



ALAMO AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



# MOBILITY 2040



*We Plan to Keep You Moving*



# MOBILITY

# 2040





# Transportation Policy Board

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are pleased to present to our community our new 25 year long-range plan, Mobility 2040. This plan helps guide our regional partners in shaping, developing and implementing transportation solutions across the over 2,700 square miles that make up the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization study area.

This is a living document, and will continue to evolve over time through amendments as policies, programs and, most importantly, projects are advanced. This plan is our multi-modal transportation network for the approximately two million people who call this region home today, and the over one million new residents we anticipate joining us over the next 25 years.

Mobility 2040 is a balanced plan, which identifies roadway, transit and other transportation projects needed for our region, across city and county lines. Mobility 2040 is a financially constrained plan – we can only include projects that we are reasonably certain will have funding available. We know that we have many more needs in our community.

Your input and involvement is still needed as we move forward, with our partners, in implementing the projects included in Mobility 2040. This brochure is a summary of the full plan, which is available online at [www.alamoareampo.org](http://www.alamoareampo.org).

We look forward to working with you and our community as we plan to keep you moving!

Cordially,

The Transportation Policy Board

# The Alamo Area MPO's Vision

We have to have a vision of where we are going and how we are going to get there. The Transportation Policy Board set the vision for Mobility 2040 in October 2013 and this vision, along with the plan goals, shaped the development of our long-range plan.

## The Mobility 2040 Vision Statement:

The 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan will meet growing needs while:

- Ensuring environmental quality
- Enhancing the safety of the traveling public
- Fostering appropriate land use patterns
- Advancing alternative modes of transportation; and,
- Increasing accessibility for all users.

Every plan starts with a goal in mind. What do we want to accomplish? How will we determine if we were successful? The goals were set in October 2013 by the Transportation Policy Board and reflect the needs and values of citizens and stakeholders.



## The 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan goals:

- Identify opportunities to improve and enhance the regional transportation system and preserve the investment in the existing transportation system.
- Increase the efficiency of the transportation system and decrease traffic congestion.
- Invest in a public transit system that meets the needs of the region.
- Address the social and environmental issues of the region in transportation planning efforts.
- Support economic activity, employment growth and encourage innovative partnerships.
- Continue to facilitate the involvement and participation of communities, agencies, organizations and the general public in the transportation planning process.
- Ensure the transportation planning efforts are coordinated with local land use plans to support future growth and development patterns.
- Maintain a focus on safety.
- Continue to pursue long-term, sustainable revenue sources to address regional transportation system needs.

# Why do we need a new plan?

Think about the year 2010. What were the important items we tackled then as a country? Think about today – are those same things still the important items in the news? How about on social media? 2010 saw the launch of the iPad, the impact of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, financial reform and locally we saw the opening of Haven for Hope, the opening of Morgan's Wonderland and the growth of military construction with the creation of the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

Over the last five years, our community has grown and changed. People have moved into the region, people have moved out of the region. We've seen discussions and debates about how to move people, goods and services. We've seen Texas continue to be a destination for new residents from around the world.

As quickly as the world changed in the last five years, imagine where we will be in 2040. Updating our plan every five years gives our region the opportunity to address new concerns and trends, and to ensure as our region changes, our transportation plans reflect the changing concerns of our community.

The plan sets forth a vision for a regional multi-modal transportation system which better connects roadways, transit routes, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and provides easy access to get to and from home, work, school, and other destinations.

Our long-range transportation plan was developed in a continuing, comprehensive and coordinated manner that reflects the ongoing planning and project development efforts for implementation of transportation policies, programs, and projects. It serves as the regional blueprint for the efficient, safe and convenient transportation of people and goods in coordination with the metropolitan area's overall socioeconomic and environmental goals.

## What are we planning for?

Over the next 25 years, the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) study area is anticipated to add over 450,000 new jobs and welcome over 1.5 million new residents, increasing the regional population to 3.4 million people.

Where are people going to live? How about work? Are we going to all be on the road at the same time in the same direction? Will rush hour increase further? All of these questions have to be part of the discussion when trying to bring relief to traffic congestion and ensure choices are present in our regional transportation network.

Population and employment forecasting isn't an exact science. There isn't a crystal ball to help us know exactly how growth will happen. By looking at past trends, and using resources provided by the Texas State Data Center and other demographic forecasts, we are able to project a comfortable level of growth for future years based on how our region has grown in recent years.

