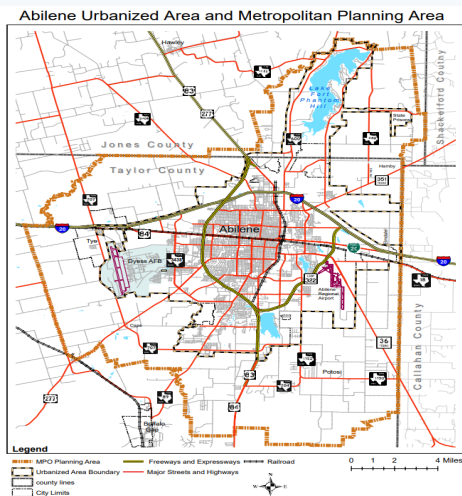


ABILENE MPO INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization

HELLO!! We truly appreciate you taking the time to look over and naturally, positively enjoy our newsletter. We tried to add a little something for everyone: Pictures, Posters, Upcoming Events, Facts, Helpful Hints and even some Fun and Games. Our theme: Transportation! The Abilene MPO Insider is geared up and moving full throttle into Spring 2023. Come along for the ride! Welcome Aboard!!!

By: Rita L. Ryan, MPO Office Assistant III



The Role of the Abilene MPO

The MPO consists of federal, state and local agencies working together to avoid conflicting plans, duplicated projects or funding conflicts between transportation priorities in the metropolitan planning area. The MPO's role is to develop and maintain the necessary transportation plans for the area to ensure that federal funds support locally developed plans and that the projects are part of a credible planning process that meets the local priorities. The MPO works with various agencies in the development of transportation plans, transit plans, travel demand model, thoroughfare plans, bicycle/pedestrian plans, and many other plans. Through planning efforts and great partnerships, the MPO strives to incorporate the following eight federal planning factors:

1. Support economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
2. Increase safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
3. Increase security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
4. Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and freight.
5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
7. Promote efficient system management and operation.
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

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6. Fun and Games
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8. We want to hear from you
9. Resources and Answer Key

Ride of Silence

MAY 17, 2023 | 7 PM | MCMURRY UNIVERSITY

One Day. One Time. Free Worldwide.

All are welcome for a free, silent bike ride. Join cyclists worldwide in a silent, slow-paced ride in honor of those who have been injured or killed while cycling on public roadways. Raise awareness that we are here.

WE ALL SHARE THE ROAD.

7 PM - McMurry University - parking lot north of Radford Auditorium

PLEASE ARRIVE BY 6:15 FOR INSTRUCTIONS

This ride is FREE and OPEN to ALL RIDERS 14 AND UP. APD will escort the ride. Helmets MUST be worn. The route is 5 miles long with a pace at 10-12 MPH.

FRONT LIGHTS
REAR LIGHTS
AND HELMETS
REQUIRED

FOLLOW
THE RULES
OF THE
ROAD

12 MPH MAX

WWW.RIDEOFSILENCE.ORG

DYESS BIG COUNTRY AIR FEST

APRIL 22, 2023

**THE BEST OF
AMERICA'S
LIFT & STRIKE BASE**

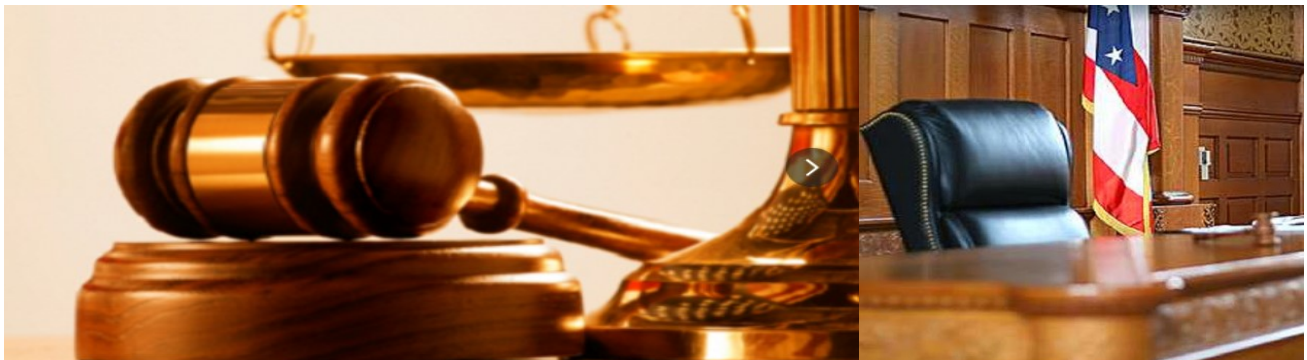
Here comes the Judge!



