



# Central Texas *ON THE MOVE*

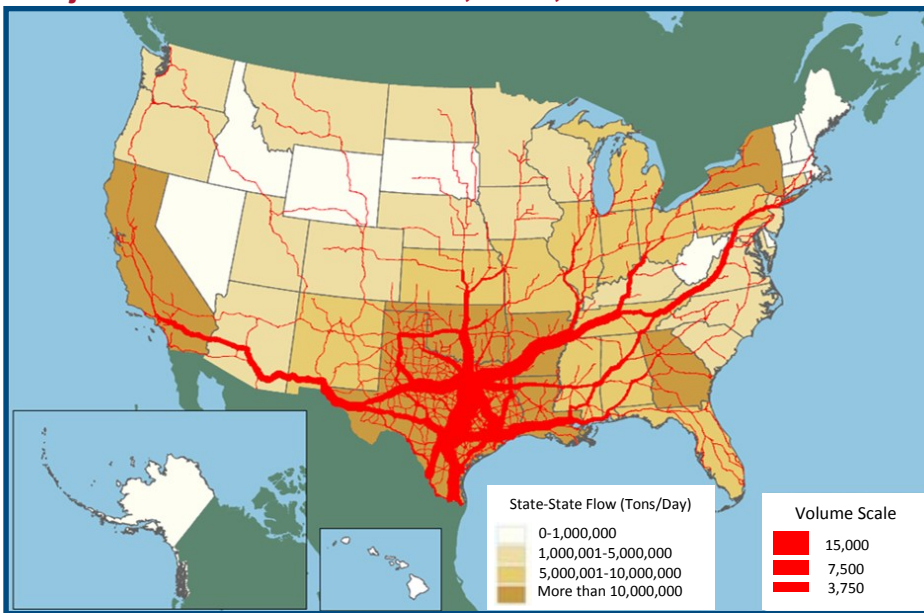
2180 N. Main Street Belton, TX 76513

Summer 2017

## How NAFTA Shaped Freight Planning

Since the passing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994, trade between the United States, Canada and Mexico has significantly increased. Between January 1994 and August 2012, the total trade value resulting from NAFTA was estimated at \$705.6 billion. Texas has seen both positive and negative effects of increase freight movement as a result of free trade.

### Major Flows of Truck Traffic To, From, and Within Texas in 2010



## Effects of Freight Movement on Texas

Texas' economy has benefited greatly from freight movement. From 2004 to 2016, trade between Texas and Mexico increased by approximately 110%. Texas continues to be ranked as the number one importer and exporter of goods and services to and from Mexico. In 2016, Texas had the most export industry employees in the country with approximately 1.1 million workers. Freight transported by trucks is projected to increase. In 2011, trucks moved over 46% of all freight in Texas. By 2040, it's estimated that freight truck movement will increase by 78% and account for 56% of all freight moved. This significant increase in freight movement projected for the future is beneficial to the economy; however, if the road network is not able to handle this increase, there could be detrimental effects as well.

Trucks moving freight can add to traffic congestion already seen throughout the state of Texas. Many strategic highways such as Interstate 35 experience additional congestion due to freight trucks. In 2013, congestion cost approximately \$1 billion to the trucking industry in the State of Texas. This can be detrimental to both the state and national economy if products can not be delivered on time. Not only does this congestion effect the economy, it can also result in increased air pollution and lower quality of life. Having a road network in place that can handle increased freight traffic is essential to managing congestion in Texas.

Sources: Federal Highway Administration, US Department of Transportation, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Economic Development and Tourism Division.

## Contact Us

Contact us for more information about our services.

