



Freight Advisory Committee Meeting

April 23, 2024

2:30 P.M

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Agenda



Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization
Freight Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Central Texas Council of Governments Building
2180 North Main Street, Belton, Texas 76513

Regular Meeting: 2:30 PM

Virtual Link: [KTMPO FAC Meeting](#)

Call In Number: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](#)
Access Code: 756-809-085

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Opportunity for Public Comment.
3. Staff Update: *(pg.6-8)*
 - a. KTMPO Meeting Schedule;
 - b. Other Updates.
 - c. Air Quality
4. **Action Item:** Regarding approval of minutes from the October 24, 2023, meeting. *(pg.10-12)*
5. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding approval of new FAC member. *(pg.14-15)*
6. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Texas Trucking Association presentation on freight advocacy. *(pg.17-22)*
7. **Discussion Item:** Regarding TxDOT Planning and Programming Division presentation on the Texas Freight Mobility Plan implementation. *(pg.24-26)*
8. **Discussion Item:** Regarding discussion on local KTMPO freight topics. *(pg.28)*
9. **Discussion Item:** Regarding public input received through March 2024. *(pg.30-33)*
10. Member Comments.
11. Discuss possible agenda items for future meetings.
12. Adjourn.

The Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations and equal opportunity for effective communications will be provided upon request. Please contact the KTMPO office at 254-770-2200 24 hours in advance if accommodation is needed. Citizens who desire to address the Board on any matter may sign up to do so prior to this meeting. Public comments will be received during this portion of the meeting. Comments are limited to 3 minutes maximum. No discussion or final action will be taken by the Board.

Item #3

Staff Update

Staff Update

a) Upcoming KTMPO Meetings:

- May 1, 2024 - Technical Advisory Committee
- May 15, 2024 - Transportation Planning Policy Board
- June 5, 2024 - Technical Advisory Committee
- June 12, 2024 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- June 19, 2024 - Transportation Planning Policy Board

All meetings are scheduled for 9:30am at the Central Texas Council of Governments offices in Belton, Texas, unless otherwise noted (i.e. – electronic meeting).

b) Other Updates:

- The Texas Delivers 2050 Freight Mobility Plan has been approved by the Texas Transportation Commission and was submitted to FHWA for final approval. The Plan can be accessed [here](#).
- H.R. 3372, a bill currently in the U.S congress would establish a voluntary pilot program for states to increase truck weights on federal interstates up to 91,000 pounds on six axles. Participating states would issue permits by vehicle or by group of vehicles that would specify acceptable routes and require permit holders to report on accidents and other details. The program would be discontinued after five years, although the Department of Transportation could extend it for another five years. Placed on Union Calendar.
- H.R. 3318 would increase the maximum weight (a variance of 10% per axle) that a commercial vehicle transporting dry bulk goods can carry on an interstate highway to address the issue of certain cargo (such as flour) that tends to shift en route. Currently in Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup session.
- H.R. 2948 (CARS Act) would require states to allow automobile transporters to operate on interstate highways at increased weights, allowing a 10% weight increase for certain types of auto haulers. Currently in Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup session.
- USDOT Funding Opportunities Timeline can be found [here](#).
- FHWA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) website ([Link](#)) and ([Fact Sheets](#)).
- April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month
- Texas Transportation Commission Update- click [here](#) for more information.
 - IH-35 Update.
 - 2060 Statewide Populations Projections.
- On March 28 USDOT opened its NOFO for the FY 2025-26 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant. There will be \$5.1 billion available for the FY 2025-26 MPDG funding cycle. The deadline to apply is **May 6, 2024**. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

