



Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Transportation Plan

Steering Committee Virtual Meeting

Roll call at 8:30 AM.

Help make this is successful webinar:

- Ensure your phone and computer microphone are muted.
- Familiarize yourself with the chat box and participant list.
- If not speaking, periodically check your devices to ensure they are muted.

If you have unmuted your device and are trying to speak but no one is hearing you, touch *6 or send your message to the chat box. If you're still having difficulty, text Casey Wells at 512-423-8986.

We will be using www.menti.com to gather input. You can open this website in your internet browser, either on your mobile device on computer.

Time	Topic	Facilitators
8:15 - 8:30	Login to WebEx	All participants
8:30 - 8:40	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Steering Committee Roll Call ▪ Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Caroline Mays (TxDOT) ▪ Pedro Alvarez (TxDOT-Pharr) 	Andrew Canon (RGV MPO) Steering Committee Chair
8:40 - 8:45	Recap of June 4, 2020 Meeting and Objectives of Today's Meeting	Casey Wells (TxDOT)
8:45 - 9:15	Commodity and Infrastructure Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised commodity flows ▪ Needs assessment overview 	Lizzie Welch (Cambridge Systematics)
9:15 - 10:00	Operational, Program, and Policy Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TxDOT Led ▪ TxDOT Supported 	Paula Dowell (Cambridge Systematics)
10:00 - 10:15	Project Prioritization Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planned projects ▪ Other projects 	Lizzie Welch
10:15 - 10:30	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Next steps / Schedule ▪ Closing remarks ▪ Adjourn 	Lizzie Welch Andrew Canon

Welcome

Meeting Start and Opening Remarks

- Andrew Canon (RGV MPO)

Committee Roll Call

- Francisco Almanza (TxDOT)

Welcome Remarks

- Andrew Canon (RGV MPO)
- Caroline Mays (TxDOT)
- Pedro Alvarez (TxDOT-Pharr)

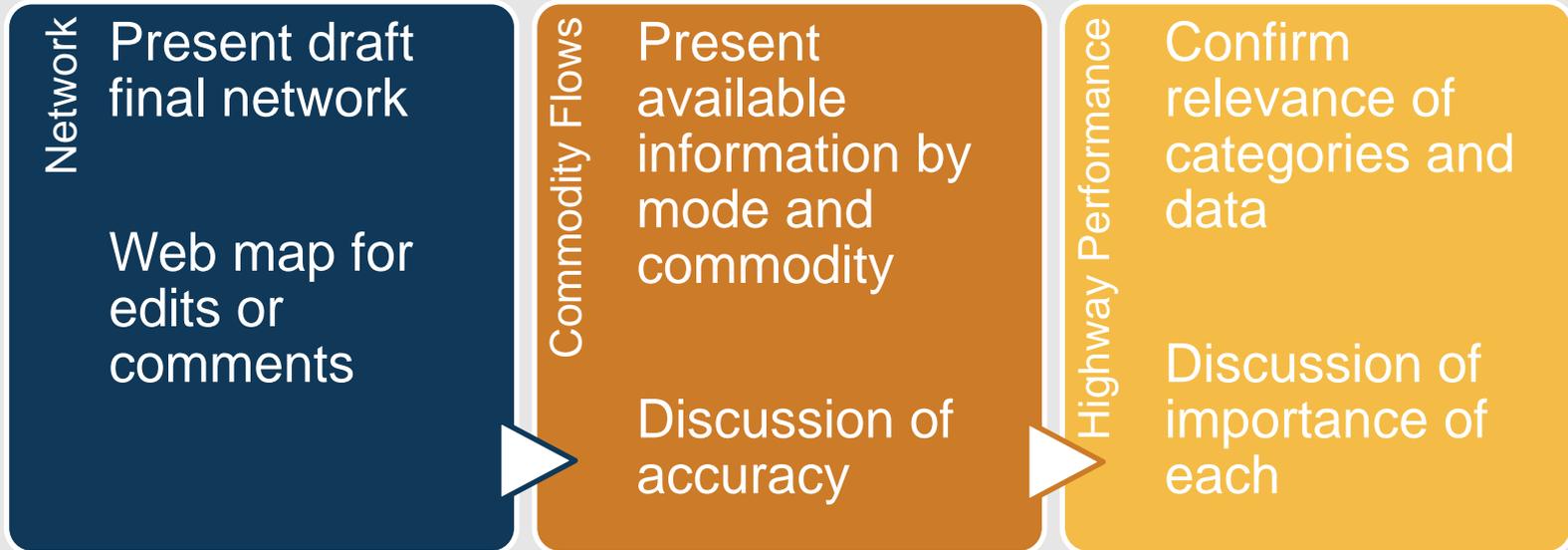
Recap of June 4 meeting and overview of today's meeting

- Casey Wells (TxDOT)





- Presented the Draft Final RGV **Multimodal Freight Network** for comment
- Requested input on preliminary **commodity flows and forecasts**
- Confirmed **highway needs assessment** approach and data



Agenda



8:30 – 8:40

Welcome and Introduction

8:40 – 8:45

Recap of June 4 Meeting, Overview of this Meeting

8:45 – 9:15

Commodity Flows and Infrastructure Needs Update

9:15 – 10:00

Operational, Program, and Policy Strategy Recommendations

10:00 – 10:15

Project Prioritization Approach

10:15 – 10:30

Next Steps and Wrap-up



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

Goals and Objectives for Rio Grande Valley Freight Transportation



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



Commodity Flows & Infrastructure Needs Update

- Do the revised commodity flows and forecasts better reflect your expectations?
- Do you have additional comments on the results of the needs assessment?

Program and Policy Strategy Recommendations

- What strategies will be effective in the Rio Grande Valley?
- What may be barriers to implementation? Who needs to be involved?

Project Prioritization Approach

- How should projects be prioritized?
- What long-term projects are vital for the region's success?