## Killeen-Temple MPO

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Visit us on the web at:

[www.ktmpo.org](http://www.ktmpo.org)



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## Freight In the KTMO Region

Freight plays a significant role throughout the KTMO region. Our area is served by two major corridors—Interstate 35 and US 190/I-14. Ft. Hood and many manufacturing and industrial companies move equipment and products throughout our region, state and country. In 2015, Annual Average Daily Traffic for trucks on US 190 between Killeen and Belton was 4,011, or 6.9% of the total vehicles on this stretch of highway. Freight also provides many employment opportunities in our region. In 2014, there were approximately 26,000 workers in manufacturing, retail, construction, transportation and warehousing combined in Bell County. Since freight is a major driving force for our region's economy, the infrastructure needs to be present to transport goods coming in and out of our region. If the infrastructure is not present, freight congestion can cause delays in moving products which can cost businesses money and decrease economic stability.

## Looking Ahead to the Future

Our region continues to experience a high growth rate. Per the 2010 Census, the KTMO region had approximately 365,000 residents. Looking ahead, that number is expected to increase to approximately 575,000 by 2040. With this population growth, it is estimated that there will be 249,000 employees in the KTMO region. This increase in both population and employment can lead to increased freight movement because more goods and services will be hauled in and out our region. The charts to the right represent projected freight movements to and from the Killeen-Temple-Ft. Hood region generated by manufacturing activities from 2015 to 2040. This projected increase in freight movement can result in more congestion and air pollution if the road network is not capable of handling the growth. By tackling freight issues now, our region will be better prepared to handle the projected increase in freight traffic.

## Freight Advisory Committee

KTMO is addressing freight issues by developing the Freight Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee is to:

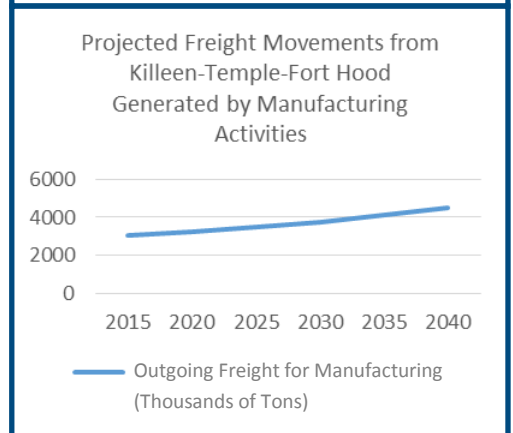
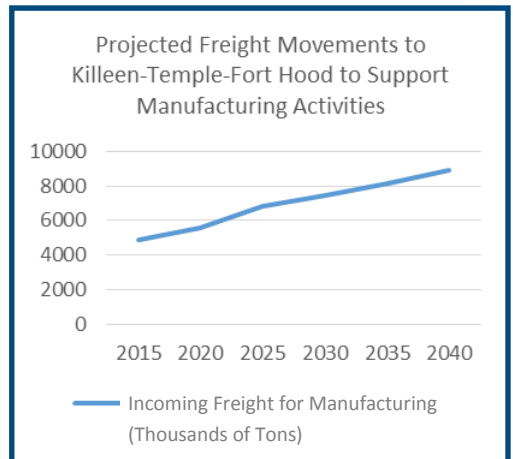
- Discuss transportation decisions affecting freight mobility;
- Advise KTMO on freight related priorities, issues, projects, and funding;
- Make recommendations on freight transportation policies and performance measures;
- Identify local freight network and issues affecting movement of freight;
- Assist KTMO in identifying and prioritizing freight transportation projects that facilitate safe and efficient freight movement;
- Help KTMO understand the concerns of the region's freight industry and business community and;
- Assist KTMO in promoting the importance of freight movement to the region's economic competitiveness.

Feedback from the freight community can help KTMO develop projects to address these issues, with possible funding in the future.

## Why Focus on Freight?

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act includes measures focusing on the safe, efficient and reliable movement of freight. Specific measures include establishing a National Multimodal Freight Policy, the development of a National Freight Strategic Plan, and other measures centered on freight planning. The FAST Act also identifies potential funds for freight projects. The FAST Act creates a new discretionary freight-focused grant program that will invest \$4.5 billion over 5 years. Through this program, transportation agencies, such as MPOs, can apply for funding to complete projects that improve safety, eliminate freight bottlenecks and improve freight movement. The National Highway Freight Program provides \$6.3 billion in formula funding over five years for freight projects located on the National Highway Network. Having dedicated funding to address freight issues can have a positive economic impact for our region, state, and country.