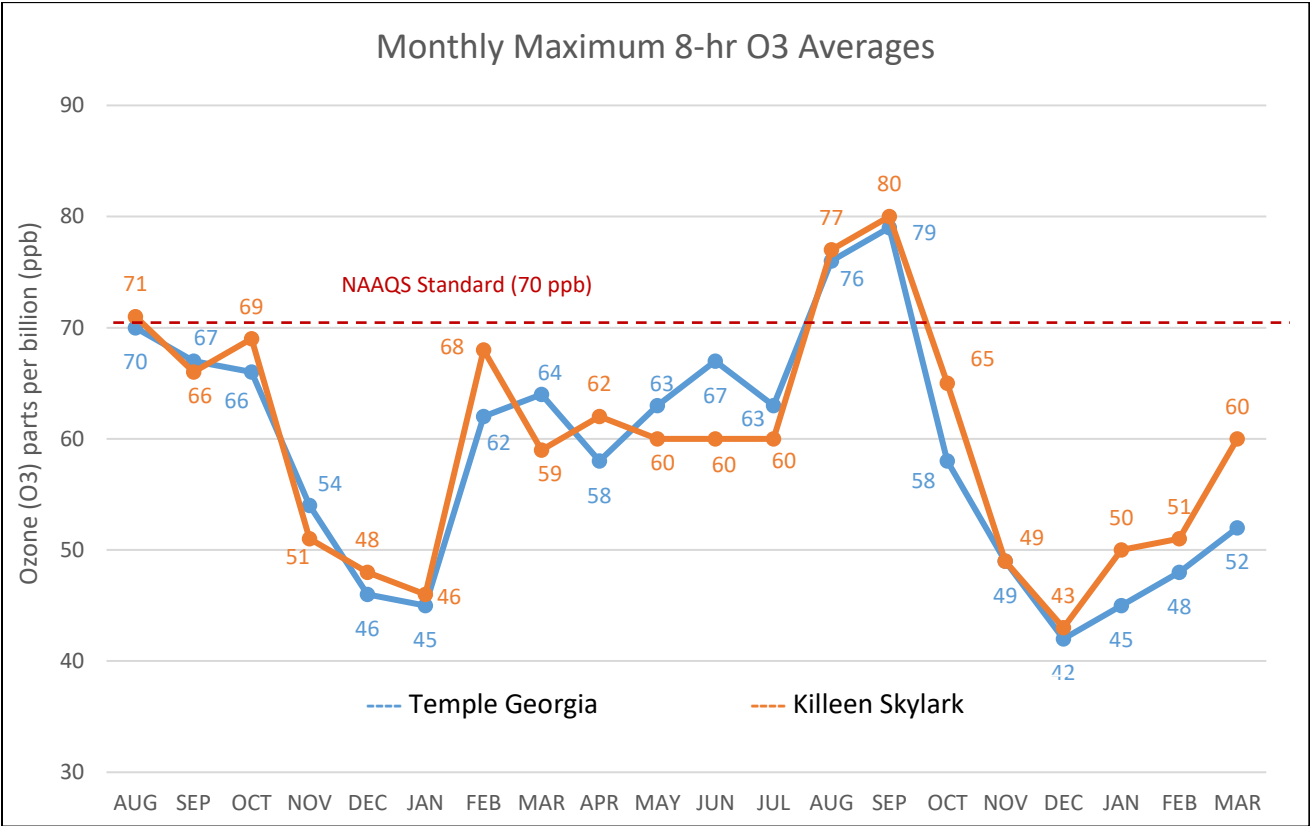
04/23/2024

Freight Advisory Committee

Agenda Item

- FHWA's Office of Office of Freight Management and Operations published a NOFO for the Strategic Innovation for Revenue Collection (SIRC) program. This is the first round, with \$45 million available and maximum grant amounts of \$3 million with a 20% cost share. FY 2022-23 applications due **May 27, 2024** and FY 2024 application deadline will be announced later. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!
- The FY 2023-FY 2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program has \$2,478,391,050 available for grants. Applications due **May 28, 2024**. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!
- FY 2025 Bridge Investment Program applications are due **October 1, 2024** (Planning) and **November 1, 2024** (Construction). For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!
- Freight Logistics Optimization Works (FLOW) platform-for more information and to join, click [here](#)!

c) Air Quality



Compliance with EPA Ozone Standard: 4th Highest Annual Value				3-year average (Calculated on April 1, 2024)
	2022	2023	2024*	
Temple	67	76	47	63
Killeen	69	76	50	65

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

Item #4

Meeting Minutes



KILLEEN TEMPLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (KTMPPO)
FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
2:30 PM

Regular Meeting

Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG)
2180 North Main Street
Belton, TX 76513

Freight Advisory Committee Members

Jason Deckman – City of Temple	Keith Sledd – Heart of Texas Defense Alliance
Ginger Watkins – Cameron Industrial Foundation	Elvar “JR” Leal – Temple and Central Texas Railway
Kara Escajeda – City of Nolanville	Ginger Baker – Cameron Industrial Foundation*

Additional Attendees

Dominic Elizondo – KTMPO	James McGill – KTMPO
Zachary Baker – BNSF	Anita Janke – KTMPO
Kevin Shuff-Belltec	

**Denotes online attendee*

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Jason Deckman at 2:30 PM.

2. Public Comments: No public comments were made.

3. Staff Update: Dominic Elizondo discussed the schedule for upcoming KTMPO meetings, the TxDOT Texas Delivers 2050 Freight Mobility Plan being sent to the FHWA for final approval, federal legislation that could allow certain types of trucks and freight to travel at higher load capacities, and updates on the Bell County Thoroughfare Plan. Maximum ozone air quality readings for the month of September were 79 parts per billion (ppb) at the Temple station and 80 ppb at the Killeen station.

4. Discussion and Action Item: Approve minutes from the July 25, 2023 meeting.

Keith Sledd made a motion to approve the July 25, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Elvar Leal; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Action Item: Approval of New Freight Advisory Committee Members.

Zachary Baker, Regional Manager of Economic Development for BNSF was nominated to replace Jared Garmon on the FAC to represent the company. Kevin Shuff, Purchasing Manager of Belltec was also nominated to replace Tamara Brown on the FAC.