Judge Phil Crowley

Phil Crowley was born at Dyess Air Force Base and raised in Abilene, Texas. Phil is a graduate of the Abilene Independent School District and Hardin-Simmons University, where he also currently serves as an Adjunct Professor. Phil graduated from Texas Wesleyan School of Law (now Texas A&M School of Law) in 2013 and returned home to practice law. Phil was in private practice for a year and half prior to joining the Taylor County District Attorney's Office in 2015, where he spent seven and half years as a prosecutor. Phil won the Republican Primary for Taylor County Judge in March of 2022 and was elected Taylor County Judge in November of 2022. He assumed Office January 1, 2023. Phil attends Beltway Parkway Church and is a board member for the Alliance for Women and Children, Regional American Red Cross, and is a member of Kiwanis Club.

The Abilene M.P. O. welcomes Judge Crowley to the MPO Policy Board.



HELPFUL HINTS & Did You Know?

DIY Methods To Clean Foggy Headlights



Coca-Cola - soak a sponge or rag with Coca-Cola and apply it to your car headlights, leave it on for four or five minutes then, wipe off with a towel and rinse with hot water.

WD-40 - Clean your headlights to remove road and bug dirt. Spray them with WD-40 and wipe off with a clean, wet rag. This could take a couple of tries if your headlights are really foggy.

Baking soda & vinegar - Mix two-parts vinegar, to one-part baking soda in a container (slowly—it expands and fizzes). Lightly rub the mixture all over your headlights, then wash off with warm water.

Toothpaste - If only slightly foggy, use toothpaste (I use baking soda toothpaste), and scrub, scrub, scrub. Clean your headlights first with a glass cleaner/soap & water. To apply toothpaste dab it onto a wet (not dripping) microfiber rag and rub it in with a circular motion. Now scrub, scrub, scrub (this takes time and elbow grease). Remember keep it wet then repeat if needed. Rinse with hot water.

How Do You Know When to Change Wiper Blades?

Wearing occurs when the blade's square rubber edges become rounded. This happens after extensive use.

Splitting occurs when ultraviolet rays from the sun penetrate the blade's rubber squeegee, causing it to break down and separate from the blade frame.

Streaking occurs when the wiper's rubber squeegee dries, hardens and cracks.

Skipping occurs when the blade develops a curvature due to underuse.



The general rule of thumb is to replace your windshield wiper blades every six months or 6,000 miles. This may vary depending on where you live. Extreme temperatures and excessive snow and rain can cause your wipers to wear down faster.

Is the concrete or asphalt too hot for my dog?

Follow the 7-second rule - before heading out for a walk, place the back of your hand firmly against the concrete or asphalt for 7 seconds. If you experience burning or discomfort, it's too hot for your pup's paws.

It only takes 60 seconds on the pavement which is 125 degrees, for a dog's pads to burn. This means that the pavement could be potentially dangerous when the air temperature is 77 degrees.



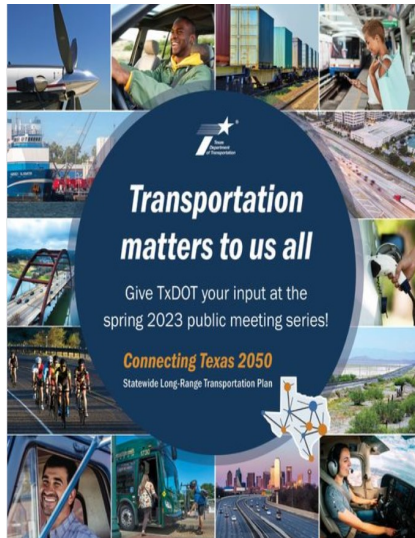
811 is the national call-before-you-dig phone number.

