document incorporates a multimodal approach. To read the 2015—2040 MTP go to our website:

[www.abilenempo.org/documents/MTP/](http://www.abilenempo.org/documents/MTP/)

### **Policy Board**

meetings take place in the City Council Chambers located at 555 Walnut at 1:30 pm.

### Tentative Dates

September 15, 2015

November 17, 2015

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Planning Organization**

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## Transportation Funding in Texas

### *"Texas Voters Approve Proposition 1"*

*"On November 4, 2014 Texas voters overwhelmingly voted to approve the Texas Transportation Funding Amendment, Proposition 1, in the general election thus sending a clear message to legislators that road improvements and the infrastructure of Texas is extremely important to Texas voters."*

### What is Proposition 1?

Proposition 1 is a constitutional amendment that was proposed by the Senate Joint Resolution 1 on August 5, 2013 and approved by Texas voters. This amendment is not a new Tax, more specifically, this amendment designates where half of the funds that are currently going into the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) better known as the Rainy Day Fund and instead diverts it into the State Highway Fund. An estimated 1.7 billion is slated to be transferred to the Highway Fund in the first year.

### How will the funds be used?

**House Bill 1** that was approved by the Texas legislature in 2013 outlines the process and details when the funds are transferred and how they can be used. Funds can only be used for construction, maintenance, rehabilitations, and acquiring right of way for public road projects, however they cannot be used for toll roads.



TxDOT is working to develop the first comprehensive and multimodal freight mobility plan. The goal is to enhance freight mobility and improve the state's economic competitiveness by providing efficient, reliable and safe freight transportation while maintaining the quality of life in the state's communities.

Freight companies should contact the MPO or TxDOT District staff regarding specific problems area and issues on existing routes which restrict or prohibit their use as a freight thoroughfare. Issues connecting between transportation modes should also be identified. For more information, visit the Freight Mobility Plan website at:

[http://www.dot.state.tx.us/move-texas-freight/freight\\_plan.htm](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/move-texas-freight/freight_plan.htm)

## Roadcents:

Drive Clean Texas and TxDOT have launched a web app called Roadcents which lets drivers track vehicle maintenance and learn ways to reduce vehicle emissions and save money by driving smart. The tips provided by the app can help drivers improve their fuel efficiency and reduce their vehicle emissions. It also reminds the driver about regular maintenance for their vehicle. TxDOT estimates that driving vehicles in need of maintenance can add more than \$100 to the cost of gas every year. The app can be downloaded at the website

<https://roadcents.org/#/>.



At the 2015 South Central Arc Users Group conference in Addison, Texas our very own Dean Carter Planning / GIS Tech was nominated and voted in as the North Texas State representative.

## TxDOT is looking into possible road improvement projects on US 83/84?

Considerable growth in the southern portion of the City of Abilene and into Taylor County has affected the safety and efficiency of US 83/84, in particular, the six-plus miles from Iberis Road south to where US 83 and US 84 split. TxDOT is reviewing this corridor due to:

- A high number of at-grade crossovers (33 total crossovers)
- An expanding number of residences and growing neighborhoods
- An increasing number of vehicles traveling into and out of Abilene at peak hours
- The speed limit, in relation to the number of crossovers and transition to city limits.
- Projected growth over the next 20 years (business and residential)

**Project Purpose:** The proposed US 83/84 projects will enhance the safety and efficiency of this corridor for the traveling public. Local traffic will increase with expected growth, and traffic passing through the area to other destinations is also likely to increase as the state's population grows. These roadway enhancements will be a proactive effort to prepare the corridor for future annual average daily traffic (AADT) increases while working to maintain the safety of the traveling public.

**Timeline:** This is the beginning of a nine-month study on the US 83/84 corridor by the Abilene District and TxDOT's Traffic Operations Division.

Over the coming months, TxDOT will gather input from a stakeholder committee and from the general public to determine the need for future improvements along this stretch of roadway.

The first Public Meeting was held on [Tuesday, June 30th, at the River of Life Church, 539 S. US 83/84](#), in Abilene. During this meeting, TxDOT described its intentions, identified any added public issues and discussed future plans.

There will be at least three Public meetings on the US 83/84 corridor, held in the evenings from 4-8 p.m.

For further information, please contact: Michael Haithcock Transportation Planning and Design TxDOT Abilene District [michael.haithcock@txdot.gov](mailto:michael.haithcock@txdot.gov)  
325.676.6810

## Business I -20/US 84 Bridge to be Replaced

ABILENE – On Tuesday, May 26, TxDOT crews will began work to replace the Business I-20/US 84 bridge over Old Highway 80 (Bankhead Highway). During this time, the bridge will be closed and all traffic [detoured to FM 3438](#).

Portable message boards and other signage announcing the detour will be in place to inform drivers of the alternate route.

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### Saying goodbye is never easy!

We would like to say goodbye to some of our allies in transportation. It seems that retirement has come for two of our TxDOT friends. Blair Haynie and Alan Hufstutler have left us for their next phase of life.

We also say goodbye to Councilman Joe Spano who served on our Policy Board. Also James Condry retired after 30+ years working with the MPO.

**BUT,**

We say Hello to Michael Haithcock, who is the new Director of TxDOT's Transportation, Planning and Development Abilene District, Wayne Ekdahl the new TxDOT area engineer, Bruce Kreitler the new member of the Policy Board,

Make sure and tell these gentlemen Howdy!

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**Motorcycles are everywhere!**

**Thank You!**