# How was the plan developed?

A plan can't be developed in a vacuum. To be successful a plan needs different points of views examined, considered and incorporated. For Mobility 2040, the Alamo Area MPO did just that. We listened, we examined, we worked together with citizens and partner agencies and we developed a plan that reflects our region's goals and desires for our transportation system.

Mobility 2040 is the first long-range plan we have adopted with our expanded study area which includes all of Bexar, Comal and Guadalupe Counties, and a portion of Kendall County. Being able to incorporate seamless transportation across city and county lines, to bridge the urban and rural needs of the community, and to intertwine differing perspectives isn't an easy task. But it is a task that is beneficial to everyone in our community.

Beyond our public involvement and outreach, the planning process for Mobility 2040 also included a number of technical analyses that examined areas such as the impact of the plan and proposed improvements on the environment, on low-income and minority populations, identifying future congested corridors and mitigation strategies and the development and analysis of population and growth scenarios.

How do you predict where people are going to move or live in twenty-five years? How do you know where people are going to work given the pace of technological innovation? For the MPO and our partner agencies, the usage of scenario planning is essential to helping answer these questions. As part of the development of this plan, we examined three distinct scenarios and sought public input as to which the community felt would best represent their vision of the region in the decades to come.

The scenarios looked at were a 15-year past growth trend, a 5-year past growth trend and an Activity Center growth plan to help shape the region.

Based on public comment and review, the Transportation Policy Board choose to adopt a 5-year past trend scenario for the development of Mobility 2040.

The adopted scenario was used to identify the potential high traffic corridors that we all may encounter in the future, and has helped us shape where, with a reasonable likelihood, future growth in employment and housing may occur.



# The Transportation Network

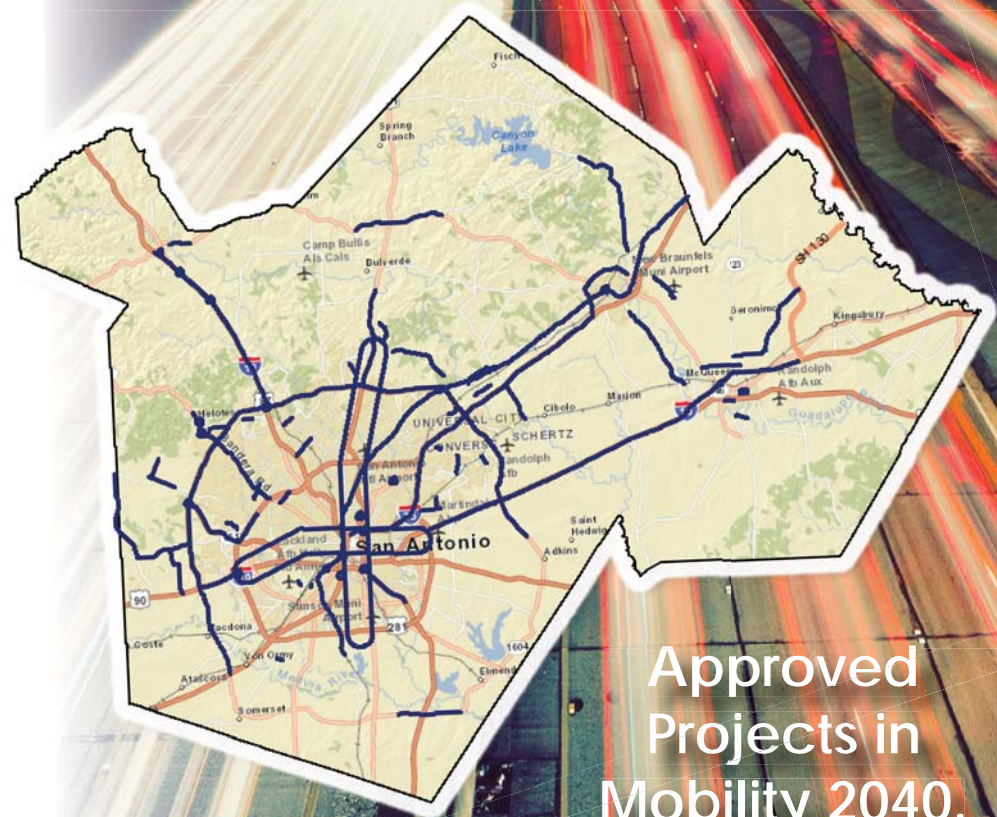
To get from your house to your job, how many different parts of the transportation network do you use? Chances are you cross multiple parts of the regional system without even thinking about it.