Commodity Flows and Infrastructure Update



Updates to Commodity Flow Forecasts



2015 Transearch	Initial 2018 and 2050 flows by mode and commodity STB Waybill (Railroad)
Border Crossing / Entry Data	2018 northbound truck movements (Note: southbound is not available)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	2018 maritime tonnage
FAA Air Carrier Statistics (T-100)	2018 air cargo tonnage
Additional Input	Current steel volumes and future steel capacity Future LNG capacity BTMP Forecasts Previous Transearch Forecasts



Freight moving to, from, or within the Rio Grande Valley



84% increase in tonnage
from 2018 to 2050*



138% increase in value
from 2018 to 2050*

*Includes preliminary maritime estimates, which are under revision

Freight moving through the Rio Grande Valley



237% increase in tonnage
from 2018 to 2050

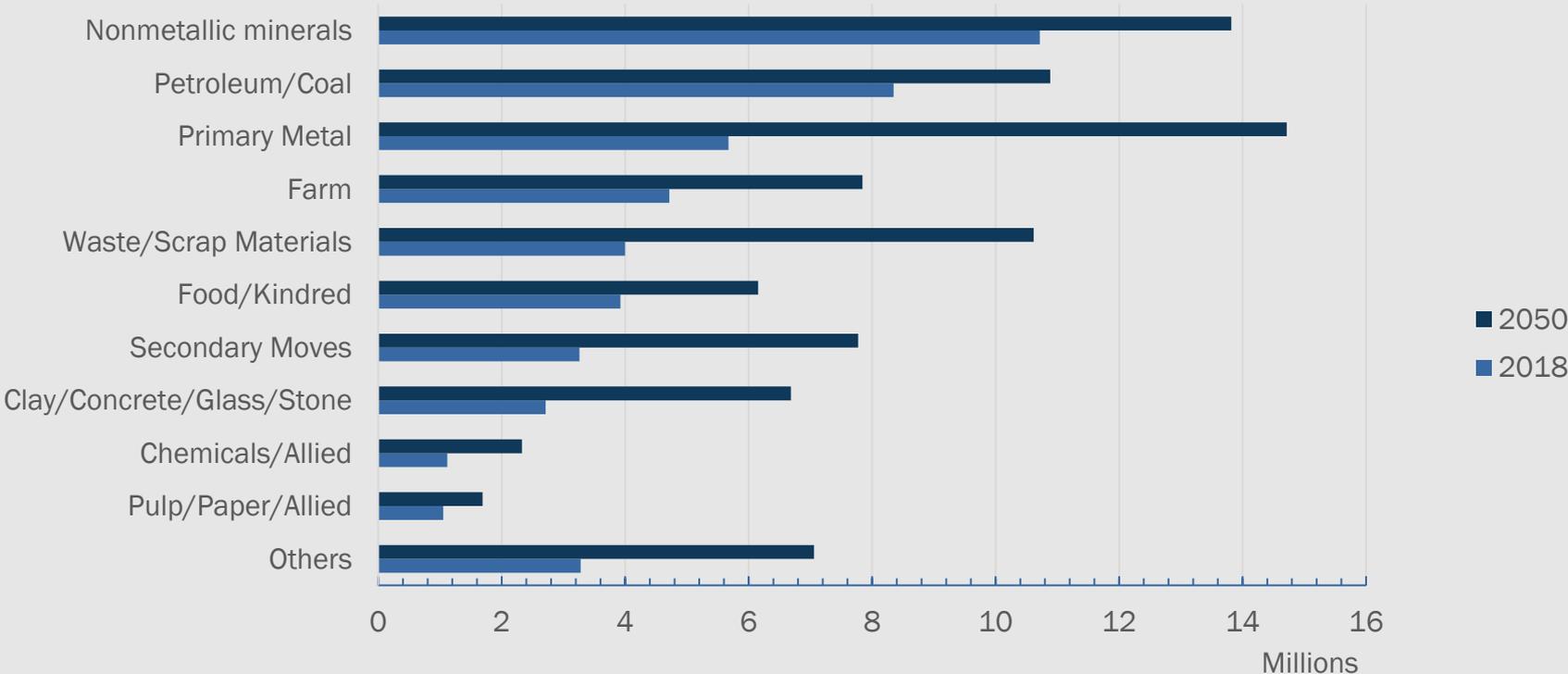


201% increase in value
from 2018 to 2050

Rio Grande Valley Top Commodities by Tonnage



Top Commodities by Tonnage, 2018 and 2050

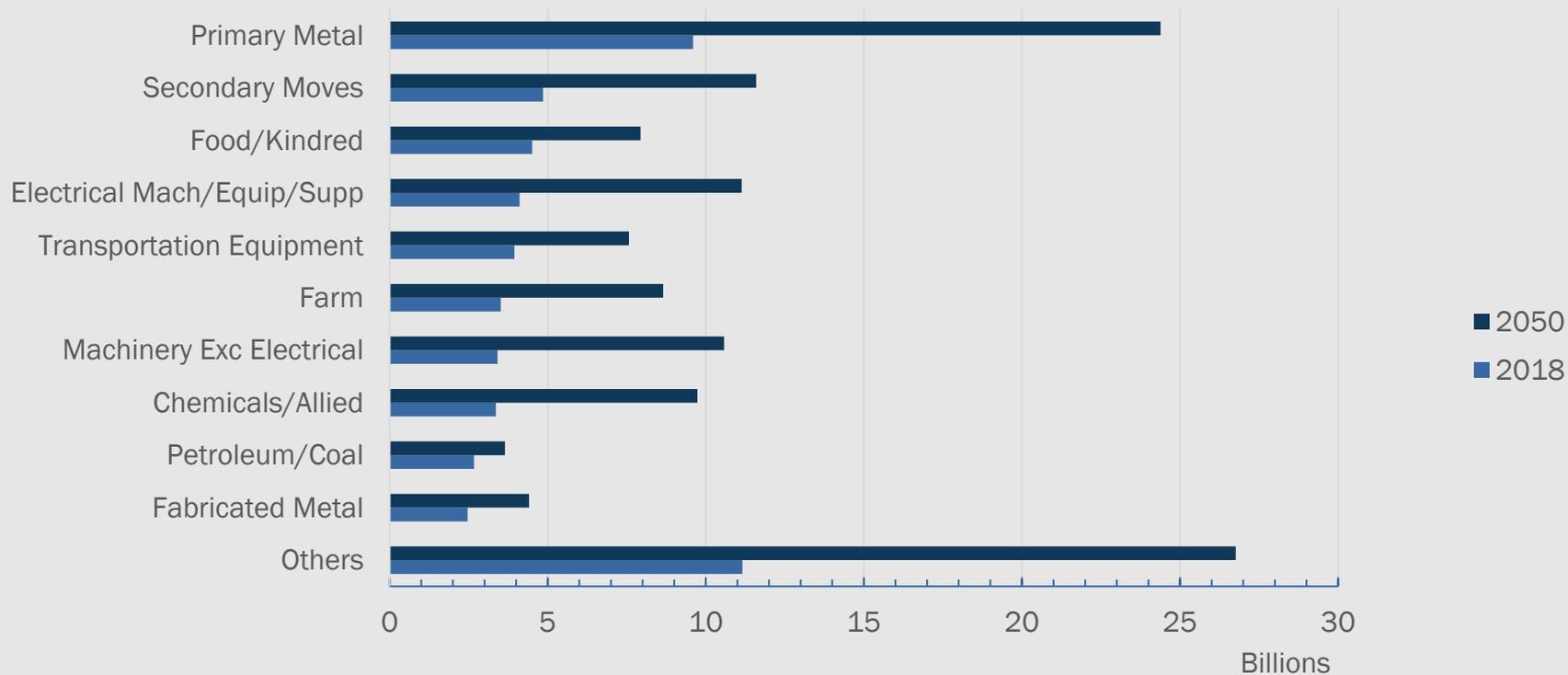


Source: WSP analysis based on Transearch, STB Waybill and Port Brownsville/Harlingen data

