



Central Texas *ON THE MOVE*



2180 N. Main Street Belton, TX 76513

Spring 2017

Central Texas Gets a New Interstate



On January 26, 2017 the Texas Transportation Commission approved the designation of a part of US 190 in Central Texas as Interstate 14. US 190 from the US 190 bypass in Copperas Cove to I-35 in Belton will now be I-14. This 25 mile section of I-14 is the beginning of a much larger transportation network that will improve connections, freight mobility, safety and security throughout Central Texas.

The Gulf Coast Strategic Highway System

A "Forts to Ports" highway network was first conceived in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act or SAFETEA-LU passed in 2005 which included the 14th Amendment Highway. The 14th Amendment Highway Corridor was designed to connect military forts in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia through an interstate system to strategic ports to meet the needs of military transportation. As the idea of "Forts to Ports" gained momentum, there were considerations to extend this corridor westward for a "Forts to Ports" highway system to serve military bases in Louisiana and Texas.



Source: Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition. For more information, please visit the Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition's website at www.gulfcoaststrategichighway.org.

Contact Us

Contact us for more information about our services.

Killeen-Temple MPO

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In This Issue

- Interstate 14
- City Feature: Harker Heights
- MTP Project Reprioritization
- Air Quality Update
- Freight Advisory Committee
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- SH317 Construction Update
- Upcoming Bike Rides
 - Salado Smokin' Spokes
 - Chisholm Trail Stampede

The Gulf Coast Strategic Highway System was developed to connect Ft. Hood, Fort Bliss and Fort Polk to the Port of Beaumont and the Port of Corpus Christi. By providing connections to these ports, the US Military can easily and effectively move military equipment and troops overseas. In 2015, through the Fixing America Surface Transportation Act, also known as the FAST Act, the Central Texas Corridor was designated as a high priority corridor which would be called Interstate 14. The Central Texas Corridor identified in the FAST Act follows US 190 from Brady to Jasper and SH 63 from Jasper to the Texas/Louisiana border.