An integrated seamless transportation network is essential to a strong economy for any community. In our region, we have a great network of interstate highways, a strong transit system, and a well laid out roadway system that allows us to move from place to place without having to think about which entity is maintaining, building or operating which part of the system.

How do we achieve this type of network? It doesn't happen by accident. Working together as members of the Transportation Policy Board, different cities, counties and agencies come together to help plan our regional network and help ensure that options and choices are available for all our residents.

Although this seems like a simple exercise, there is extensive work involved in improving the region's transportation infrastructure. The metropolitan area's economy and environment depend heavily on the condition and efficient performance of the regional transportation system. Recognizing the mobility needs of the community and addressing those needs will eventually lead to improvements in the economy and quality of life.

From roadways to transit, to bicycle and pedestrian systems, all parts of our transportation network have to work together to keep our region moving. Mobility 2040 helps keep the integrated seamless network in place, and provides plans and direction on how to improve and enhance the system for everyone.



Approved  
Projects in  
Mobility 2040.

For more information, please visit [www.alamoareamp.org](http://www.alamoareamp.org), click on Planning and then on Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

# The Roadway Network

The pace of population and employment growth in the Alamo Area will continue to put pressure on the capacity of the roadway network. While it is recognized that building the region out of current and future congestion is not possible, adding new lanes and making operational improvements will be part of the comprehensive strategy to improve the transportation system.

To help build and maintain our roadway network, Mobility 2040 uses these policies:

- Support the design, planning, maintenance and operation of a roadway system that is compatible with the needs of other modes such as bicycles, pedestrians, public transportation and truck and rail freight
- Require land developers to preserve the necessary rights-of-way in future travel corridors
- Ensure a process exists for maintaining roadways through their life cycle
- Use all available funding tools available to the area
- Support the integrated development and implementation of transportation, land use and economic development plans by ensuring consistent collaboration between local, regional and statewide transportation partners.



# The Public Transportation Network

The Alamo Area has two public transportation providers working each day to help keep our region in motion. VIA Metropolitan Transit, which serves the urbanized area of our community, and Alamo Regional Transit, which serves the rural portions of our community, work in close collaboration to provide an effective and efficient service for all residents. A third provider, the Lone Star Rail District, is securing the environmental and engineering clearances necessary to provide rail connectivity between the Austin and San Antonio metropolitan areas.

How many trips are taken by public transportation in the Alamo Area? Millions upon millions of trips each year.

VIA has counted over 44,000,000 person trips during the most recent fiscal year.

Alamo Regional Transit made over 100,000 person trips into and out of Bexar County and the surrounding community during the most recent fiscal year.

These two systems continue to expand opportunity and choices for riders across the region.

Within Mobility 2040, we continue to plan and project growth in both of these systems, as well as Lone Star Rail. Taken together, these systems would help empower our community to have the mobility needed to enjoy the quality of life our region is known for across the state.



# Bicycle Network



Active Transportation, including cycling, is growing in the Alamo Area. Discussing with the community about the benefits of a transportation system with multimodal options is an integral part of the MPO's transportation planning process. Bicycling can be a large part of the solution to help with the challenges facing our region, including congestion, obesity and health related concerns, and potential air quality problems.

Equally as important, there are economic benefits that can be shown for neighborhoods which have connected bicycle networks allowing for mobility and safety in and around the area.

At the end of 2014, three communities in our region have Safe Passing Ordinances on the books. We have a regional bicycle and pedestrian study underway to help encourage more active involvement in this ecologically friendly mode of transportation. With the ongoing work of our Bicycle Mobility Advisory Committee, we are committed to doing our part to keep the wheels turning as more and more people become engaged in riding around the region!

The MPO has adopted, and incorporated the following goals into our bicycle planning work:

1

We recognize bicycling as a significant and required element for all transportation, land use, and economic development planning.

2

We strive to prioritize, fund and implement bicycle facilities to increase ridership across the region.

3

We want to make bicycling safer through education, encouragement and enforcement.

4

We want to do all we can to identify and secure local, state, federal, private and grant funding to expand and improve bicycle facilities and programs in the region.