Keith Sledd made a motion to approve the new FAC members, seconded by Elvar Leal; the motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and Action Item: Approval of Proposed Revisions to the FAC Bylaws.

Dominic Elizondo provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the FAC Bylaws, including changing minimum meeting frequency to twice per year, increasing quorum to 50% plus one, and specifying that officer elections are every October meeting. The committee discussed issues around holding elections every other meeting with officers allowed to serve two consecutive terms already. It was decided that officer terms should be amended to two years while keeping the ability to serve two terms.

Keith Sledd made a motion to approve the proposed revisions, seconded by Elvar Leal; the motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Action Item: Election of New FAC Chair and Vice Chair

Dominic Elizondo provided an overview of the roles of the Chair and Vice Chair and outlined their term limits. Jason Deckman nominated himself to continue serving as Chair.

Keith Sledd made a motion to approve Jason Deckman as Chair, seconded by Kara Escajeda; the motion passed unanimously.

Elvar Leal nominated himself to serve as Vice Chair, a role that was vacant.

Kara Escajeda made a motion to approve Elvar Leal as Vice Chair, seconded by Keith Sledd; the motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion Item: Regarding Discussion on Local KTMPO Freight Topics.

Dominic Elizondo asked for committee discussion on any freight needs or gaps in the KTMPO region and possible ways to address them. Kara Escajeda brought up the FM 439 Spur with a dangerous left turn that still needs to be turned over to Nolanville from TxDOT, issues with unauthorized truck parking in Killeen and Temple, and a train that continuously blocks a main street crossing in Nolanville. The committee discussed potential solutions including collaborating with Zachary Baker and BNSF. Keith Sledd discussed HOTDA meeting with Patriot Rail regarding the potential intermodal freight facility at Fort Cavazos' western railhead, as well as their Defense Community Infrastructure Program application for the facility. Jason Deckman discussed Temple's TxDOT project for Loop 363 expressway widening and the city going out for bids for the outer loop north construction.

9. Discussion Item: Regarding Discussion on Public Input Received Through September 2023.

Five comments were made-one in person regarding lane closures on westbound I-14, another in person about the lack of sidewalks in Nolanville, a Facebook comment about a local BPAC event in Killeen, and an email advocating a biking/walkability study for the KTMPO region. One Facebook comment was off topic.

10. Member Comments.

Dominic Elizondo asked the committee if they preferred to move to a semi-annual schedule or keep it quarterly. The committee discussed and decided that unless there were more industry partners and initiatives, the FAC should meet every six months with the next meeting April 23, 2024.

9. Discuss Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting on April 23, 2024.

There were no suggestions for new agenda items.

10. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 2:58 PM

These meeting minutes were approved by FAC at their meeting on 04/23/2024.

Jason Deckman, Chair

Uryan Nelson, KTMPO Director

Item #5

New FAC member

New FAC Member

Adam Nezeri, President of Baca Transport LLC, has been nominated to represent the company of the Freight Advisory Committee. The written statement nominating him as representative is attached in the packet.

Action Needed: Consider approval of new FAC member.



BACA Transport LLC

Delivery you can count on!

Dear Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization Freight Advisory Committee,

Baca Transport LLC would like to nominate our President, Mr. Adem Neziri to join the FAC and attend the meeting on April 23rd.

In the event that he is no longer able to participate, then another representative will replace him.

Adem Neziri has been in the transportation field for almost 8 years and has been running Baca Transport LLC during that time. Our trucks mostly travel in Texas, but also in the 48 continental states. We have experience in route planning as well as time management for our lanes.

Adem Neziri is interested in joining the FAC and sharing any knowledge he has with you.

Thank you.

**Baca Transport LLC
2701 Ira Young dr, Ste E
Temple TX 76504
254-760-0226**

Item #6

Texas Trucking Association Presentation on Freight Advocacy

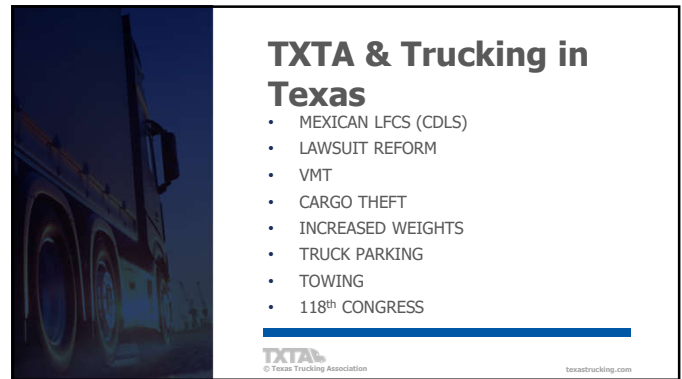
Texas Trucking Association Presentation on Freight Advocacy

John Esparza, President of the Texas Trucking Association, will provide an overview of what the organization does and its advocacy for legislative solutions to freight issues involving trucks.