Rio Grande Valley Top Commodities by Value



Top Commodities by Value, 2018 and 2050



Source: WSP analysis based on Transearch, STB Waybill and Port Brownsville/Harlingen data

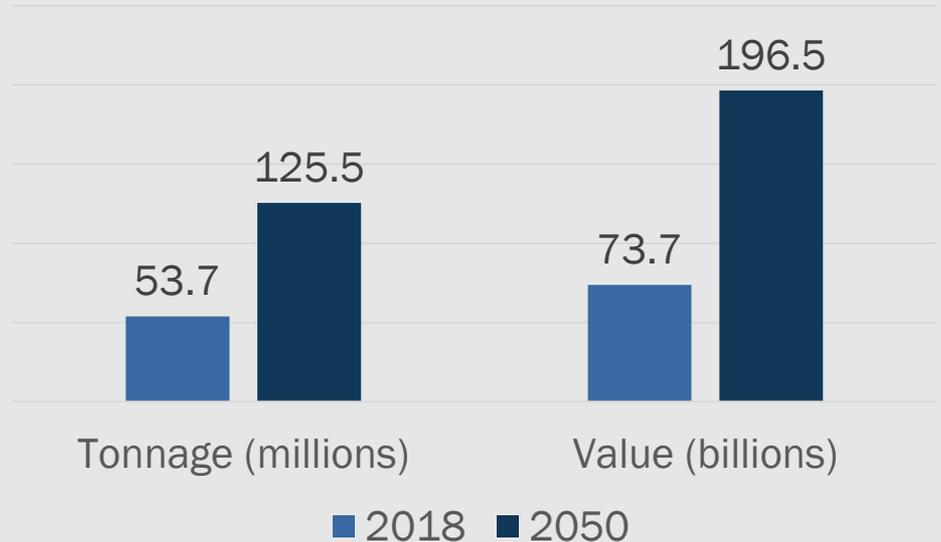


No major changes from June 4 meeting

Top Commodities by Tonnage:

1. Non-Metallic Minerals
2. Farm Products
3. Waste or Scrap Materials
4. Petroleum or Coal Products
5. Food or Kindred Products

133% increase in tonnage

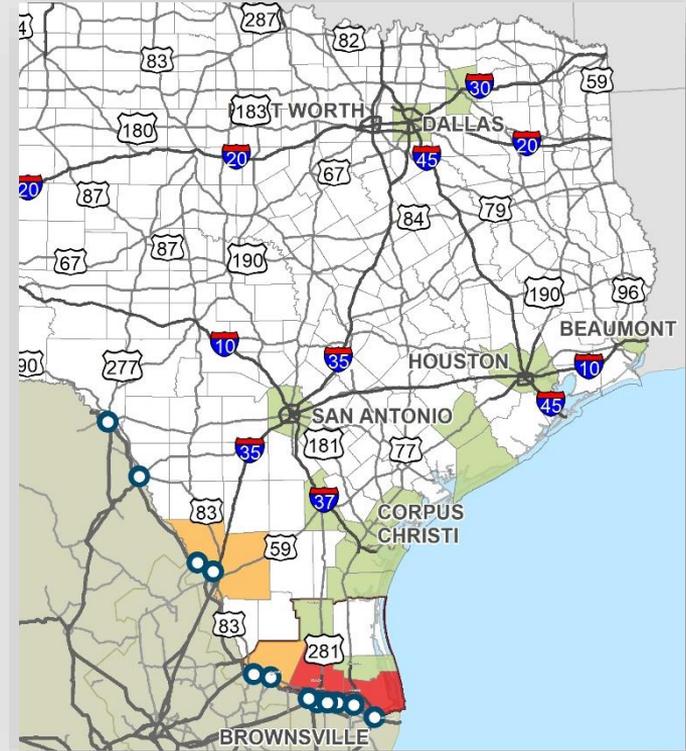


Highway Connections to Other Markets



- Trucks currently providing connections to intermodal facilities in other markets
 - Ports in Corpus Christi and Houston
 - Rail intermodal in San Antonio
- Commodity flow data do not capture this level of detail
- Investigating ATRI data to make these market connections
 - Where are trucks stopping before they cross the Texas-Mexico border?
 - Where (within Texas) are trucks leaving Corpus Christi and Houston going to?

Preliminary: Stops Before RGV Border Crossing



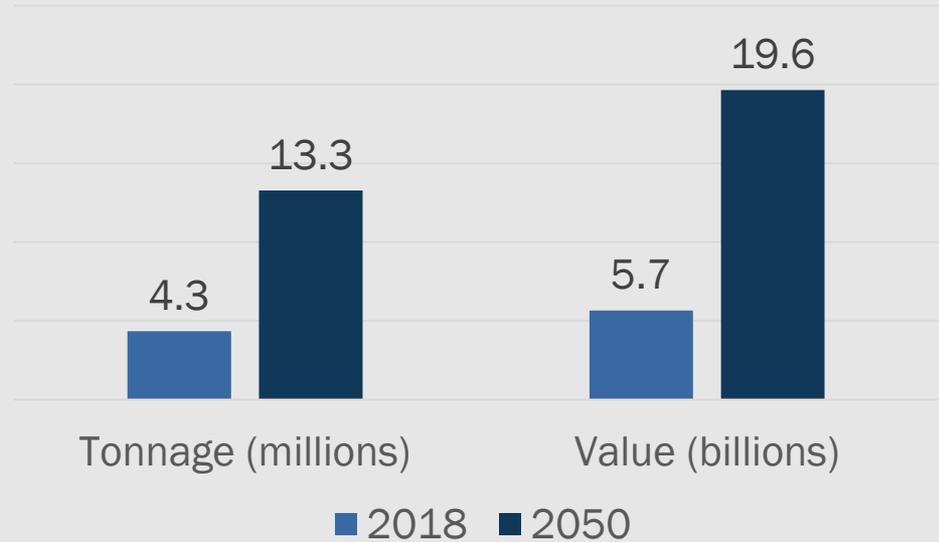


Modified to include steel tonnage transported from RGV to Mexico

Top Commodities by Tonnage:

1. Primary Metal Products
2. Chemicals or Allied Products
3. Food or Kindred Products
4. Petroleum or Coal Products
5. Nonmetallic Minerals

206% increase in tonnage





Modified based on USACE tonnage and verified steel tonnage

Top Commodities by Tonnage:

1. Petroleum or Coal Products
2. Primary Metal Products
3. Fabricated Metal Products
4. Clay, Concrete, Glass or Stone
5. Chemicals or Allied Products

Forecasts Under Revision

- BTMP findings
- TFMP findings
- 2015-2045 Transearch Projections
- 2010-2040 Transearch Projections
- Port Projections

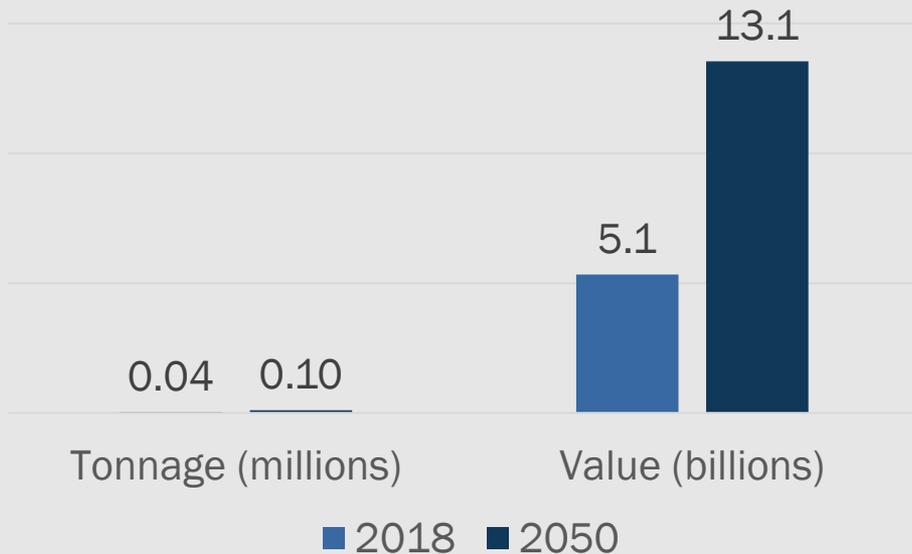


Verified against FAA T-100. No discrepancies found.

Top Commodities by Tonnage:

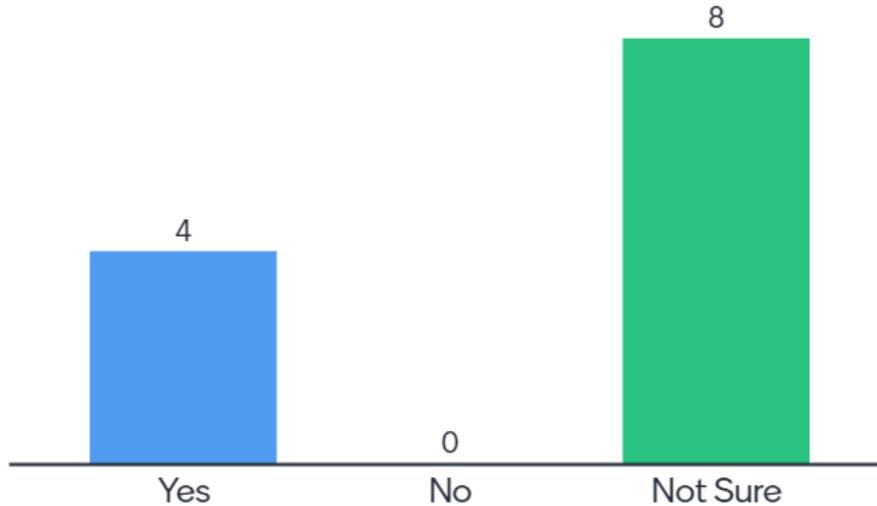
1. Small Packaged Freight Shipments
2. Electrical Equipment
3. Transportation Equipment
4. Miscellaneous Mixed Shipments
5. Machinery

140% increase in tonnage



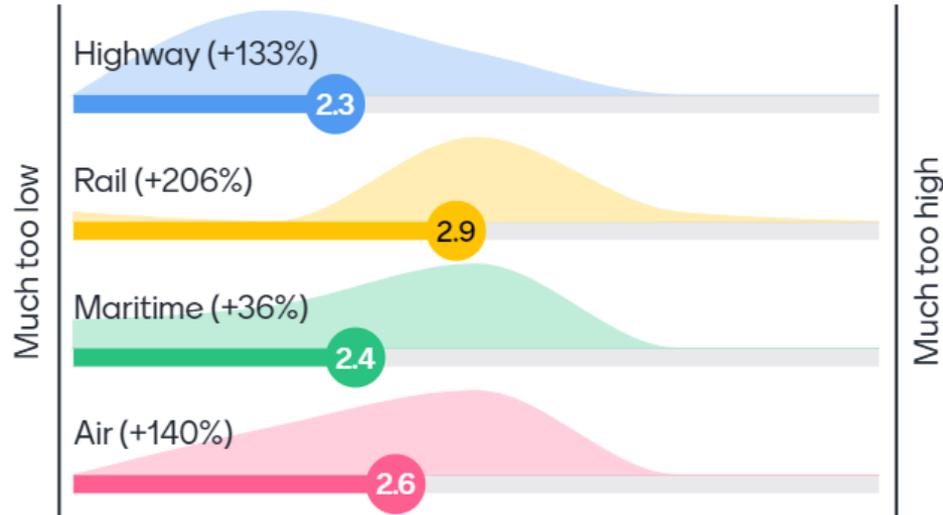


Do the revised highway, rail, and air freight flows approximately reflect 2018 freight traffic?





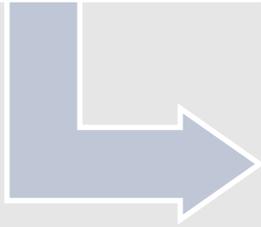
Do the revised tonnage forecasts for 2018-2050 seem too low, about right, or too high?