# Pedestrian Network



We understand the importance of pedestrian safety and accessibility throughout the region. With the designation of San Antonio as a Pedestrian Safety Focus City by the Federal Highway Administration, we know there is work to be done to help ensure everyone has safe access to roadways, transit, sidewalks and trails in the region.

In 2012, the MPO was proud to create and adopt the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, a toolbox of resources for planners and engineers to use to help address safety concerns. In addition, we continue to hold successful Walkable Community Workshops, encouraging the community to take part in helping identify potential future improvements in their area.

The MPO supports a robust pedestrian system, and working with our Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee, we continue to encourage all entities, especially those submitting projects for funding consideration, to include enhanced pedestrian components into their projects.

The MPO has adopted, and incorporated the following goals into our pedestrian planning work:

- 1** We recognize and will incorporate walking as a significant and required element for all persons and projects.
- 2** We will prioritize, fund and implement projects that improve safety, accessibility and comfort for pedestrians so walking is a convenient and viable option.
- 3** We will make walking safer through education, encouragement and enforcement.
- 4** We want to do all we can to identify and secure local, state, federal, private and grant funding to expand and improve pedestrian access and programs in the region.

As we continue to grow as a region, we look forward to ensuring pedestrian access is included in projects to provide another means of mobility for all residents.

# Freight Movement

Think about your drive on IH 35 or IH 10 – each day we see more and more truck traffic in our region. And that is a good thing! With increasing freight movement into the Alamo Area, our region continues to be at the crossroads of supporting global trade with local benefits.

The movement of goods by truck, rail and air is essential to the economic strength of an area. Trucks transport between local supply sources (warehouses) to points of consumption (retail stores or homes) and connect elements such as seaports, airports, and rail and freight terminals to the transportation system.

The U.S. freight transportation network moves a staggering volume of goods each year. Over 15 billion tons of goods, worth over \$9 trillion, were moved in 1998 according to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). By 2020, the U.S. transportation system is expected to handle about 23 billion tons of cargo valued at nearly \$30 trillion. Freight moves throughout the U.S., according to the FHWA, on 985,000 miles of Federal –aid highways, 141,000 miles of railroads, 11,000 miles of inland waterways and 1.6 million miles of pipelines.

In the Alamo Area, with our bisecting interstate highways, freight rail system, and the growth we have seen at Port San Antonio and Brooks City-Base, we continue to be a hub for regional, national, and international commerce going to Mexico, the United States and Canada.

Mobility 2040 recognizes this impact and helps put in place the plans necessary to ensure we have capacity on our major roadways to keep the economy moving with the flow of trade.



# Environmental Concerns

With growth comes challenges. With growth comes opportunity. For the Alamo Area, we know that our precious environmental resources need to have good stewardship in order to leave the next generation a community they can be proud to call home.

Within Mobility 2040, we have undertaken a high-level review of the environmental and social justice concerns that are examined and considered as part of all transportation projects.

From air quality to aquifer protection, from floodplains to endangered species, we know that improvements and changes to the built environment can have a cost. We are committed to being good stewards and guardians of the areas in our region, and to working with our partner agencies to minimize the impact of new projects and improvements as much as possible.

## Congestion Management

In Mobility 2040, we used travel models to help us identify future potentially congested corridors. These corridors, where technical analysis indicates there will be more cars than capacity, are prime candidates for different traffic management techniques aside from just building more lanes in the corridor. Using the entire range of options available, from implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems, to enhancing public transportation, the Congestion Management Process (CMP) helps us to identify and develop a manage first, build second approach to keep our region moving.

The list produced from our CMP analysis helps planners and engineers consider a wide array of options before we have to expand capacity on a roadway. As we move forward with Mobility 2040 implementation, and look toward performance metrics and indicators of congestion management, the CMP is the cornerstone from which we will build our future success.



