



# Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Transportation Plan

Transportation Forums – Round 1

February 18-20, 2020

## Agenda



- 1 Welcome and Project Overview
- 2 Goals and Objectives
- 3 Freight Network Designation
- 4 Issues, Challenges, and Needs
- 5 Closing and Next Steps

Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Transportation Plan

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# Plan Overview

Purpose, Goals, and Objectives



## Draft Purpose and Goals



### PURPOSE

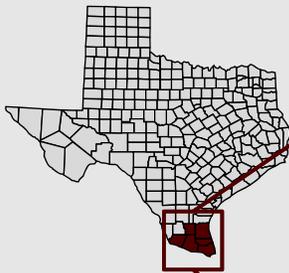
Develop a Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Transportation Plan that identifies freight and trade transportation activities, opportunities, challenges, and strategies in the region

### GOALS

Identify the region's specific freight and trade-related transportation opportunities, challenges, and strategies impacting the Texas Multimodal Freight Network and statewide economic competitiveness

Integrate multimodal regional and statewide international freight transportation considerations into the local and regional transportation planning, programming, and implementation processes

## Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Transportation Plan Study Area



The Rio Grande Valley study area includes Brooks, Cameron, Hidalgo, Kenedy, Starr, and Willacy counties



## Relationship to Other Efforts



### 2018 Texas Freight Mobility Plan

- Covered entire state
- Analyzed freight assets, conditions, needs, and trends
- Recommended:
  - Develop Local and Regional Strategies
  - Promote strategic hubs for freight and trade

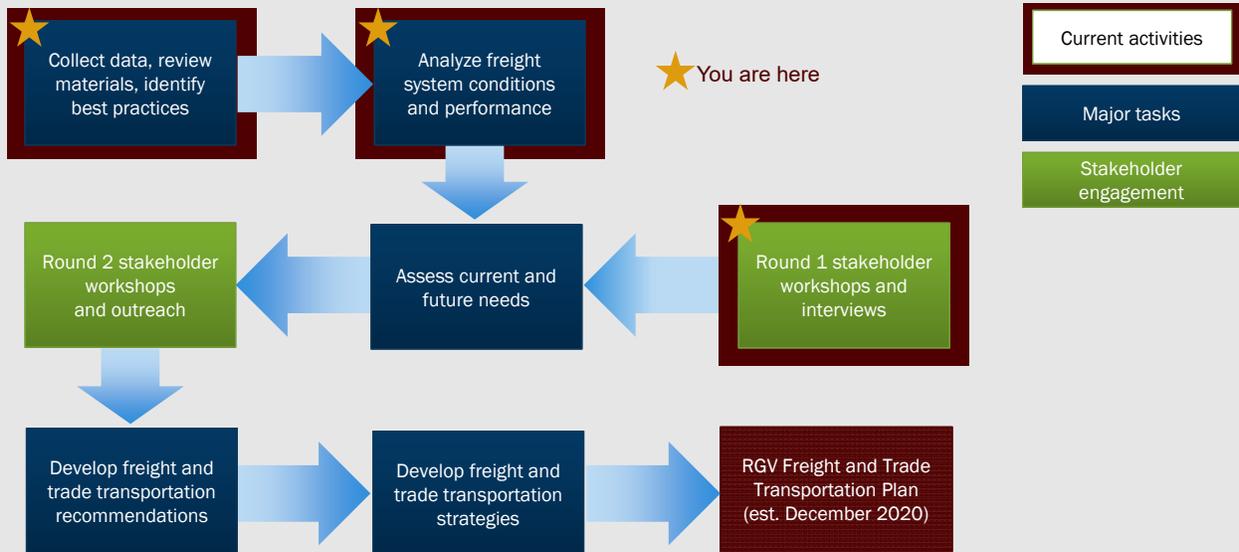
### TX-MX Border Transportation Master Plan (on-going)

- Covers entire Texas-Mexico border
- Assesses both passenger and freight movement
- Focuses on statewide and binational policy, program, and project strategies at the border