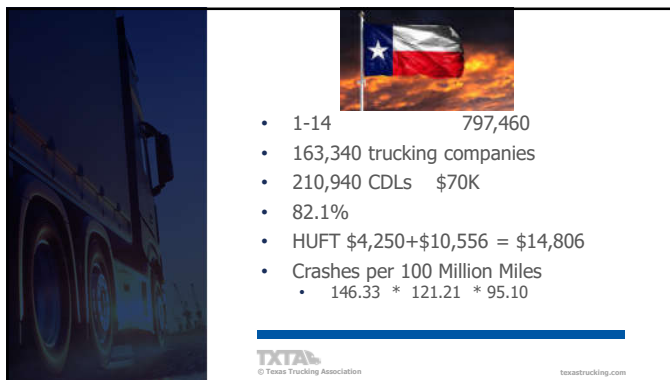
Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.



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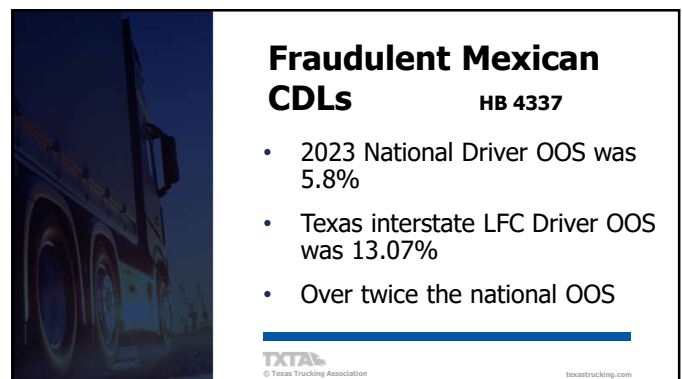
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Fraudulent CDL's

HB 4337 (Enforcement)

- 2023 Texas intrastate LFC Driver OOS 25% **BEFORE** HB 4337
- 2023 Texas intrastate LFC Driver OOS was 54% **AFTER** HB 4337
- **FRAUD**

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Fraudulent CDL's

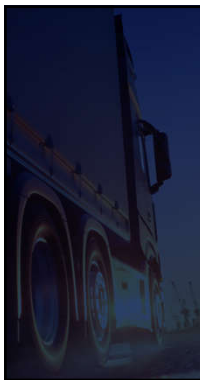
HB 4337 (Crash Rates)

- 2022 vs. 2023
- Crash rate with LFC were up average of 55% **before** law
- Crash rate **after** the law dropped 22% and had dropped 62.50% by Dec. 2023

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Fraudulent CDL's

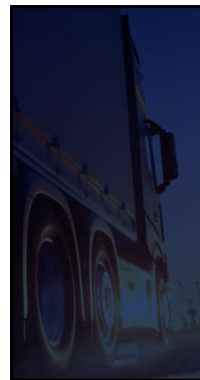
HB 4337

- Changes statute to allow prosecutors to better enforce the crime of Forgery of a Government Document
- Criminal Penalties

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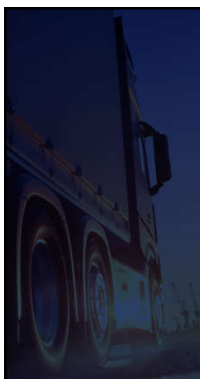
LAWSUIT REFORM

- Effects of HB 19 since Sept. 2021
- Still a backlog of pre-HB 19 cases
- Remove the Lucio Amendment

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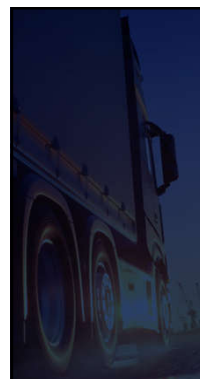
LAWSUIT REFORM

- **Caps on non-economic damages**
- Dealing w/ **Plaintiff abuses** re: **medical damages**
- Disclosure **3rd Party litigation funding**
- Truth in **attorney advertising**

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LAWSUIT REFORM

- **Annuitying future damages**
- Legislative Makeup
- Keep Texas Trucking Coalition

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Rising Cargo Theft

- Driver Awareness
- Processes and Procedures
- Use Equipment & Technology
- Stay Educated on Trends

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Vehicle Mileage Tax

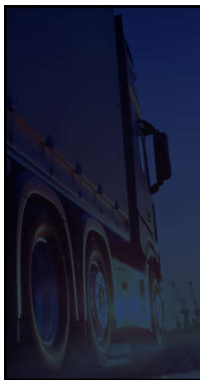
HB 3418

- Would have created a trucks only pilot program (400 trucks)
- Changed Dramatically
- Expected to be re-introduced

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Weight

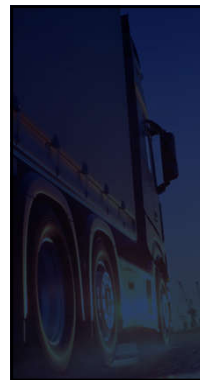
HB 1888 / SB 1418

- Would have expanded the oversize permits allowed by the ports in Brownsville.
- Fuel Hauling
- **Brownsville & Pharr Bridges**
- **Harlingen**