I-14 Beneficial To Central Texas

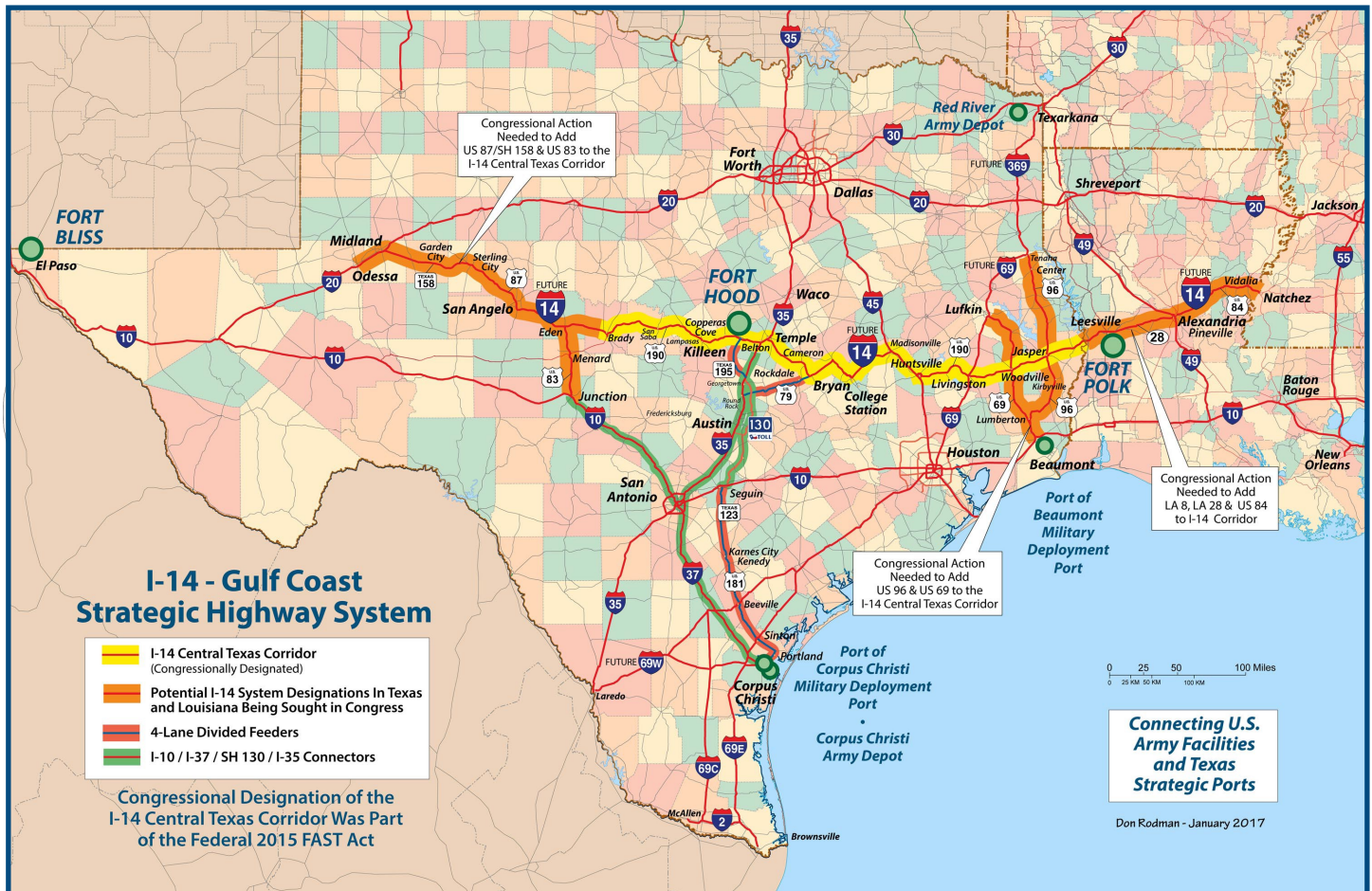
In addition to providing the US military with a faster, safer and more effective transportation system, Interstate 14 will also promote economic mobility and growth throughout Texas. The Permian Basin in West Texas produces about half of the oil produced in Texas with an estimated 500 years of recoverable oil and gas remaining in the Permian Basin. Proponents of I-14 are advocating to extend the Central Texas Corridor from Brady through San Angelo to Midland-Odessa to provide an effective route to transport the vast amount of oil from the Permian Basin to ports along the Gulf of Mexico. A proposed alignment of this extension may follow US 87/SH 158 & US 83 and connect to I-20 near Midland-Odessa. By extending the Central Texas Corridor, connectivity can help transport oil and gas easily and efficiently and keep Texas as an energy producing power.

I-14 will provide economic benefits to the region. Corporations that are looking for locations for their businesses tend to favor areas that have interstate access. Interstate access provides a fast and efficient way of transporting goods which can cut transportation costs. Therefore, Interstate 14 may attract businesses and promote regional economic growth.

Interstate 14 will also provide traffic relief on major east to west highways such as I-10 and I-20. I-14 will provide much needed connections between I-35, I-45 and future I-69. Connections between I-14 and other interstates can be very beneficial in moving people from coastal areas inland during hurricane evacuations. When evacuations are necessary, highways along the Texas coast can get extremely congested as people try to flee the coast. I-14 can provide an additional evacuation route, alleviating congestion and moving people to safety.

I-14 Looking Forward

Even though there has been much progress establishing I-14, it still has a long ways to go to function as a proper “Forts to Ports” highway system. Many parts of US 190 are not up to interstate standards and there are no dedicated funds to bring the current route up to these standards. Interstate standards include a divided, controlled access, minimum four lane highway, with specific standards on speed, lane width, bridge height, grade and others. Congressional action is needed to extend the Central Texas Corridor westward from Brady to San Angelo to I-20 near Midland-Odessa and eastward to provide an interstate route in Central Louisiana. Regionally, KTMP is planning for I-14 through many different ways. There are three projects on the 2040 MTP Project List to widen US 190 from FM 2410 (Knights Way) to I-35. KTMP is currently working with the Texas Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study for possible alignments of US 190 east of I-35.



Harker Heights Transportation Update

The City of Harker Heights is working hard to improve transportation for our citizens.