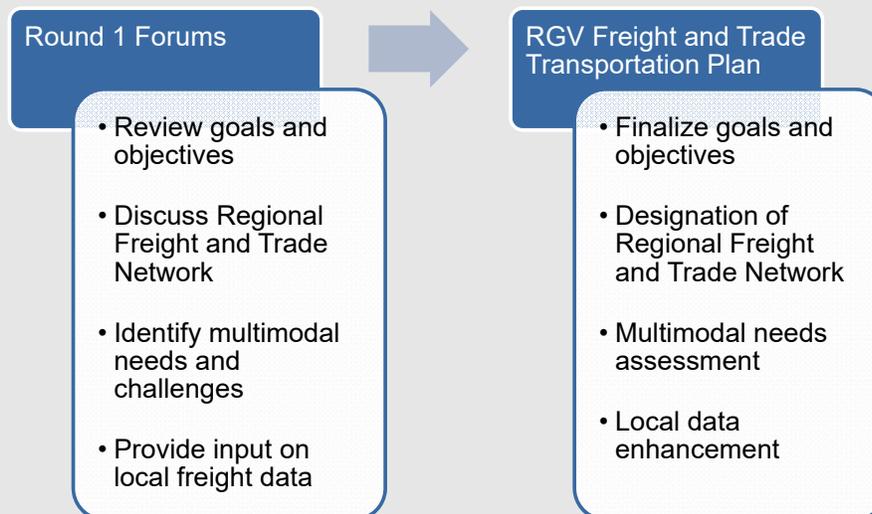
### RGV Freight and Trade Transportation Plan

- Covers 6-counties in the RGV
- Focuses on freight and trade movement at local level
- Analyzes infrastructure, operations, land use, and economic impact specific to the region

## Project Approach



## How Can You Help?



# Goals and Objectives



## Freight Plan Goals and Objectives for Rio Grande Valley



	Safety	Improve the <b>safety</b> of the multimodal freight system
	Economic Competitiveness	Enhance <b>economic competitiveness, productivity, and development</b> in the region and beyond
	Mobility and Reliability	Enhance <b>mobility</b> and improve system <b>efficiency</b> and <b>performance</b> of the transportation system
	Connectivity	Improve local, regional, and cross-border highway <b>connectivity</b> as well as connectivity between <b>freight modes</b>
	Sustainable Funding	Identify <b>sustainable funding</b> sources for the region's transportation system.
	Stewardship	Manage resources <b>responsibly</b> and foster <b>accountability</b> and <b>transparency</b> in decision-making.
	Customer Service	Encourage <b>local ownership of and coordination</b> by engaging <b>public and private sector stakeholders</b>
	Asset Preservation	<b>Maintain and preserve</b> transportation infrastructure that supports movement of freight.

# Regional Freight and Trade Network

## Key Tasks

### Motivation for the Network Designation Process

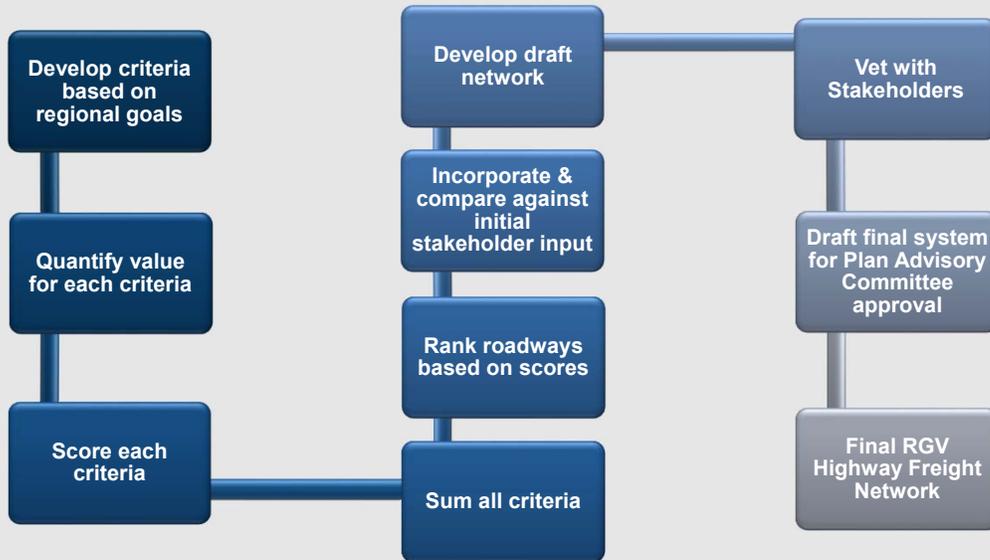
Texas Multimodal Freight Network (TMFN) was a key policy outcome of the adopted Texas Freight Mobility Plan

Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFCs) and Critical Rural Freight Corridors (CRFCs) are part of the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN)