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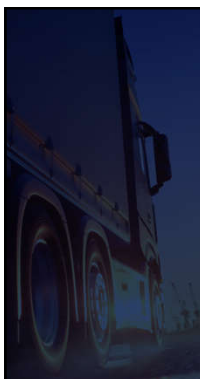
Truck Parking

- 90/10
- Existing Roadside Parks and Parking
- State Freight Advisory

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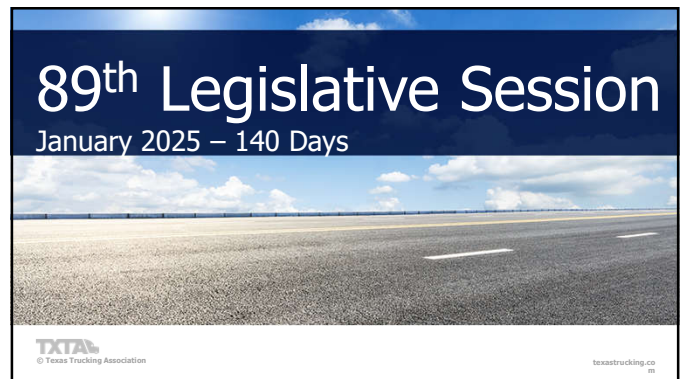
Towing Reform

- Incident Recovery
- Non-Consent Tows
- Cargo Hostage

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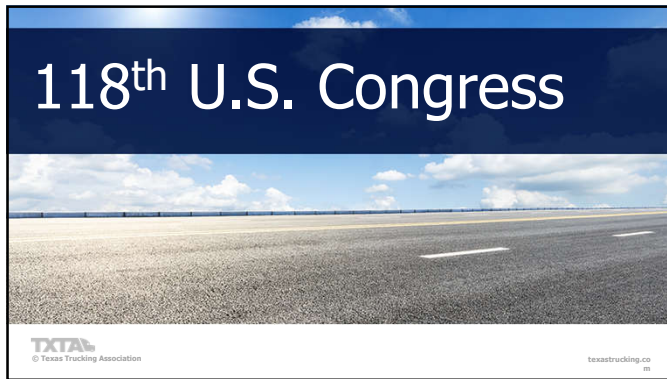
89th Legislative Session

January 2025 – 140 Days

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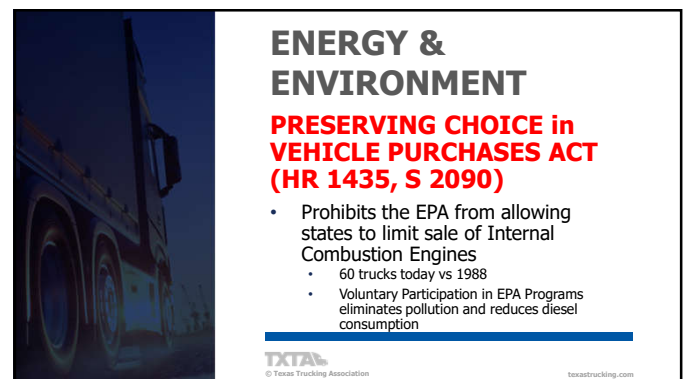
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ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MODERN CLEAN AND SAFE TRUCKS ACT (HR 1440, S 694)

- Repeals Federal Excise Tax
 - Will put thousands of cleaner and safer trucks on the road

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SUPPLY CHAIN SOLUTIONS

LICENSE ACT (HR 3013, S 1649)

- Streamline Credentialing

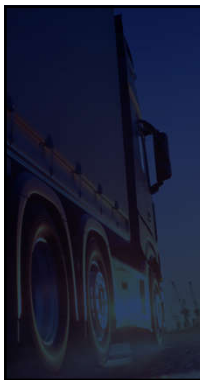
TRUCK PARKING SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT (HR 2367, S 1034)

- Expand Capacity

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SUPPLY CHAIN SOLUTIONS

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY SCREENING MODERNIZATION ACT (HR 5840)

- Harmonize Programs that Require Background Checks
- TWIC/ HAZMAT

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TEXAS TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

The Unified Voice of Texas Trucking

John D. Esparza
(512) 965-6587 cell
john@texastrucking.com

texastrucking.com

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Item #7

**TxDOT Planning and Programming
Division Presentation on the Texas
Freight Mobility Plan Implementation**

TxDOT Planning and Programming Division Presentation on the Texas Freight Mobility Plan Implementation

Tyler Graham, Freight Systems Branch Manager for the TxDOT Planning and Programming Division will provide an overview of recent updates with the implementation of Texas Delivers 2050 and any funding and programming efforts resulting from it.

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.