Mobility 2030

Over the last two years, City Staff has begun evolving our thoroughfare plan to a document called Mobility 2030, a living transportation plan that reflects the growing needs of our City.

Section 1, which addresses the vehicular street network, was adopted in 2014. It identifies key arterial, collector, and residential streets, as well as critical intersections that may need special attention due to traffic or safety concerns.

Section 2, adopted in 2015, addresses a sidewalk network that the City is working to establish along existing streets to interconnect vital areas such as schools, parks, commercial centers, and residential neighborhoods.

Section 3 is currently under review and will establish an off-street mountain biking and hiking trail system that intends to connect many parts of the City to Lake Stillhouse Hollow, utilizing existing drainage channels and easements.

Section 4 will address a bicycle lane network to allow safe passage for cyclists throughout the City.

Section 5 will see the City work with the HOP to refine transit services within Harker Heights.

The City of Harker Heights was Incorporated in 1960.

The city derives its name from one of the two original landowners and founder, Harley Kern.

The population of Harker Heights is 26,700 per the 2010 US Census.

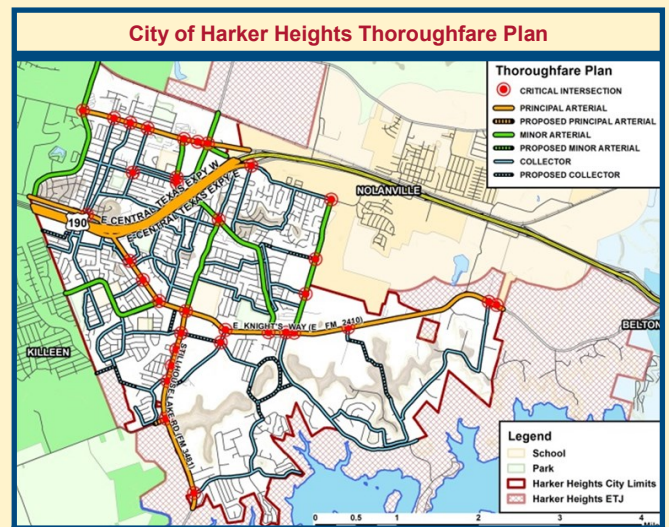


Figure 1-Mobility 2030 Street Network

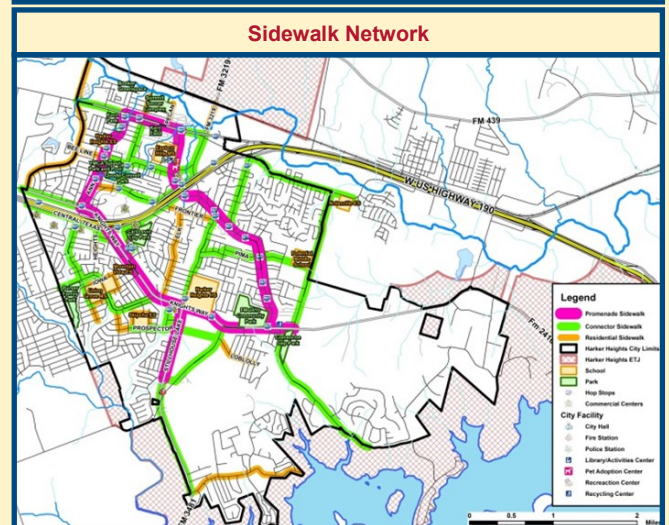


Figure 2- Mobility 2030 Sidewalk Network

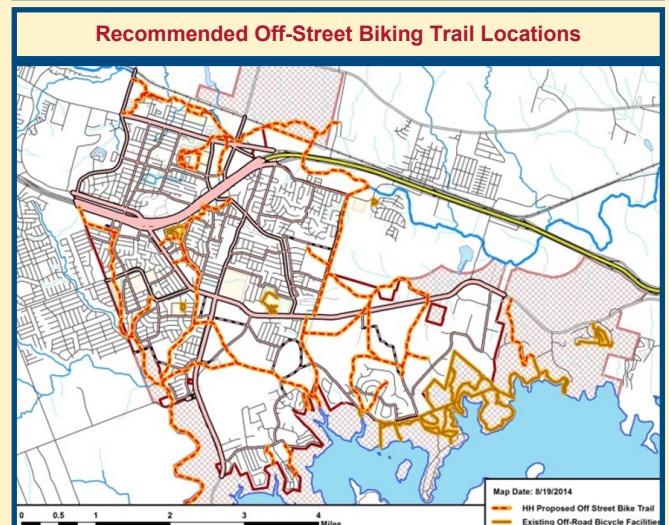