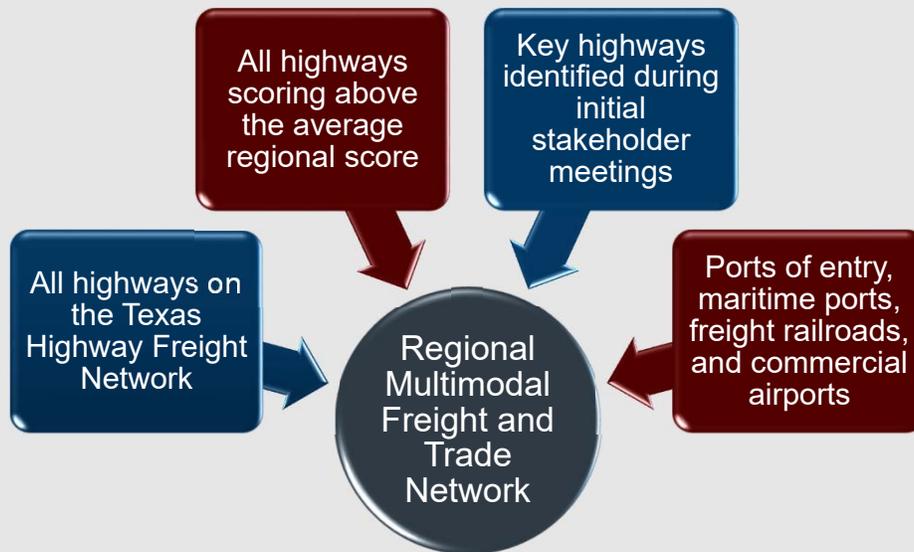
Projects on the NHFN are eligible for National Highway Freight Program funds and INFRA discretionary grants

Basis of needs assessment, project prioritization, recommendations and implementation

## Evaluation and Designation Process for Highways



## Components of the Regional Multimodal Freight and Trade Network



## Input on the Regional Multimodal Freight and Trade Network



1. What are the primary routes? Are these the preferred routes or best routes for freight?
2. What routes do you avoid? Why?
3. What routes are critical to connecting to border crossings, maritime ports, rail terminals, airports, or pipeline terminals?
4. What routes are critical to accessing international markets?
5. What routes are critical to accessing domestic markets?
6. Are there routes that should be restricted to freight?
7. What routes do you think will be most important in the future – will they be the same or will new development change the routes?
8. Where is new development likely to happen?

## Issues, Challenges, and Needs



## Issues, Challenges and Needs



1. Congestion and mobility
2. Safety
3. Truck parking
4. Access and connectivity
5. Land use and future growth
6. Infrastructure design
7. Economic competitiveness

[www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)

## Congestion and Mobility – [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)



- Where are congestion bottlenecks?
- Is there a pattern to the congestion?
  - Recurring location
  - Time of day
  - Day of week

## Safety – [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)



- Where are safety hotspots such as intersections, routes, etc.?
- What are some of the causes of crashes?
- How is incident clearance and emergency response?

## Truck Parking – [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)



- Do you have legal/authorized truck parking locations in your community?
- Does your community have an issue with unauthorized truck parking?
  - Where?
  - When?

## Access and Connectivity – [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)



- Does the network provide adequate access between the rural and urban regions?
- Does the network provide adequate east-west access throughout the region?
- Does the network provide adequate north-south access between the region and hinterland markets?
- Within the region, are connections to and between border ports of entry adequate?
  - What about connections to modal facilities (sea, rail, air)?

## Land Use and Growth – [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)



- How does freight or trade-related development impact the local community?
- Where is new development likely to happen? Does the network connect to areas of new development?
  - Warehousing
  - Manufacturing
  - Residential
  - Commercial

## Infrastructure Design – [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)



- Are there roadway/network design elements that cause issues?
  - Where and what are they?
- How does this impact freight transportation / operations?



## Economic Competitiveness – [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)



- Does the transportation network impact business location and economic development opportunities in your community?
  - How?



# Closing and Next Steps



## Next 90 Days



### Technical Analysis

- Data needs and inventory
- Finalize goals and objectives
- Conditions and needs analysis

### Stakeholder Outreach

- Online survey
- Stakeholder interviews
- RGV Steering Committee meeting (late spring 2020)

## Project Milestones and Timeline



Milestones	Schedule
Review of freight data and studies	Complete
Stakeholder interviews, data collection	Ongoing until Spring 2020
Regional freight profile, needs assessment, and performance measures	Ongoing through Summer 2020
Regional freight recommendations*, strategies*, and implementation plan	Summer 2020 – Fall 2020
Regional Freight Plan and Executive Summary	Late 2020

\* Round two stakeholder outreach

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