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Freight Policy and Program Recommendations

There are 22 freight policy recommendations, highlighted by:

- Multimodal Freight Planning, Programming and Implementation
- Economic Development and Economic Competitiveness
- Freight Transportation Asset Preservation
- Urban and Rural System Connectivity
- Multimodal Connectivity
- Texas as a Global Trade and Logistics Hub and Gateway
- Freight-Based Technology Solutions and Innovation
- Safety, Security and Resiliency of the Freight Transportation System

There are eight freight program recommendations that support the freight policies and cover:

- TxDOT Multimodal Freight Planning
- Freight-Based Technology and Operations
- Highway Development and Improvement
- Port and Waterway Development and Improvement
- Freight Movement Education and Public Awareness
- Texas Border-Crossing Transportation and Trade
- Rail Development and Improvement
- Aviation-Air Cargo Development and Improvement

There are 14 FREIGHT TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS that cover improved goods movement and supply chain efficiency

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Texas Delivers 2050 Recommendation-Based Actions

Completed and Approaching Completion	Current and Ongoing	Coming Soon
Houston/Southeast Texas Truck Parking Action Plan	Freight & Supply Chain Resiliency Plan	Hazardous Materials Transportation Report
El Paso/West Texas Truck Parking Action Plan	Third Coast Strategy for Texas Report	Additional Truck Parking Action Plans
	I-10 Truck Parking Availability System	Texas Triangle Multimodal Strategic Plan

Texas Delivers 2050 April 23, 2024 4

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2023 Freight Investment Plan (FIP)

- Component of *Texas Delivers 2050*.
- FHWA required to obligate funds under the National Highway Freight Program.
- Four-year cycle going forward.
- Includes both fully funded (constrained) and unfunded (unconstrained) projects.
- 2,224 projects included in the UTP with a project cost of \$62 billion.



Texas Delivers 2050

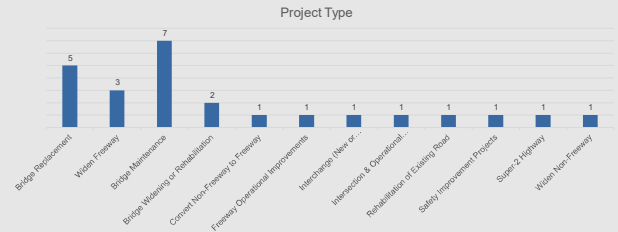
April 23, 2024

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Freight Investment Plan

- **25 projects** within the KTMPO included in the Freight Investment Plan
- **22 of those projects are fully funded**



Texas Delivers 2050

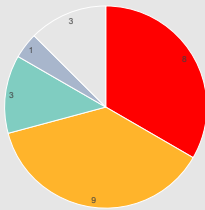
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Freight Investment Plan Project Status Update

Phase



- Construction underway or begins soon
- Construction begins within 4 years
- Construction begins in 5 to 10 years
- Planning, 10+ years
- Project modified since 2023 FIP

Project status taken from the TxDOT Project Tracker. Current as of 4/17/24.

Texas Delivers 2050

April 23, 2024

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Thank you!

Contact info for Freight Planning at TxDOT

Tyler Graham
Freight Systems Branch Manager (Interim)
tyler.graham1@txdot.gov
(512) 354-9278

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Item #8

Discussion on Local KTMPO Freight Topics

Discussion on Local KTMPO Freight Topics

Staff requests the discussion of local and regional freight needs, issues and problem areas to allow FAC and Staff to be knowledgeable of existing concerns and take appropriate action towards addressing them.

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

Item #9

Public Input Received Through March 2024

Public Input Received

KT MPO has been collecting public comments received online, via emails, public hearings, meetings, social media accounts, web maps and other forms of communication. Staff bring these to the TAC and TPPB on a regular basis to ensure the MPO boards are aware of public concerns and have the opportunity to respond accordingly. Public input received through the previous month is included in meeting packet.

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.