**Use our Freight and Safety Web Map to tell us where freight issues are located. We can use your feedback to develop potential projects. Visit <http://www.ktmo.org/roadway/maps-and-data/>**



# City of Belton Transportation Projects

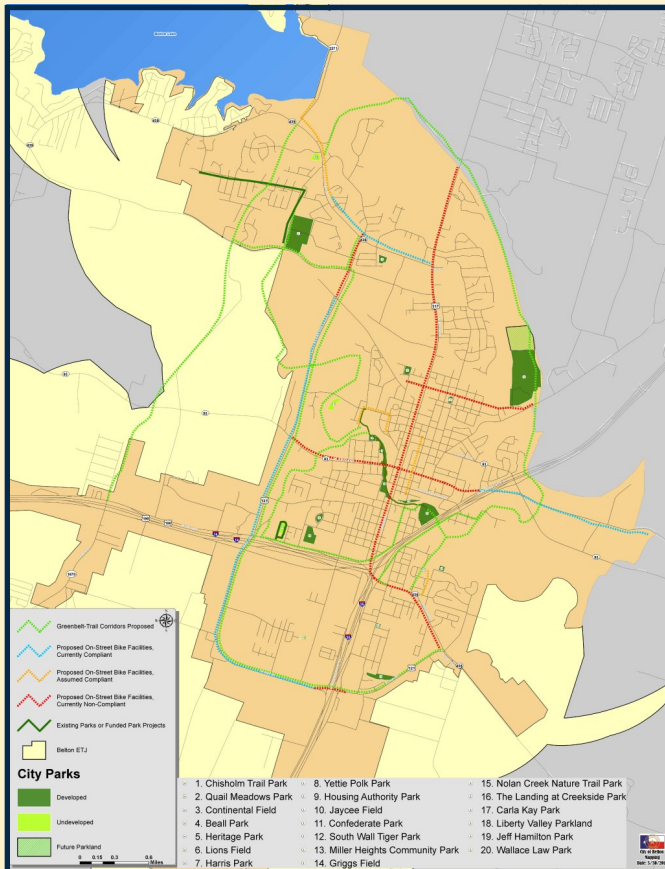
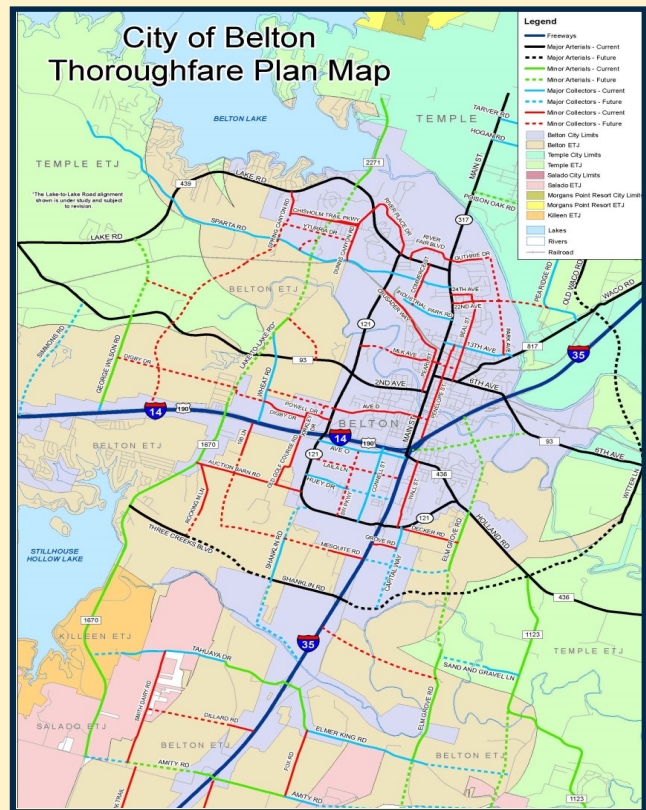
"Belton is the Community of Choice in Central Texas, Providing an Exceptional Quality Of Life." City of Belton Vision Statement

## Mobility has Merit!!!

Whether walking the trails or driving the roads of Belton, one can appreciate the benefits from recent projects taking place in the City! Here are some highlights from a few of the transportation projects and hike & bike trail additions benefiting the citizens of Belton and visitors alike.