Many people don't think about 811 or getting underground utility lines marked until it's too late. By too late, we mean a project involving digging has begun and a utility line has been damaged in the process. By most people, we mean the 74% of Texans who don't know EVERY DIG COUNTS. Damaging underground utility lines can cause unwanted outages, fines and repair costs.

Underground Utility Color Code

What do the different colored paint and flags mean?

<p>White Proposed Excavation</p>	<p>Pink Temporary Survey Markings</p>	<p>Blue Potable Water</p>	<p>Green Sewer and Drain Lines</p>
<p>Purple Irrigation and Slurry Lines, Reclaimed Water</p>	<p>Red Electrical Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables</p>	<p>Yellow Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials</p>	<p>Orange Communications, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit</p>



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ABILENE DISTRICT

WORK ZONE AWARENESS HIGH SCHOOL POSTER CONTEST

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RAISE WORK ZONE SAFETY AWARENESS!

- Create a Work Zone Awareness Poster - design by hand or digitally - Tabloid Size 11" x 17"
- Submit 1 poster from each school **by Friday, April 7th** to be judged
- Submit by email to Jill Christie at jill.christie@txdot.gov or call (325) 676-6808 for alternate submission information
- The winner will be announced at the Work Zone Awareness Press Conference on **Monday, April 17th at 10:00 a.m.** at TxDOT
- The winning poster will be included on TxDOT Abilene's Social Media and be used for the 2024 Work Zone Awareness Campaign

WE ALL WANT TO GET HOME SAFE.

SLOW DOWN, I'M WORKING HERE!

TxDOT's Abilene District consists of schools in the following counties: Borden, Callahan, Fannin, Haskell, Howard, Jones, Martin, Mitchell, Nolan, Scott, Shackelford, Stonewall and Taylor

Child Passenger Safety

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death among children. While most people believe their children are properly buckled up, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration points out that 46% of all car seats are misused. The best way to keep young children safe in your vehicle is to make sure they're properly buckled up in a car seat. That means selecting a car seat that's appropriate for a child's age and size and installing it correctly.

TxDOT's free safety seat inspections are available throughout the year. To schedule a car seat check-up with a TxDOT Traffic Safety Specialist, visit [SaveMeWithaSeat.org](https://www.savemewithaseat.org) and enter your ZIP code to find the nearest TxDOT district office.

Visit [SaveMeWithaSeat.org](https://www.savemewithaseat.org) to find out more about how to keep your child safe. Drivers can also find out if a child should be in a rear-facing, forward-facing or booster seat and get other child passenger safety tips at the website.

Texas law requires that all children younger than eight years old, unless they are taller than 4 feet 9 inches, be secured in a child safety seat whenever they ride in a vehicle. Older children who have outgrown a booster seat must be buckled with a seat belt. Failure to properly restrain a child can result in a ticket of up to \$250.

Save me with a seat.

Make sure your child is in a properly installed and correct size car seat.

Stage 1
Rear-facing seats
A child must remain rear-facing in a car seat until they are 2 years old, 29 pounds, 4 feet 9 inches tall, and 120 inches high.

Stage 2
Convertible or forward-facing seat
A child must remain in a convertible or forward-facing seat until they are 4 years old, 40 pounds, 4 feet 9 inches tall, and 120 inches high.

Stage 3
Forward-facing or booster seat
A child must remain in a forward-facing or booster seat until they are 8 years old, 80 pounds, 4 feet 9 inches tall, and 120 inches high.

Stage 4
Seat belts
When children are old enough and large enough to use the vehicle seat belt, they should be buckled up with a seat belt. They should be buckled up with a seat belt until they are 18 years old or 6 feet 3 inches tall.

Sign up for a free safety seat inspection at

Save me with a seat.

Visit www.savemewithaseat.org to find out more about how to keep your child safe.

Sign up for a free safety seat inspection at



TxDOT is proposing improvements to FM 1750 from _____ to _____?

A: Harrisburg Rd to Blackhawk Rd

B: Prosperity Ln to Harry Holt Rd

C: Industrial Blvd to Colony Hill Rd

Phil (Judge) Crowley began to work in the Taylor County District Attorney's Office in what Year?