Public Comment Log

Date	Name	Means of Public Comment	Public Comment	Date Comment First Presented to TAC/TPPB	Public Comment Topic	Jurisdiction
10/5/2023	Annette Jorgenson	Public Meeting	I have noticed last week that the neighborhood on/around Ponderosa has no sidewalks. The neighborhood is about 10 years old. I cannot even comprehend how this can be allowed. In the winter months, dark months of the year elementary school kids have to walk to their bus stops in total dark on the street. Another issue going along with this is the lack of adequate lighting in streets. This does not only affect children on their way to school but also citizens who can not walk safely in their neighborhoods. It should be a goal that our neighborhoods should be a safe and worthwhile place to live. Not everyone has a car. We should be able to enjoy our street walking.	11/1/2023	Safety	Harker Heights
10/21/2023	Anonymous	Survey	Citizens was not familiar with KTMP and learned about KTMP's work during an outreach event.	11/1/2023	Introduction	Bell County
11/5/2023	Steve Cannon	Outreach Event	FM 935 Bell County / Falls County Line at the 90-degree curve. There are speed limit signs (45 mph) and curve signs, and the residents are aware and observe the posted signs however, those who travel through the area need to learn about the 90-degree curve in advance of current road signs.	11/15/2023	Safety	Bell County & TxDOT
11/8/2023	BJ Wordinger	Outreach Event	The handicapped parking places (CTCOG) are across a main thoroughfare of the parking lot with no protected crosswalk. Facing the building to the left there are places that could be designated as handicapped parking. This is the problem with most buildings - BSWH is another example, handicapped parking is 1/4 of a mile from the entrance - even though they have shuttles.	11/15/2023	ADA	Other
11/8/2023	Yolanda Jones	Outreach Event	Entrance at Miller's BBQ in downtown Belton. Wheelchair access - the business responded via email. Ms. Jones would like the status update.	11/15/2023	ADA	Other
1/11/2024	Michael Finch	Email	I am wondering if there are notes available from any meetings regarding the bell county thoroughfare plan? I believe I saw there was a public feedback period last year and then a scheduled meeting sometime in the summer Also, where can I go to see current projects? I am specifically looking at plans and projects for FM 2484. All I saw on the website was the TIP which shows contract let dates of 2026 for fm 2484 but I see surveyors out now which may indicate something sooner than 2026?	1/24/2024	Roadway/Highway Project	Bell County & TxDOT
1/22/2024	Dillan	Email	How does the bus work I'm in Killeen wanna get a job in temple do y'all provide services for that ?	2/14/2024	Public Transit	HCTD
1/28/2024	Josh Nall	Email	Trying to find some info on legality for chaining up bikes to public trees or light posts in shopping centers and areas while shopping or running errands. I can't find anything, but when bike racks are not present what is legal and illegal? Thanks.	2/14/2024	Bike Safety	COT

2/15/2024	Irby Foster	Email	I would like to submit the following comments to the chair and board of CTCOG, regarding highway needs in the central Texas area. Dominic please confirm receipt. 1. With congestion and road rage growing, CTCOG should be open to trying new approaches in design and roadway construction such as: 2. Install overhead lane indicator arrows on each travel lane. TXDOT recently turned off all lighted lane indicators in the Austin district and all districts. Lighted lane indicator arrows are proven to assist drivers with congestion notification, ahead of lane accidents. 3. Then, TXDOT should operate the overhead lane indicator arrows, not just leave them green. 4. Install frequent "Left Lane for Passing Only" and Slower Traffic Keep Right signs throughout the project. 5. Fund and install overhead guide signs which say: "Left Lane for Passing Only" where freeways leave metropolitan areas. This will help educate drivers about the law, and lead to reducing road rage from motorist camping in the left lane of two lane highways. 6. All freeway projects must have continuous street lighting, including underpass lighting on service rds. and flyovers. TXDOT has been reducing underpass lighting throughout the region, even while traffic counts and fatalities grow. This is consistent with recently adopted Federal AASHTO street lighting standards. 6A. The CTCOG should create a \$15 million fund for freeway street lighting repair. Many small communities like Round Rock do not have the funds for expensive lane closures for freeway fixture and bulb changes, and underpass lighting repairs. 7. Repair any existing underpass street lighting in the CTCOG area which is not planned to be replaced or demolished with new LED fixtures. Currently, the CTCOG region has thousands of underpass lights out on freeways. 7A. CTCOG should create a \$10 million fund for communities to use to provide lane closures and repair the thousands of underpass lights out in the region. 7B. CTCOG create a \$25 million fund for freeways street lighting repair where wire theft and shorts have created dark roadways. For example: Miles of lighting is out on SH290, SH183, SH130 due to wire theft and shorts in conduit. 8. Stager high mast towers down the freeways so light is spread evenly across the highway from side to side. Rather than TXDOT's standard dominant placement on only one side of the freeway..	3/6/2024	General	CAPCOG Other
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...many...

9. Require a licensed lighting engineer to review all CTCOG projects for compliance with the newly adopted AASHTO street lighting standards, and national roadway lighting standards. Again, TXDOT has not acted in good faith with regard to freeway street lighting and underpass lighting.
10. Install Interstate entrance ramp metering signaling. They are shown to reduce congestion.
11. Require work zone street lighting on all projects prior to start of construction. Follow the AASHTO standard to provide work zone lighting. The Austin district of TXDOT does not have roadway work zone lighting for motorists on all projects.
12. Install lighted street name signs on traffic signal mast arms throughout the CTCOG region, Currently, TXDOT does not install lighted street name signs on cross street signal mast arms.
13. Install some decorative lighting on the larger structures. Lighted stars, or state of Texas emblems are always popular, and encourage community ownership of roadway structures. At SH71 @ I35 the Texas stars have lights, however TXDOT has failed to replace the bulbs.

