

October 8, 2015

# Brownsville

Metropolitan Planning Organization

## On-going MPO: Federal Certification

The Brownsville Metropolitan Organization is preparing for the 2015 Federal Certification Review.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) together perform this review to ensure that the metropolitan planning organization is conforming to the Federal guidelines.

It is the first time that the Brownsville MPO undergoes such federal evaluation, since recently being designated as a Transportation Management Area (TMA). This is a designation received when the population as noted by the United State Census Bureau, reaches over 200,000 within the MPO's study area.

The federal review committee met with MPO staff in early June. Topics discussed focused on the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), Title VI, Travel Demand Model, Congestion Management Process, Safety, Security, Transit, Freight and Bicycle/Pedestrian Livability issues.

Results of this preliminary evaluation were favorable. Constructive feedback received by MPO staff has been addressed over the summer. BMPO staff will continue to work on making improvements in the MPO's overall planning process.

Final review will take place October 20-22, 2015. An evening MPO public meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2015 at 6 p.m. (see details below).

Brownsville MPO cordially invites you (the public) to participate in this federal process and provide your input. Every comment is appreciated. Simple equation:

**Active Public Involvement = Better MPO Plans & Policies**

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*El Tapiz Building, 1150 E. Adams St. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Brownsville, TX*

## Upcoming Policy Committee Meetings

Wednesday, **October 14, 2015**  
At 10 a.m.

Wednesday, **October 21, 2015**  
At 6 p.m.

Thursday, **November 12, 2015**  
At 10 a.m.

**City Hall, City Commission Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1001 E. Elizabeth St., Brownsville, TX 78520**

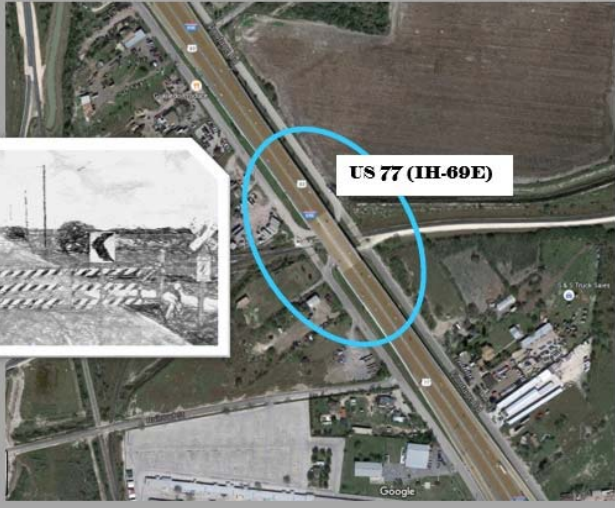
Note: Brownsville MPO Policy Committee Meetings are now televised effective September 1, 2015. Soon archived Recordings of these meeting will be loaded onto the Brownsville MPO website: [www.brownsvillempo.org](http://www.brownsvillempo.org).

# Please Provide Input!

## US 281 Widening vs. IH-69 E / U.S. 77/83 Overpass


Allocation of 8.5 million dollars of Brownsville MPO Proposition One funds will be discussed on Wednesday, October 14. There are two projects listed as eligible improvements. See below:

**On the drawing boards...**



**US 77 (IH-69E)**

**Limits:**  
From Sports Park Blvd  
To Old Alice Road  
**Length: 1.12 Miles**



**US 281**

**Limits:**  
From FM 1421 West  
To 0.4 Miles West of FM 1577  
**Length: 3.6 Miles**

**The Brownsville MPO Policy Committee members are considering how and when to fund these improvements...**

- 1) IH-69E/  
US 77-83  
Northbound Frontage Road  
(one lane for vehicles & separate pedestrian/bicycle paths)**
- Or**
- 2) Widen  
US 281  
(Military Highway) to  
4 rural lanes**

**Visit [www.brownsvillempo.org](http://www.brownsvillempo.org) and take the survey!**

- 1) IH-69 E / U.S. 77/83 Northbound Frontage Road project consists of construction of an overpass at Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). Cost estimate is \$10 million.
- 2) U.S. 281 (Military Highway)

A legal advertisement was placed in the local newspaper on September 9, 2015 to encourage citizens to submit comments on these proposed MPO improvements. There are still several ways to participate. Come to a meeting, send an e-mail, and/or fill out the comment sheet provided at the end of this newsletter. Check out our website [www.brownsvillempo.org](http://www.brownsvillempo.org) to take a survey. Comments will be received through noon on November 4<sup>th</sup>, Policy Committee will meet on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., and discuss these proposals.



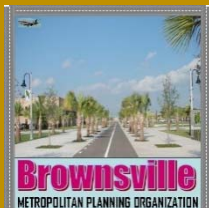
### WHAT IS AN MPO?

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a regional policy board, required in urbanized areas with populations over 50,000 and designated by local officials and the governor of the state.

# Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization

c/o City of Brownsville Planning  
Department  
P.O. Box 911  
1150 E. Adams St. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Brownsville, TX 7852

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Visit the MPO webpage:  
[www.brownsvillemipo.org](http://www.brownsvillemipo.org) or  
[mipo.cob.us](http://mipo.cob.us)



## About Us

The Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization provides administrative support and technical services to coordinate, carry out and conduct transportation planning for Brownsville, Los Fresnos, the Town of Rancho Viejo and unincorporated parts of the MPO study area.

The activities conducted by the Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) are intended to identify policies, programs and improvement projects to address area transportation activities and needs. The adoption of transportation plans and policies by the MPO is an integral step in the process of obtaining federal funding for transportation improvements, and transit activities.

## Contact

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## Don't Text and Drive

In Wisconsin, there is an important campaign going on in the month of October. "It Can Wait: Distracted Driving Awareness Month" has been declared by Governor Scott Walker. Individuals are asked to pay attention to the road and not their wireless device.

Brownsville Commission approved Ordinance No. 2011-1539 declaring "Use of Wireless Communication Device; Offense" on **February 15, 2011**. What does this mean? Simply, don't text and drive, not even at a red light or stop sign.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, "distracted driving" accounted for 100,825 accidents in 2014, throughout the state leading to serious injury or death.

### Please Wait

- Engage in this activity once you have arrived **safely** at your destination.

Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization  
 City of Brownsville Planning Department  
 PO Box 911  
 1150 E. Adams St. 3rd Floor  
 Brownsville, TX 78520

[Addressee]  
 [Street Address]  
 City, ST, Zip Code

NAME/NOMBRE	COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN	
PHONE/TELÉFONO	
<p>PLEASE HELP US IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION IN BROWNSVILLE BY SENDING US YOUR IDEAS AND COMMENTS. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS CAN BE ADDRESSED TO:</p> <p>Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization          c/o City of Brownsville – Planning Department          P.O. Box 911          1150 E. Adams St. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor          Brownsville, TX 78520</p> <p>Or E-mail: <a href="mailto:georgina.lopez@cob.us">georgina.lopez@cob.us</a></p>	
<p>POR FAVOR AYUDENOS A MEJORAR EL SISTEMA DE TRANSPORTE EN BROWNSVILLE. QUEREMOS SU OPINIÓN DE USTED. ENVÍENOS SUS IDEAS, COMENTARIOS Y PREGUNTAS A LA SIGUIENTE DIRECCIÓN:</p> <p>Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization          c/o City of Brownsville – Planning Department          P.O. Box 911          1150 E. Adams St. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor          Brownsville, TX 78520</p> <p>O Correo Electrónico: <a href="mailto:georgina.lopez@cob.us">georgina.lopez@cob.us</a></p>	