A: 2019 B: 1927

C: 2015 D: Never

Before you dig—who do you call?

A: Call 8-1-1 ?

B: Call City Hall ?

C: Call 7-1-1?

How much did you enjoy our newsletter?

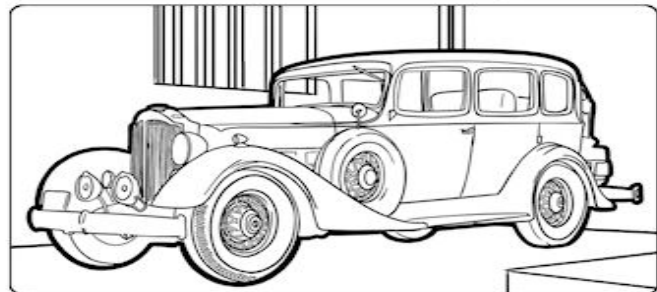
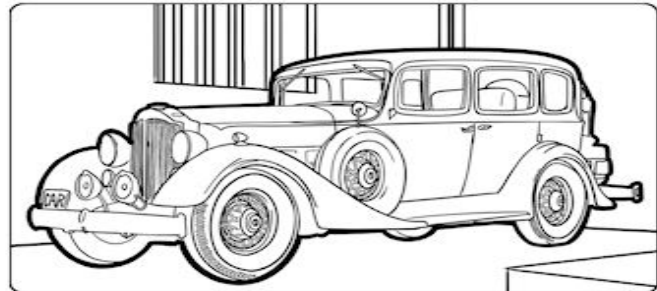
A: It's the Best Newsletter EVER!

B: I couldn't put it down—WOW!

C: All the Above :)

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the 8 differences between these two pictures?



Free printable courtesy of PrintisFree.net

Transportation Word Search—find the words list below up, down, left right or diagonal

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

ABILENE
BICYCLES
CARS
DYESS
HIGHWAY
MAPS
NEIGHBORS
PUBLIC
RURAL
SIGNS
TRAILS
TXDOT
WORKING

AID
BUSES
CENSUS
ELMDALE
IMPACT
MOTORCYCLES
POTOSI
RAILROADS
SAFETY
STREETS
TRANSPORTATION
TYE

AIRPORT
CAPS
CONSTRUCTION
HAMBY
LAKE FORT PHANTOM
MPO
PROGRESS
ROADS
SCOOTERS
TEXAS
TRUCKS
URBAN

Fun things happening in Abilene!



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Public Scoping Meetings: You Are Invited!

The Department of Defense is developing a new bomber aircraft, the B-21 "Raider," which will eventually replace existing B-1 and B-2 bomber aircraft. The Department of the Air Force (DAF) intends to beddown B-21 aircraft as part of three basing decisions, Main Operating Base (MOB) 1, MOB 2 and MOB 3. The DAF previously selected Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB) as the MOB 1 location and is now preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential beddown impacts of MOB 2 or 3 at Dyess AFB, Texas or Whiteman AFB, Missouri.

The DAF will host six public scoping meetings to allow members of the public to learn about the project and provide public comments. Public scoping meetings will begin with a 30-minute DAF presentation, followed by an open house. Written comments can be submitted at any time during the in-person scoping meetings or submitted electronically via the public website at www.B21EIS.com.

Virtual meetings will be held on the dates/times below:

Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CT

Thursday, April 13, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CT

To register to attend a virtual public scoping meeting, visit www.B21EIS.com. Meeting links and instructions will be distributed after registering and prior to all virtual public scoping meetings. All virtual public scoping meetings can be accessed by phone at 1-888-788-0099, Webinar ID: 813-5934-9395, Passcode: 570587.

In-Person meetings will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. CT on the following dates/locations:

Tuesday, April 18, 2023, University of Central Missouri, 108 W. South St., Warrensburg, MO

Thursday, April 20, 2023, Knob Noster High School, 504 South Washington Ave., Knob Noster, MO

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, Abilene Convention Center, 1100 N 6th St., Abilene, TX

Thursday, April 27, 2023, Tye Community Center, 103 Scott St., Tye, TX

To submit scoping comments electronically, please visit the website at: www.B21EIS.com.