3/7/2024	Kathy Stachowiaksoto	Facebook Post	Can someone please explain exactly what is micro transit means in easy terms? Is it like lyft? Instead of those huge buses?	3/20/2024	Public Transit	HCTD
3/8/2024	Jim Blasingame	Facebook Post	If you don't know what it is, you don't know what it's schedule is, if it doesn't run in a timely and reliable manner so I can get to work and home, how can I & other people use it?	3/20/2024	Public Transit	HCTD
3/8/2024	Misty Harris	Facebook Post	Maybe this meeting they can plan so the people who actually use the services can attend.	3/20/2024	Public Transit	HCTD
3/11/2024	Grace Nnenna Nwokoro	Facebook Post	How about Harker Heights?	3/20/2024	Public Transit	HCTD
3/12/2024	Stephanie Key	Facebook Post	They need to fix the route from Nolanville to Killeen. I have passes for the HOP, but no time schedule for the single bus stop in Nolanville. I need to go from Nolanville to wherever and I have animals at home ... I need a time frame no one can tell me.	3/20/2024	Public Transit	HCTD
3/14/2024	Eric N. Johnson	Facebook Post	Is this about saving money or copying Austin or bigger cities because some sales pitch was thrown your way? This area is not laid out like Austin or other big cities. Change to be like those areas are not always a good thing. This does sound like that	3/20/2024	Public Transit	HCTD
4/4/2024	Scott Branham	Email	I signed up for code red alerts.... Emergency calls regarding disasters, bad weather etc. Why am I now getting text about "distracted driving". I contacted ECN and they were able to verify that the text was sent via someone at central Texas Council of Governments. It was sent as a "general text", I was not signed up for general text nor is it an emergency issue.	4/17/2024	Communication	KTMPO

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Grant Opportunities

FY 2025-26 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG)

On March 28, 2024 USDOT opened its NOFO for the FY 2025-26 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant. There will be \$5.1 billion available for the FY 2025-26 MPDG funding cycle. Funding includes:

- \$1.7 billion for the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Mega) program: The Mega program invests in large, complex projects that are difficult to fund by other means and are likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits. Eligible projects include highway, bridge, freight, port, passenger rail, and public transportation projects of national or regional significance. 50% of funds are available for projects above \$500 million, and 50% are available for projects between \$100 million and \$500 million.
- \$2.7 billion for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program: The INFRA program awards grants to multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance to improve the safety, accessibility, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas. Eligible projects will improve safety, generate economic benefits, reduce congestion, enhance resiliency, eliminate supply chain bottlenecks, and improve critical freight movements. Award amounts are \$5-100 million.
- \$780 million for the Rural Surface Transportation Grant (Rural) program: The Rural program is dedicated specifically to projects in rural areas, including highway, bridge, and tunnel projects that help improve freight, safety, and provide or increase access to agricultural, commercial, energy, or transportation facilities that support the economy of a rural area. 10% of awards will be less than \$25 million and 90% above.
- Eligible applicants include states, MPOs, political subdivisions, and local governments. Awards can cover up to 60% of project costs for MEGA and INFRA with 80% federal share (80% and 100% for Rural).

The deadline to apply is **May 6, 2024**. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

FHWA Strategic Innovation for Revenue Collection (SIRC) Program

FHWA's Office of Office of Freight Management and Operations published a [NOFO](#) for the [Strategic Innovation for Revenue Collection \(SIRC\)](#) program. This program provides up to \$15 million each fiscal year from 2022-26 for discretionary grants to local governments, MPOs, and states to test the feasibility of road usage fees or other user based revenue structures to maintain solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. This is the first round, with \$45 million available and maximum grant amounts of \$3 million with a 20% cost share. FY 2022-23 applications due **May 27, 2024** and FY 2024 application deadline will be announced later. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

FY 2023-FY 2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program

This program has \$2,478,391,050 available for grants to public agencies, states, political subdivisions of states, rail carriers that provide intercity rail passenger transportation, Class II or Class III railroads, associations representing Class II or III railroads, university transportation centers performing rail related research, or nonprofit labor organizations representing class or craft of rail employees for:

- Deployment of railroad safety technology
- A capital project as defined in [49 U.S.C. 22901\(2\)](#), to improve short-line or regional railroad infrastructure, or designated by the Secretary of Transportation as being necessary to reduce congestion and facilitate ridership growth in intercity passenger rail transportation.
- A highway-rail grade crossing improvement project.
- A rail line relocation or improvement project.

Applications due **May 28, 2024**. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

FY 2025 Bridge Investment Program

FY 2025 Bridge Investment Program applications are due **October 1, 2024** (Planning) and **November 1, 2024** (Construction). This program allows for grants for Large Bridge Projects (project>\$100 million), Bridge Projects (projects=/\$100 million), and planning. Large Bridge Projects have a minimum grant amount of \$50 million with a minimum 50% match, Bridge Projects have a minimum grant amount of \$2.5 million with a 20% match, and there is no minimum grant amount for planning grants. Eligible applicants include local governments, MPOs, states, special purpose district, political subdivisions of the state, or a multi-jurisdictional group of those entities. Eligible projects must replace, rehabilitate, preserve, or protect bridges or culverts on the National Bridge Inventory. For more information and to join, click [here](#)!

End of Packet