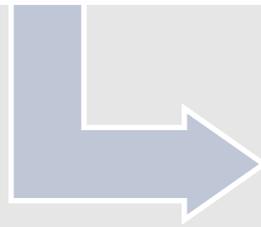
Highway Freight Network

- Tier 1, 2, and 3
- Used to identify locations that have greatest impact on freight



Conditions and Performance

- Mobility and Reliability
- Safety
- Asset Management
- Truck Parking
- Connectivity Opportunities
- OS/OW Corridors



Needs Assessment

- High, medium, and low by category
- To be paired with projects

Highway Needs Assessment Criteria

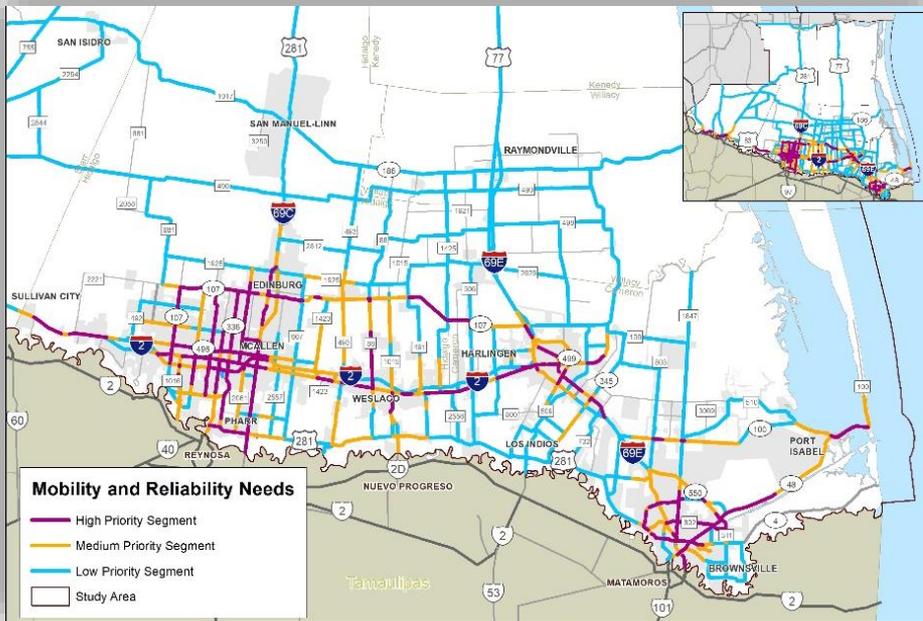


MOBILITY AND RELIABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congestion• Median speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truck travel time reliability
SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truck-involved crashes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long truck parking stops in right-of-way
ASSET MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pavement conditions• Bridge vertical clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bridge load restrictions and conditions
CONNECTIVITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two-lane highways	
TRUCK PARKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unauthorized truck parking	
OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designated routes for maritime port or Regional Mobility Authority permits• Number of TxDMV-issued permits	

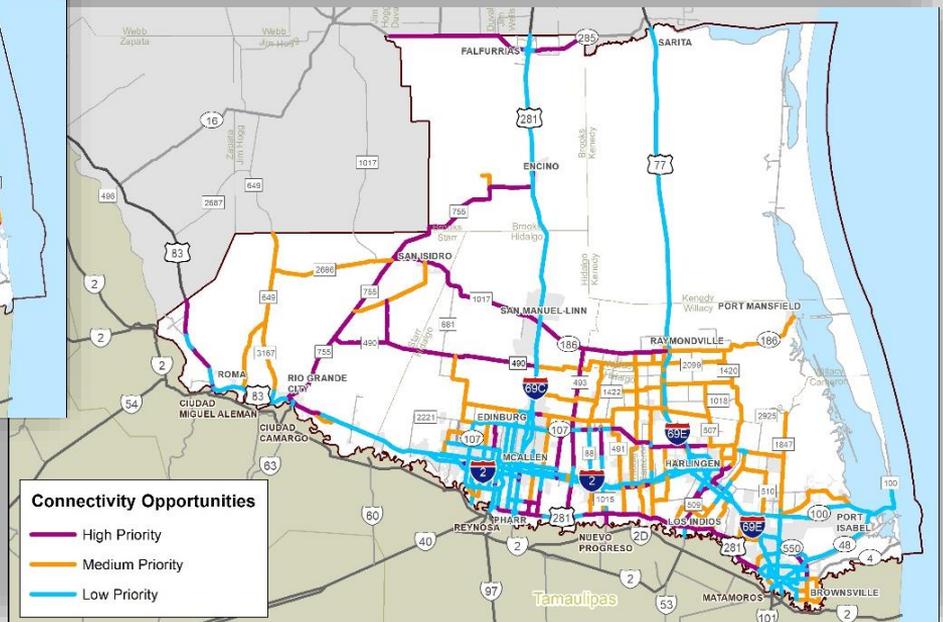
Overlay factors on Freight Network Designation

Combined score of factors and relative freight importance to get high, medium, and low needs score

Example Needs Assessment Results



Please see handout for full results and submit comments via email Casey.Wells@TxDOT.gov



Policy and Program Strategies





Develop comprehensive list of strategies

Screen strategies based on selected criteria to develop recommendations

Prioritize recommendations and develop implementation framework



Operations

Implement technology

Transportation system management and operations (TSM&O)

Programs

TxDOT led or supported

New or enhanced ongoing activities, such as data collection

Policies and Coordination

TxDOT led or supported

Improve decision-making and performance, such as improving design guidelines

Infrastructure

Mobility projects

Safety projects

Asset preservation projects



Operational Strategies

Increase signage and wayfinding on highway freight network.

Conduct traffic signal timing study for urban arterials on the highway freight network.

Establish a Regional Binational Traffic Operations Center (TOC) and deploy dynamic message signs on highway freight network.

Deploy Truck Parking Availability System (TPAS) on highway freight network.

Expand Weigh-in-Motion (WIM) and automated vehicle classification/count systems.



Operational Strategies

Install Safety Warning Detection System (overheight, overweight, and/or overspeed detection and notification equipment) to improve safety and protect asset condition.

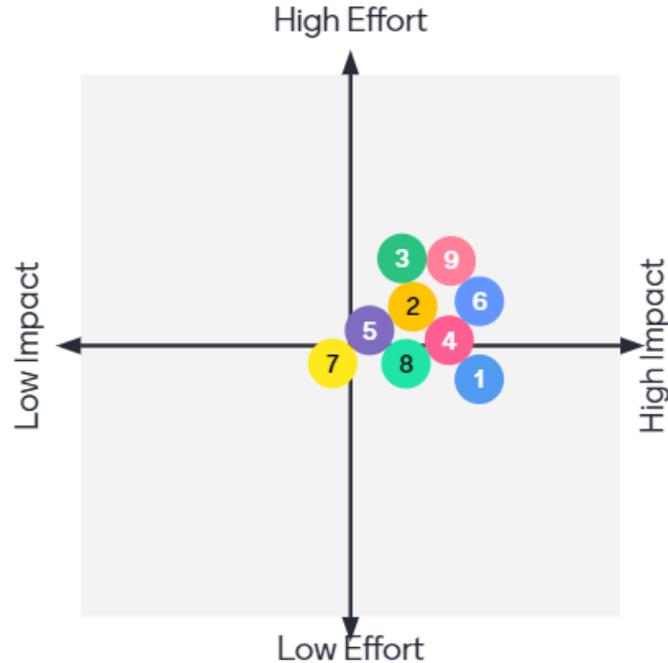
Implement a Blocked Rail Crossing Traffic Management System on highway freight network locations with rail activity.