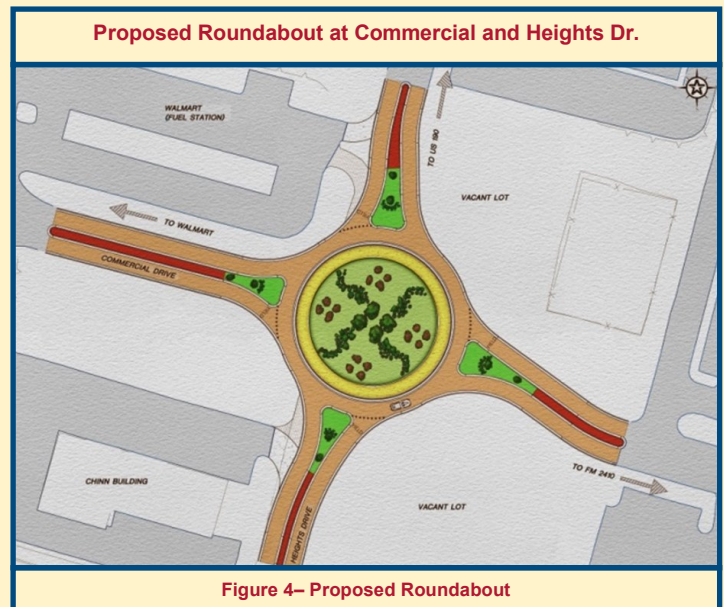


Figure 3- Mobility 2030 Proposed Off-Street Trails

Roundabout

As many Harker Heights residents know, the intersection of Commercial Drive and Heights Drive, in front of the Walmart, can become nearly unpassable during peak traffic times throughout the day. Working closely with our consulting engineer, the City has developed a plan to place a roundabout at that intersection. The roundabout will allow for smoother, more efficient traffic flow through the intersection, and allow shoppers easier access to the commercial developments in the area.



FM 2410 Widening

Already under way is the TXDOT project to widen West FM 2410 from Roy Reynolds Blvd to Commercial Drive from 2 lanes to 4 lanes with a continuous turn lane. The City has already relocated the utilities along that portion of FM 2410, and construction has begun. TXDOT has issued a conservative estimate of 3 years for completion, but the City is hopeful the project will be finished much sooner.

I-14/US 190 Widening

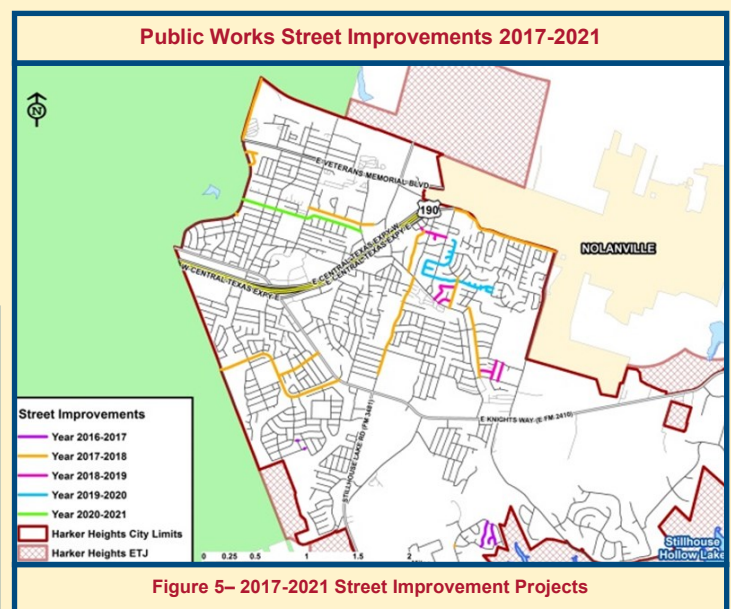
US 190 has officially been designated as Interstate Highway 14, and the widening of the highway from 2 lanes in each direction to 3 lanes continues. The latest phase of the project will continue eastward from the western city limits with Killeen to the Indian Trail overpass. TXDOT has informed us the project will be released for bidding by contractors in December of 2017. The overall goal is to eventually widen the highway all the way to its intersection with IH-35.