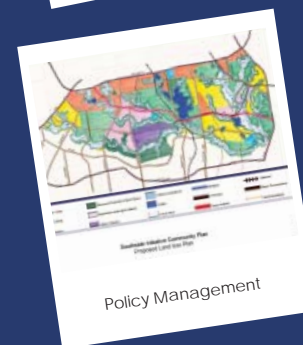
Community Campaigns



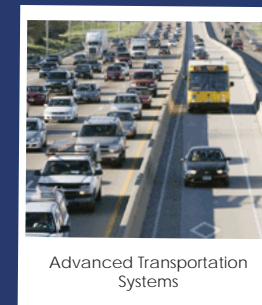
Intelligent Transportation Systems



Public Transportation Improvements



Policy Management



Advanced Transportation Systems



Corridor Improvements

*Congestion Management Strategies*

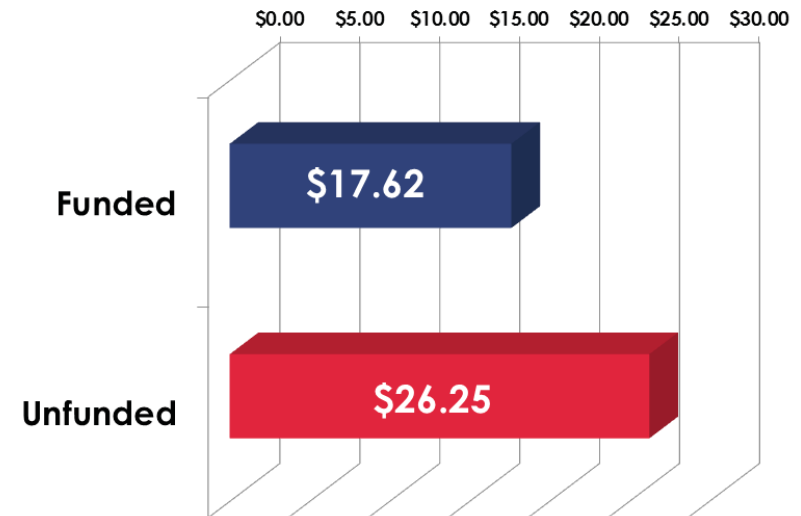
# How do we pay for all of the projects?

Mobility 2040 is a financially constrained plan. Projects can only be included in the plan if there is a reasonable expectation that we will have the funding necessary for the project.

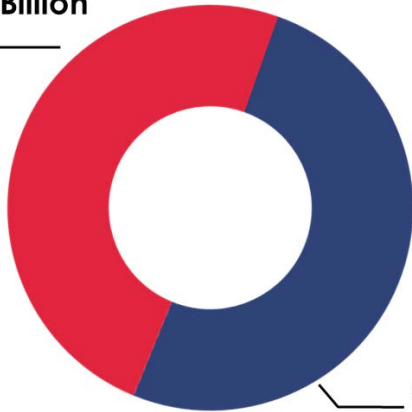
In developing the financial plan and scenario for this update, the MPO has undertaken an extensive amount of technical and financial analysis. Over the next twenty-five years, we anticipate being able to bring over \$17 Billion in new projects to our region, and we were able to add almost \$1.6 Billion in new projects in this update.

However, we still have more needs than our funding projections allow us to address. Our unfunded project list that includes those projects that are needed but do not have identified funding as of yet, totals over \$26 Billion.

Regional Needs (Shown in Billions of Dollars)



Transit  
**\$8.94 Billion**



Transit costs include

- purchasing buses, vans and support vehicles
- constructing passenger facilities
- bus and van on-street operations
- maintenance of the system

Roadway costs include

- construction costs

Roadway, Bicycle,  
Pedestrian, Rideshare  
**\$8.68 Billion**

Total available funding is \$17.62 Billion, over the next 25 years.



# Public Involvement Staying Connected

We plan to keep you moving. But we can't do that without you being involved and active in the planning process. Whether it's coming to a public meeting, emailing us your concerns and questions, sharing our newsletters or liking us on Facebook and Twitter, we want to provide as many avenues for the community to connect with the MPO as possible.

We know public involvement really is a two-way street. For Mobility 2040, we undertook an extensive outreach program using public meetings, virtual meetings, email newsletters, social media, dedicated websites, presentations and briefings across the region.

Our materials were translated into Spanish, and we made all possible efforts to include groups in the planning process that may not have normally been involved in these discussions.

The comments and input offered during the public involvement process shaped Mobility 2040. Each step of the process was strengthened by the voice of our community.

However, Mobility 2040 isn't the end of our public involvement process. In fact, this is the start of the ongoing public engagement needed to help bring projects forward from planning and construction. We look forward to working with everyone across the region to implement the recommendations contained within Mobility 2040.

**We thank you for participating in the development of Mobility2040 and we hope you stay connected with us.**





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Stay Connected.



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