Implement statewide guidance on Smart Work Zones to identify and deploy appropriate ITS solutions on the highway freight network.

Deploy freight-specific ITS on critical freight routes, such as truck priority signals, green-time extension at signals, freight traveler information systems, and truck parking or staging signage.



Operational Strategies



- 1 Increase signage and wayfinding
- 2 Conduct traffic signal timing study for urban arterials
- 3 Establish a Regional Binational Traffic Operations Center (TOC)
- 4 Deploy Truck Parking Availability System (TPAS)
- 5 Expand Weigh-In-Motion (WIM) and automated vehicle classification systems
- 6 Install safety warning detection system
- 7 Implement a blocked rail crossing traffic management system
- 8 Implement statewide guidance on Smart Work Zones
- 9 Deploy freight-specific ITS on critical freight routes, such as truck priority signals



TxDOT Led Strategies

Develop an Incident Management Program with a focus on commercial vehicles.

Develop a regional Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSM&O) Program to include freight considerations.

Develop a freight transportation public education and awareness program and share the road campaign.

Develop oversize vehicle parking capacity on designated OS/OW corridors.

Develop a freight data collection program to include weigh-in-motion, vehicle classification counts, truck parking capacity/utilization, safety hotspots, etc.

Explore opportunities to expand RGV freight rail capacity while avoiding negative impacts to public safety and congestion.

Establish automated vehicle readiness program, including both technology components (e.g.: ITS assets) and traditional maintenance activities (e.g.: clear lane markings).



TxDOT Supported Strategies

Establish a Rio Grande Valley Freight Advisory Committee within the RGV MPO with public and private sector stakeholders.

Increase capacity for specialized inspections (e.g., entomologists for produce inspections) through training, staffing, or technology.

Expand commercial vehicle border crossing data collection and reporting to include northbound and southbound border crossing and wait times at all international bridges.

Track changes in freight movement due to USMCA implementation and update regional forecasts.

Increase utilization of the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) Lanes program by supporting improvements at international bridges and increasing enrollment in program.

Develop regional multimodal thoroughfare plans for the new combined MPO area.



TxDOT-led Programs





TxDOT-supported Programs





TxDOT Led Strategies

Develop international bridge resiliency and emergency response plan.

Integrate freight considerations into the Project Development process to include truck parking, inspection locations, turning radii, acceleration/deceleration lanes, etc.

Develop truck traffic impact analysis guidelines to include truck parking/queuing impact and inspection locations in urban and rural areas.

Establish sustainable funding sources for transportation improvements in the RGV.



TxDOT Supported Strategies

Collaborate with TxDMV to develop an OS/OW load reporting program that includes annual permit and port and regional mobility authority issued permits.

Collaborate with truck stop operators to develop new or expand existing truck parking, especially near international bridges.

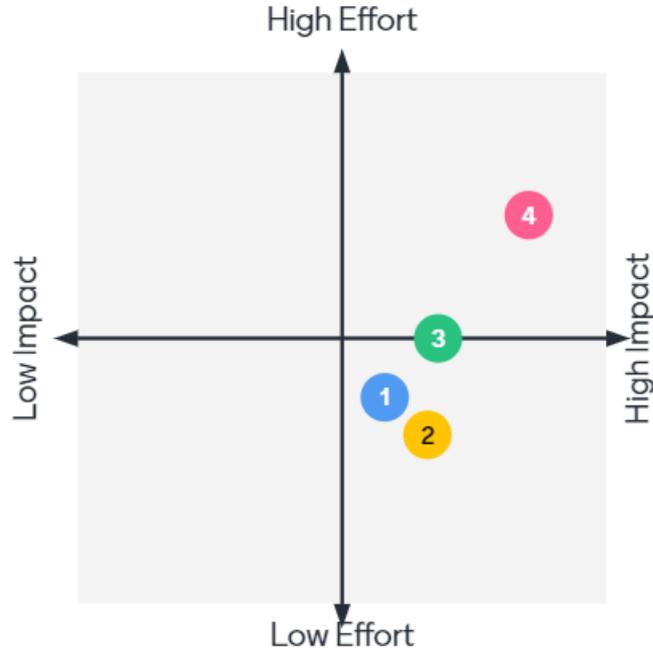
Collaborate with regional stakeholders to encourage truck parking at non-TxDOT public facilities and private commercial and industrial sites.

Develop land use guidelines for mitigating freight and trade conflicts with residential and commercial land uses.

Convene a biennial regional freight and trade transportation summit.



TxDOT-led Policies



- 1 Develop international bridge resiliency and emergency response plan
- 2 Integrate freight considerations into the Project Development process
- 3 Develop truck traffic impact analysis guidelines to include truck parking/queuing impact
- 4 Establish sustainable funding sources for transportation improvements



