



RIO GRANDE VALLEY REGIONAL FREIGHT AND TRADE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Kick-off Meeting

TxDOT Pharr District Office

September 12, 2019, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Today's Agenda

Time	Topic	Lead
1:30 – 1:45	Welcome and Introductions	Casey Wells , Freight Planner <i>TxDOT</i> Caroline Mays , Director - Freight, International Trade, and Connectivity <i>TxDOT</i> Pete Alvarez , District Engineer <i>TxDOT Pharr District</i> Ron Garza , Acting Interim Executive Director <i>Rio Grande Valley MPO</i>
1:45 – 2:30	Study Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Team • Goals and Objectives • Scope of Work • Deliverables • Schedule 	Paula Dowell (<i>Cambridge Systematics</i>) Lizzie Welch (<i>Cambridge Systematics</i>) Casey Wells (<i>TxDOT</i>)
2:30 – 3:00	Stakeholder Outreach	Paula Dowell (<i>Cambridge Systematics</i>)
3:00 – 3:15	Coordination with BTMP	Casey Wells (<i>TxDOT</i>) Tim Juarez (<i>TxDOT</i>)
3:15 – 3:30	Discussion	Paula Dowell (<i>Cambridge Systematics</i>)



STUDY OVERVIEW

Texas Department of Transportation
Casey Wells, Project Manager
Kale Driemeier, Deputy Project Manager

Cambridge Systematics –
Project Manager and
Technical Lead

Paula Dowell
Lizzie Welch

WSP– Land Use and
Engineering Support

Michael Penic
Becky Bray

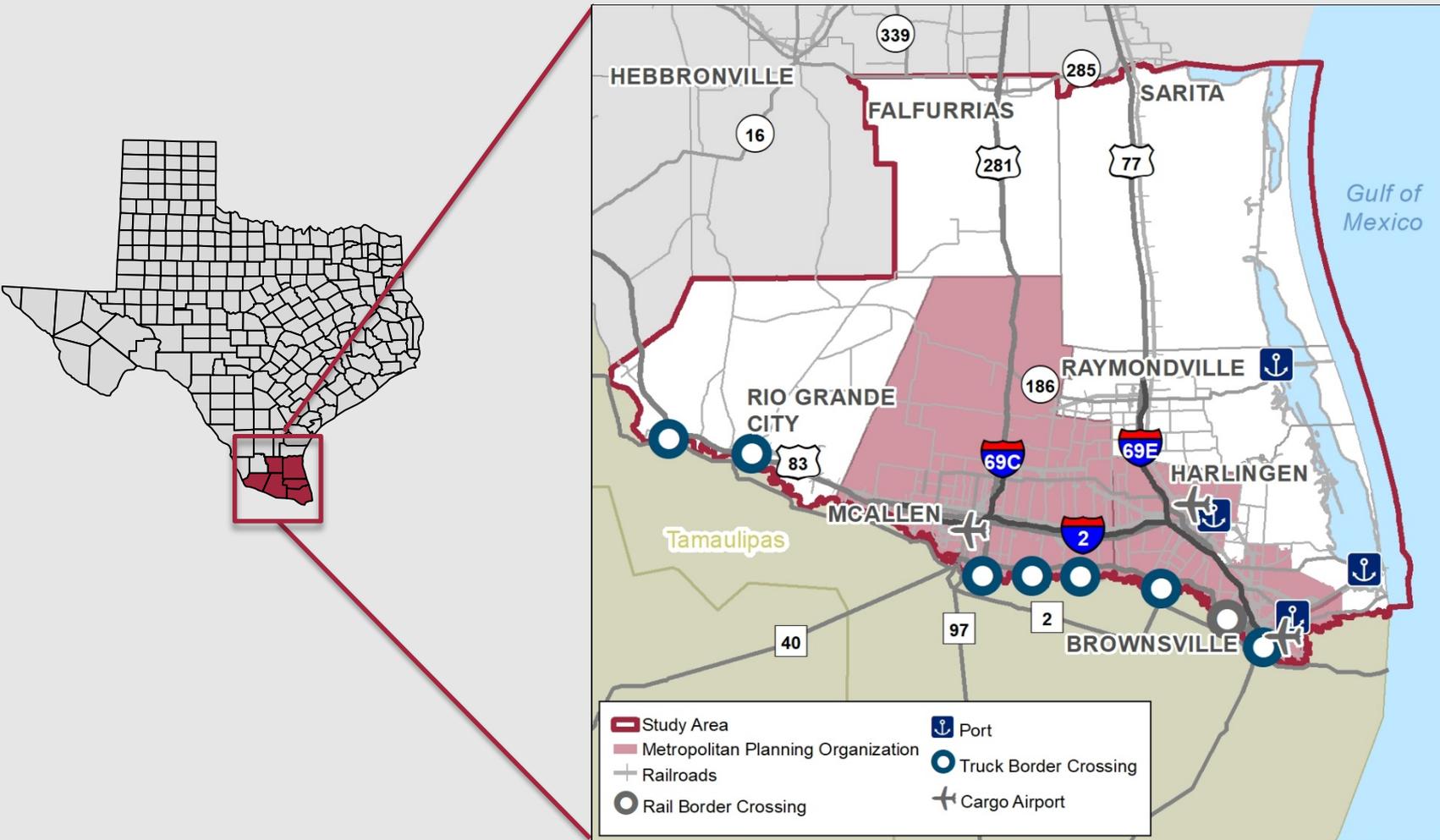
Freight Insights – Private
Sector Stakeholder
Outreach