2017-2021 CIP Projects

Finally, the City of Harker Heights has introduced a street improvement project plan for the next 5 years. We will be repairing and resurfacing numerous trouble spots throughout the City.

City Council meetings are generally held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

For more information visit the City's website at <http://www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us/>.



Planning Ahead to Year 2040

In 2016, KTMPO reprioritized and updated the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Project Listing. The MTP identifies the existing and future transportation needs for a 25 year planning horizon. Projects identified in the MTP are divided into three funding lists based on the Fiscal Constraint for the 2040 MTP. Fiscal Constraint is the amount of funding that KTMPO anticipates receiving during the 25 year planning cycle. The Short Range Project List represents projects that KTMPO expects to fund in the first 10 years of the MTP. The Long Range Project List shows projects that are expected to be funded during the following 15 years. Any projects that are not expected to be funded within the 25 planning cycle are listed in the Regionally Significant Unfunded List. Long range projects that are many years out may be included in the unscored list. Projects listed in the MTP are eligible for federal, state or local highway or transit dollars for study, design, right of way acquisition, or construction.

MTP Reprioritization

KTMPO worked with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Transportation Planning Policy Board (TPPB) to develop scoring criteria for projects to be included in the updated 2040 MTP Project Listing. Projects were broken into two scoring tracks: roadway and transportation choices/livability (bike/pedestrian projects). KTMPO received a total of 99 projects with 86 projects going through the scoring process. Out of those 86 projects, 67 projects were roadway projects and 19 were livability with an estimated total cost of \$1.065 billion and \$22.8 million respectively. The highest ranked roadway project was US 190 from FM 2410 in Harker Heights to FM 2410 in W Belton and Temple's 31st Street Sidewalk project was the highest ranked livability project. After each project was scored and ranked, Fiscal Constraint was applied to the project listing. Therefore the funding order may be slightly different then the ranking order. For the complete 2040 MTP Project Listing, please visit <http://www.ktmpo.org/planning/plans/>.

ROADWAY PROJECTS			
Project Description	Ranking	Funding Order	Estimated Cost
Widen US 190 from 4 to 6 lanes from FM 2410 to FM 2410 in W Belton	1	1	\$37,154,000.00
Widen US 190 from 4 to 6 lanes from 1 mi W of FM 2410 to FM 3423	2	2	\$9,000,000.00
Widen US 190 from FM 2410 in W Belton to IH 35	3	3	\$45,500,000.00
LIVABILITY PROJECTS			
Project Description	Ranking	Funding Order	Estimated Cost
Construct sidewalks along 31st St between Marlandwood Rd and Canyon Creek Rd	1	1	\$500,000.00
Construct sidewalks and bike path along Central and Adams Ave from IH 35 to MLK Jr Blvd	2	2	\$1,913,044.00
Construct sidewalks along FM 116 in conjunction with the FM 116 underpass project	4	3	\$920,000.00

Air Quality Update

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is currently reviewing 2016 ozone values and plans to certify and submit these ozone values to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this May. The EPA is anticipating to use the 2014-2016 Design Value to finalize ozone designations which will be completed in October 2017.

Steps for Calculating the Design Value

1. Ozone readings are taken every hour
2. Daily Value calculation = Highest 8-hour average for that day
3. Annual Value calculation = 4th highest daily value for the year
4. Design Value calculation = 3 year average of annual values

Bell County Design Value:

2013-2015: 69 ppb
2014-2016: 67 ppb

For more information on air quality, please visit www.ctair.org.

Remember! Ozone...Good Up High, Bad Nearby!