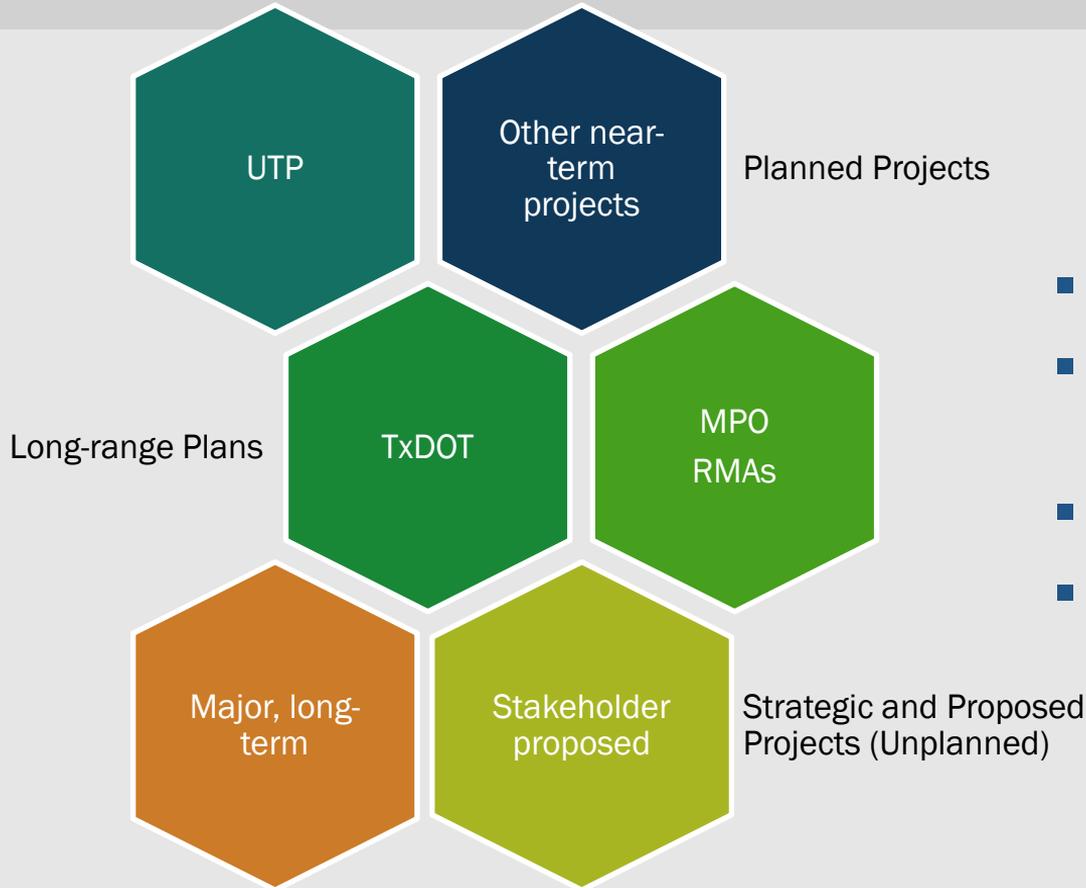
TxDOT-supported Policies



Project Prioritization

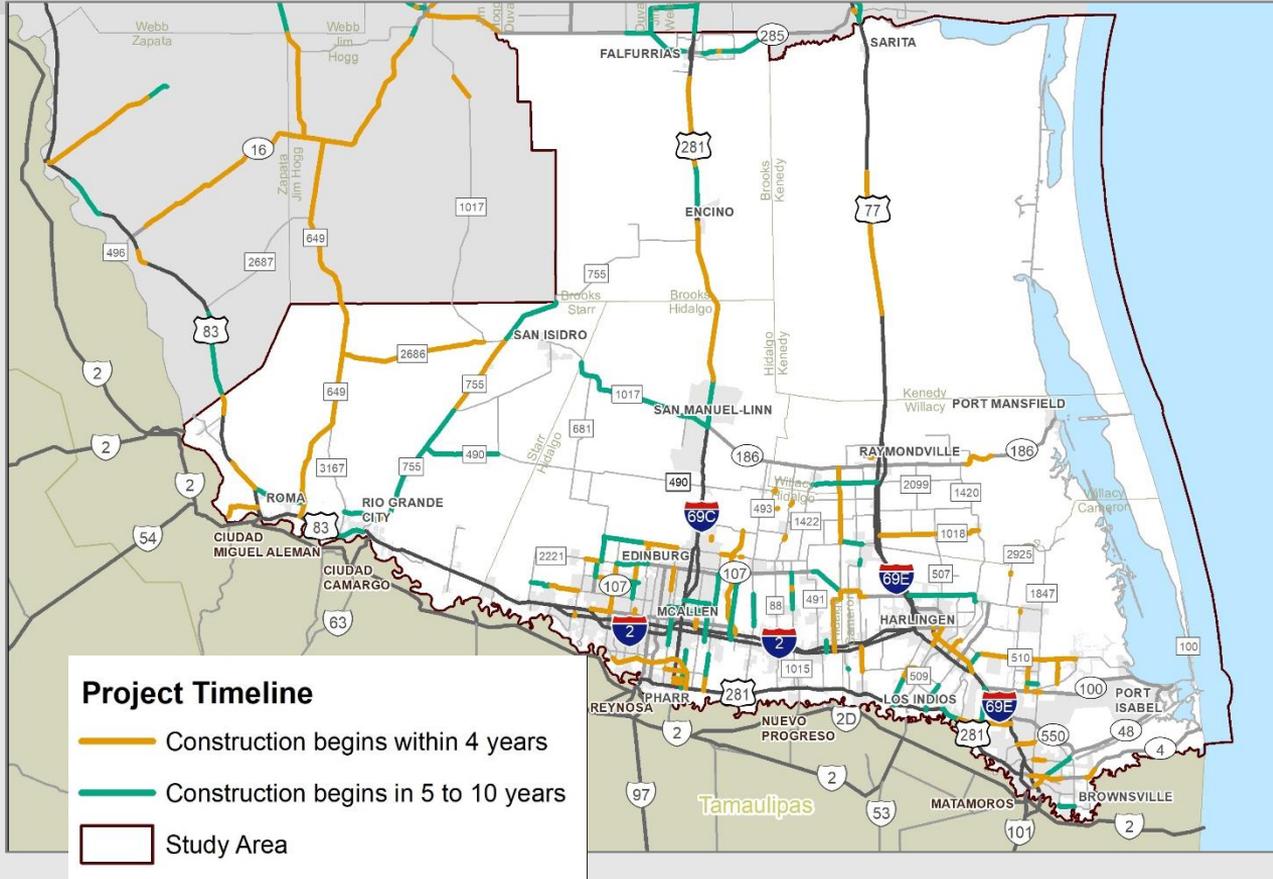


Project Prioritization Approach



- Compile projects
- Compare planned projects to needs
- Prioritize projects
- Identify gaps

Planned Projects: 2020 Unified Transportation Program Highway Projects





Freight Highlights

- I-69 Connector
- Military Highway
- US 83 to Laredo

Other Long-Range Plans

- RGVMPPO
- HCRMA
- CCRMA

Strategic Projects Impacting the Rio Grande Valley



Strategic projects were identified through stakeholder interviews, February transportation forums, and Rio Grande Valley Steering Committee input

I-69 Improvements and Designation

Established program with projects in various stages of development or completion

Upgrade to interstate standard portions of US 77, US 281, and SH 550

International Bridge Improvements

Pharr International Bridge: Improve staging, inspection, vehicle flow

Donna and Anzalduas International Bridges: Accommodate north- and southbound loaded trucks

Maritime Port Capabilities

Brownsville: Deepen from 42' to 52' to accommodate larger vessels for LNG development

Harlingen: Establish container-on-barge facilities

Rail Intermodal Facility

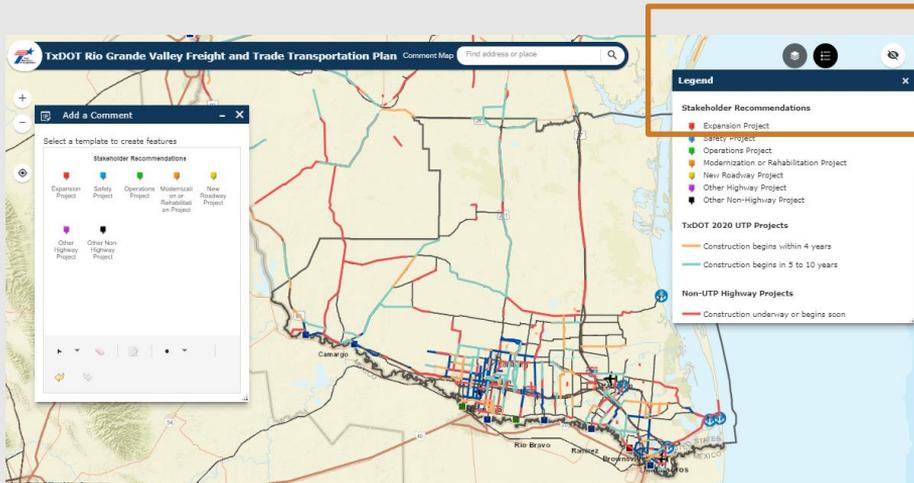
Develop rail intermodal facility to accommodate truck-to-rail or ship-to-rail freight movements