### Thoroughfare Plan

Updated in 2015, the Thoroughfare Plan provides a basic framework to guide where development may occur. The function of the Thoroughfare Plan is to ensure development of a street system to serve both the mobility and access needs of the public, as well as to provide guidance on the general alignment and right-of-way required for roadways.



### Parks and Hike/Bike Trails

After a yearlong process, Belton City Council adopted the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan on September 9, 2016. The plan was updated from the 2010 plan to reflect Belton's growing needs and wants within the community. City staff reviewed over 400 comments from citizens to understand what is important to them. The community expressed the desire to continue to expand, update, and improve Belton's beautiful trail system and expand park acreage. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department approved the updated plan, allowing Belton to be competitive for future annual statewide parks grant funding.

The City of Belton was Founded in 1850.

The 2017 estimated population of Belton is 21,214.

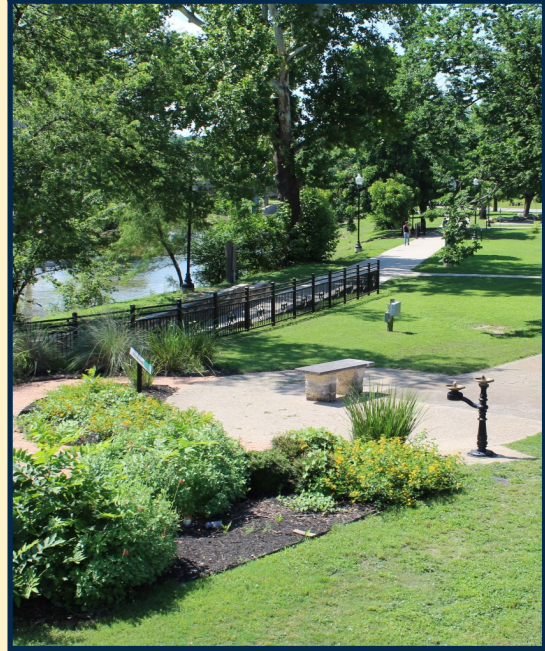




## Belton Hike & Bike Trail

The City of Belton is working hard to improve trail connectivity. Expanding the trail system is a high priority in the City's Parks Master Plan. Currently, an extensive 10 foot wide hike and bike trail links three parks. Phases 1, 2 and 3 are complete from Confederate Park through the University of Mary Hardin Baylor (UMHB) campus and to Loop 121. The City was awarded Transportation Enhancement funding to extend the trail from the UMHB campus to the Belton Independent School District (BISD) complex. Recently, the City applied for a TxDOT Transportation Alternative Program grant to extend the South Belton Hike and Bike Trail from Confederate Park to FM 436. All 5 phases total nearly 3.5 miles, providing an extensive pedestrian network throughout the City.

Belton's Hike and Bike Trail



Grand Opening of the MLK Jr. Avenue Extension and Overpass



## MLK Jr. Avenue Extension

Completed in Summer of 2016, this project is the result of forward thinking, determination, and hard work from everyone involved for over three decades. An overpass showcasing Nolan Creek now connects Loop 121 and Main Street and serves as a major east-west corridor relieving traffic congestion on Main Street. The \$6M project was completed two weeks ahead of schedule and now provides easy access to and from Loop 121.

## Roundabout

A traffic study conducted in 2012 identified the intersection of Sparta and Commerce as highly congested. The City of Belton decided to construct a modern-designed roundabout as a safer and more sustainable alternative to a traffic signal. Currently, construction on the roundabout is underway with expected completion this Fall. Once complete, the Sparta Road Roundabout will provide commuters with smooth and efficient travel through the area.