Scoping comments by mail should be sent to:

Leidos

ATTN: B-21 EIS

12304 Morganton Hwy #572

Morganton, GA 30560

Inquiries should be directed to:

Dyess AFB Public Affairs, (325) 696-4820

Whiteman AFB Public Affairs, (660) 687-5727

As a result of a delay in the Notice of Intent being published on March 27, 2023, the scoping comment period has been extended to **May 10, 2023**.

For more information, please visit the public website at www.B21EIS.com.



MASTER GARDENERS SERIES: IRRIGATION BASICS

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Abilene Public Library
 202 Cedar St.
 Abilene, TX 79601
 (325) 676-6025



CARWALK

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

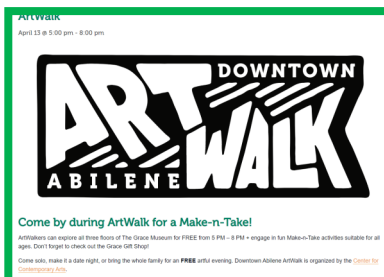
Center for Contemporary Arts
 220 Cypress Street
 Abilene, TX 79601
 (325) 677-8389



forts trail region

Abilene State Park

150 Park Road 32
 Tuscola, TX 79562
 (325) 572-3204



We want to hear from you!

How can I get involved?

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.

Can't come in person? No problem. **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

Come visit us!

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

(325) 437-9999



@AbileneMPO



Abilene MPO



abilenempopo.org



Resources & Answer Key

Notable News (Resources)

Front Page: <https://www.abilenempo.org> www.rideofsilence.org Steamboat Cycle Club

Meet the Judge: <https://www.taylorcountytexas.org/203/County-Judge>

<https://www.taylorcountytexas.org/DocumentCenter/View/3576/Phil-Crowley-Bio>

TxDOT: <https://www.facebook.com/TxDOT> <https://www.txdot.gov/>

Safety's Sake:

Child Passenger Safety: <https://www.txdot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-campaigns/child-passenger-safety.html> <https://www.savemewithaseat.org/> Installing a Car Seat properly demo: <https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot/media-center/statewide/campaigns/cpass/demo.mp4>

Helpful Hints:

Headlights: Me - the ways I have cleaned mine (okay watched my husband and brothers).

Wiper Blades: <https://magazine.northeast.aaa.com/daily/life/cars-trucks/how-do-you-know-when-to-change-wiper-blades>

211 Texas A Call for Help— <https://www.acallforhelp.info/> or Facebook 211 Texas A Call for Help

811 - <https://texas811.org/what-is-811> <https://texas811.org/every-dig-counts>

Ride of Silence - <http://www.rideofsilence.org/locations-domestic.php?s=TX> <https://www.facebook.com/rideofsilence>

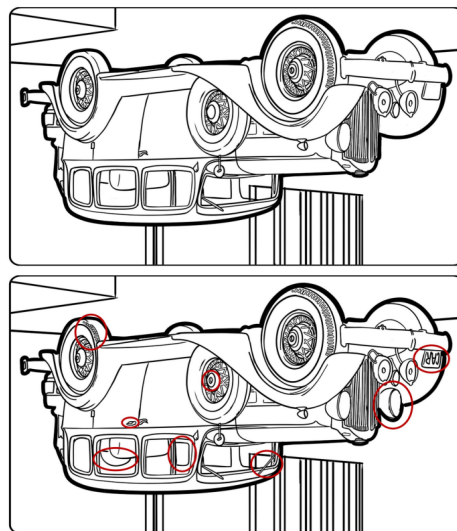
Fun & Games: Spot The Difference : <https://www.printitfree.net/antique-roadster-spot-the-difference-picture-puzzle/>

Word Search—me,

Fun Things Happening in Abilene : Google Search, Facebook Events, <https://www.abilenevisitors.com/events/>



- Questions:
- 1) Industrial Blvd to Colony Hill Rd.
 - 2) 2015
 - 3) 8-1-1
 - 4) Hopefully it was C



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE
Can you spot the 8 differences between these two pictures?