Not currently under development

Providing Input on Location-Specific Recommendations

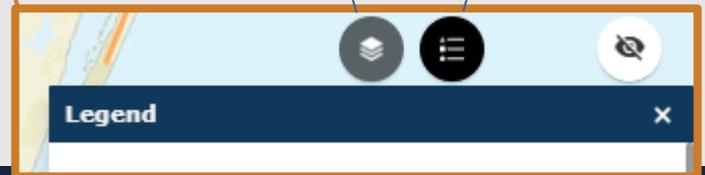


- Following today's meeting, if you have additional freight operational, program, policy, or further study recommendations, please email them to Casey.Wells@TxDOT.gov.
- For infrastructure or location-based recommendations, please access the online Rio Grande Valley Freight Plan Stakeholder map at: <https://tinyurl.com/rgvfreight> (full link in agenda)



1. Click on layer you wish to view- for adding comments, toggle on the Stakeholder Recommendations layer

Legend will display information for visible layers



How to View and Comment



2. Zoom or search to find a location as you would on Google Maps

3. Click the type of comment you want to leave

4. Click on the map wherever you would like to leave a recommendation

5. Add an optional text comment with more detail

6. Click "Close"
Comments save automatically

The screenshot displays the 'TxDOT Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Transportation Plan Comment Map' interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Find address or place'. The map shows various project locations color-coded by type. A legend on the right side of the map lists the following categories:

- Stakeholder Recommendations:**
 - Expansion Project (Red square)
 - Safety Project (Blue square)
 - Operations Project (Green square)
 - Modernization or Rehabilitation Project (Orange square)
 - New Roadway Project (Yellow square)
 - Other Highway Project (Purple square)
 - Other Non-Highway Project (Black square)
- TxDOT 2020 UTP Projects:**
 - Construction begins within 4 years (Orange line)
 - Construction begins in 5 to 10 years (Teal line)
- Non-UTP Highway Projects:**
 - Construction underway or begins soon (Red line)

An 'Add a Comment' dialog box is open over the map, showing a 'Stakeholder Recommendations' section with a grid of project types. A second 'Stakeholder Recommendations' dialog box is shown below, displaying a 'Comment Type' dropdown menu set to 'Modernization or Rehabilitation Project', a text input field for the comment, and 'Delete' and 'Close' buttons.



TxDOT Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Transportation Plan Comment Map Find address or place

Add a Comment

Select a template to create features

Stakeholder Recommendations

- Expansion Project
- Safety Project
- Operations Project
- Modernization or Rehabilitation Project
- New Roadway Project
- Other Highway Project
- Other Non-Highway Project

Legend

Stakeholder Recommendations

- Expansion Project
- Safety Project
- Operations Project
- Modernization or Rehabilitation Project
- New Roadway Project
- Other Highway Project
- Other Non-Highway Project

TxDOT 2020 UTP Projects

- Construction begins within 4 years
- Construction begins in 5 to 10 years

Non-UTP Highway Projects

- Construction underway or begins soon

Esri, HERE, Garmin, NGA, USGS, NPS | Acknowledgment of the Federal Railroad Administration

- Panels can be re-opened using the circled buttons
- Additional information can be turned on or off using the Layers panel
- More detail is visible as you zoom





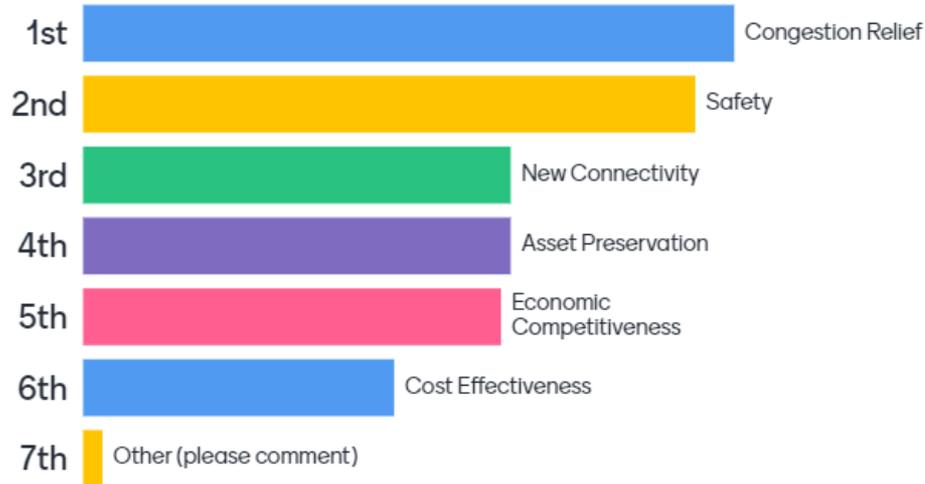
Develop criteria based on goals

Weight criteria based on priorities

Screen projects using weighted criteria



When prioritizing strategies, how important are the following goals?



Next Steps for Recommendations and Strategies



Transportation Forum and Steering Committee



Closing and Next Steps





Technical Analysis

- Finalize Commodity Flows and Forecasts
- Land Use Assessment
- Economic Importance Assessment
- Draft Recommendations and Strategies

Stakeholder Outreach

- Final Stakeholder Interviews (~25 of 30 complete)
- Texas Freight Advisory Committee

Next Steering Committee: November 18, 2020

Project Milestones and Timeline



Deliverables	Schedule
Multimodal Regional Freight and Trade Transportation Network	Complete
Freight Profile and Needs Assessment	Complete
Commodity Flow and Forecast	September 2020
Land Use Assessment	September 2020
Economic Importance and Impact of Freight and Trade	September 2020
Freight and Trade Strategies and Recommendations	October 2020
Investment Plan and Implementation Program	October 2020
Draft Final Plan and Executive Summary	November 2020
Final Plan and Executive Summary	December 2020

Thank you!

Contact us for more information about the Rio Grande Valley
Freight and Trade Transportation Plan

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<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/pharr/rgv-freight-trade-plan.html>