Roundabout at Sparta Road and Commerce Drive



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

For more information visit  
the City's website at:  
[www.beltontexas.gov](http://www.beltontexas.gov)

## Rules of the Road

As summer comes upon us, many Central Texans will take advantage of the nice weather and partake in outdoor recreational activities such as biking and walking. When you bike in your neighborhood or walk to your favorite park, you may not realize that you may be breaking the “Rules of the Road.” The follow tips should help you understand the rules when it comes to biking or walking.

### Texas Bicycle Laws

- Cyclists have to stop at stop signs and red lights, but cars are required to yield the right-of-way to a bicycle when appropriate.
- Cyclists have the right to ride in a lane, however it is highly recommended to ride as close to the curb as possible.
- Cyclists are required to ride in the same direction as other traffic.
- Lights aren’t needed when riding during the daytime; however, a front white light and a rear red light are required when riding at night.

For more information on bicycle laws, please visit [www.biketexas.org](http://www.biketexas.org).

### Texas Pedestrian Laws

- A pedestrian may not walk along the road if an adjacent sidewalk is provided. If a sidewalk is not provided, a pedestrian must walk against traffic and stay as close to the curb as possible.
- A pedestrian may only cross the road at a marked crosswalk.
- Even if no cars are coming, a pedestrian cannot cross the road at a crosswalk if the pedestrian control signal displays “Don’t Walk” or “Wait”.

For more information, please visit <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/modes-of-travel/bicycle/faq.html>.



**Chantz Dr. in Killeen:** The bike lane and sidewalk along Chantz Dr. provides safety for cyclists and pedestrians along roadways. If you plan on walking or biking, try to find a roadway that can safely accommodate you.

## Preparing for High Ozone Days

Ground-level ozone is a big concern of KTMPO during the summer months. Ground-level ozone forms when Nitrous Oxides and Volatile Organic Compounds react in the presence of heat and sunlight. Since Texas summers are hot and dry, it doesn’t take much to have high ground-level ozone days. Help KTMPO keep the air clean during the summer time by following these tips.

### Monthly Maximum 8-hr Ozone Readings for 2017 (Parts per billion)

Month	Killeen	Temple
January	51	53
February	62	61
March	59	58
April	71	69
May	69	75

### 2014-2016 Design Value

Station	Parts Per Billion
Killeen	67
Temple	67

### Clean Air Tips:

- Walk, ride your bike, use public transit or carpool to reduce emissions.
- Combine errands into one single trip.
- Refuel your car in the evening when the day is cooling off.
- Avoid idling as much as possible.

Please visit [www.ctair.org](http://www.ctair.org) for more information.

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



## I-35 Construction Continues in Temple



Temple: Looking southbound on I-35 at Adams/Central Ave. Top photo is from January 2013 and bottom photo is from May 2017.



### Interstate 35 Construction Update

Estimated Completion Dates:

Troy: Spring 2018

Temple: Spring 2019

For more information please visit [www.my35.org](http://www.my35.org).

### Check out our Fitness Friendly Business!

#### Barrow Brewing Company—Salado

- Restrooms
- Water
- Bike Parking
- First Aid Kit
- Charging Station

A business is considered Fitness Friendly if it offers amenities that promote an active lifestyle like walking and biking. Barrow's is our first approved Fitness Friendly Business.

For more information, please visit [www.ktmipo.org](http://www.ktmipo.org).

### Have you Checked These Out?



### 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.ktmipo.org/meetings/> for meeting dates.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEES:** We currently have a Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and 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.ktmipo.org/contact/>.

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

**CITY STAFF:** KTMPO recommends that you contact the planning office in your city to identify areas that need 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.ktmipo.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

#### Check out our Bicycle/Pedestrian Web Map!

This map allows users to identify and recommend bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Visit [www.ktmipo.org/mapsanddata](http://www.ktmipo.org/mapsanddata) to make your edits.