Freight Advisory Committee

KTMPO is in the process of developing a Freight Advisory Committee. This committee will provide insight and information on freight related issues and needs. KTMPO is continuing to seek members from the freight community to be part of this committee, to include the following sectors: Shippers and Receivers, Handlers and Drivers, Trucking, Airports, Railroads, Economic Development, Manufacturing, Retailers, Agriculture, Public Sector, and Military.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is working on identifying corridors that currently lack bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. You can provide BPAC with your recommendations by using our bike/pedestrian web map at www.ktmpo.org/planning/maps-and-data/. BPAC is continuing to develop the Fitness Friendly Business Program. This program recognizes area businesses as being "bike and pedestrian friendly" by offering bicyclists and pedestrians certain amenities.

For Information on our committees, please visit www.ktmpo.org.

SH 317 Construction

SH 317 is currently undergoing two construction projects. The first project is widening SH 317 from two to four lanes with a raised median from FM 439 to FM 2305. The project also includes constructing sidewalks on the east side of SH 317 north of the Leon River and on the west side of SH 317 south of the Leon River. The second project will be adding intermittent passing lanes from SH 36 to Moody City Limits. Each passing lane will be approximately 2.5 mi long. Both projects are estimated to be completed in 2018.



Looking southbound on 317 approaching the Leon River.



Interstate 35 Construction Update

Estimated Completion Dates:

Troy: Spring 2018

Temple: Spring 2019

For more information please visit www.my35.org.

Saturday May 6th, 2017
STAMPEDE ON THE CHISHOLM TRAIL
Bike Ride

 **Cycle for Sight!** 
Enjoy the SIGHTS of the beautiful Central Texas countryside!

The Ride Distances are: 12 Miles (1 rest stop), 30 Miles (3 rest stops), 50 Miles, 55 Miles and 62 Miles (5 rest stops each)

All routes will finish along Belton's Hike and Bike Trail beside Nolan Creek

For ride map, please check the Belton Lions website: www.beltonlionsclub.com
When: 8:00am - Saturday, May 6th
Where: Harris Community Center
401 North Alexander Street - Belton, Texas

Register by mail; or online at www.active.com/cycling
Mail-in Registration Deadline: Friday, April 28
On-Line Registration Deadline: Sunday, April 30

SUPPORT LIONS CHARITIES - JOIN THE RIDE
TRAIL BOSS - CHUCK WAGON - POINT MAN SPONSORS

Salado Fire Department
15th Annual
Smokin' Spokes
Bike Ride

15, 27, 57, 70, 85 and 102 mile routes!

8 a.m.
Salado, TX



Register Online Today!

March 25, 2017
www.SaladoSpokes.com

How You Can Get Involved

KTMPO MEETINGS: The public is encouraged to attend various KTMPO meetings including the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Transportation Planning Policy Board (TPPB). The public is given an opportunity to speak at these meetings and have their voices heard. Please visit <http://www.ktmpo.org/meetings/> for meeting dates.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES: We currently have a Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and are creating a Freight Advisory Committee. If you wish to attend these meetings or serve on one of these committees, contact KTMPO staff for more details.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Public hearings are held to receive comments on changes to KTMPO documents to include the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Members of the public are encouraged to fill out a public comment form during public involvement periods. A general contact/comment form is also available at <http://www.ktmpo.org/contact/>.

KTMPO VOTING REPS: To contact your TAC and TPPB voting representatives please visit <http://www.ktmpo.org/about/members/>

CITY STAFF: The MPO recommends you work closely with your respective city planning staff and inform them of areas in their city needing improvement. City planners can then use the public input to design transportation projects that may move forward when funding becomes available.

Meeting Dates:

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC):
• First Wednesday of every month

Transportation Planning Policy Board (TPPB):
• Third Wednesday of every month

For all KTMPO meeting dates, please visit:
<http://www.ktmpo.org/meetings/>

KTMPO Staff:

Cheryl Maxwell: Director
Kendra Coufal: Senior Regional Planner
Jason Deckman: Regional Planner/GIS Technician
John Weber: Regional Planner
Beth Correa: Regional Planner

Have you Checked These Out?



<https://www.tcfound.org/>



<http://www.takethehop.com/>

Check out our Bicycle/Pedestrian Web Map!

This map allows users to identify and recommend bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Visit www.ktmpo.org/mapsanddata to make your edits.