Susan Atherton

R.J. Rivera Associates–
Stakeholder Outreach
Support

Everardo Ibarra

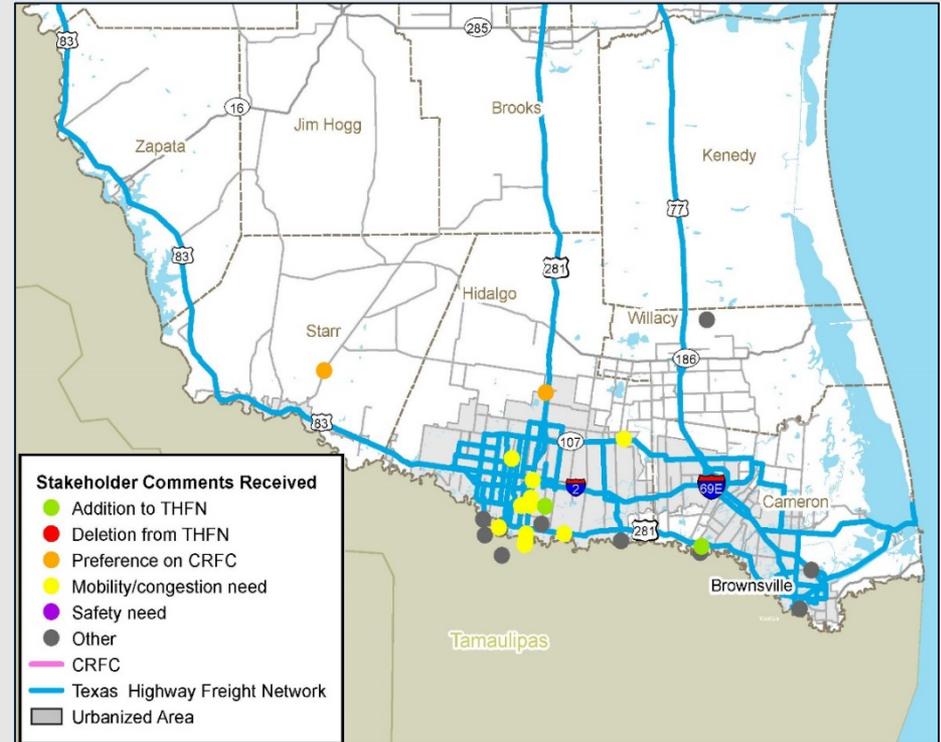
Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Plan Study Area



Why a Rio Grande Valley Regional Freight and Trade Plan?

Freight and Trade Movement Challenges Previously Identified by Stakeholders:

- Poor regional connectivity between existing and planned corridors (e.g. I-69C and I-69E)
- Lack of redundant border crossings reduces reliability and strains infrastructure
- Inefficiency in moving freight in and out of intermodal facilities and border crossings
- Need strategies for oversize and overweight vehicles



Why a Rio Grande Valley Regional Freight and Trade Plan?

- 2018 Texas Freight Mobility Plan identified need to:
 - Promote Texas' strategic location in national and international trade
 - Focus on multimodal solutions in strategic freight hubs
 - Identify and develop strategies at the local and regional level
 - Develop implementable local recommendations and strategies including policies, programs, and projects

\$22.7 billion in exports

\$29.6 billion in imports

through five border ports of entry in 2018
U.S. DOT, 2019

1,000,000 trucks

1,000 trains

Entered the U.S. through the RGV in 2018
U.S. DOT, 2019

Port of Brownsville handles nearly
8 million tons annually
Port of Harlingen handles nearly
1 million tons annually
Ports of Brownsville and Harlingen, 2019

**Inbound trucks from
Mexico increased by 35%**
between 2010 and 2018. Inbound trains
increased by 87%.
U.S. DOT, 2019

Purpose and Goals

PURPOSE

Develop a Rio Grande Valley Regional Freight and Trade Transportation Plan that identifies freight activities, opportunities, challenges and strategies

GOALS

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

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

Goals and objectives will be refined through stakeholder outreach process

Rio Grande Valley Regional Objectives

Local and
Regional Data
Collection

Enhance
Regional
Freight and
Trade
Forecasts

Regional
Multimodal
Freight and
Trade
Transportation
Network

Local Land
Use and
Freight and
Trade Mobility

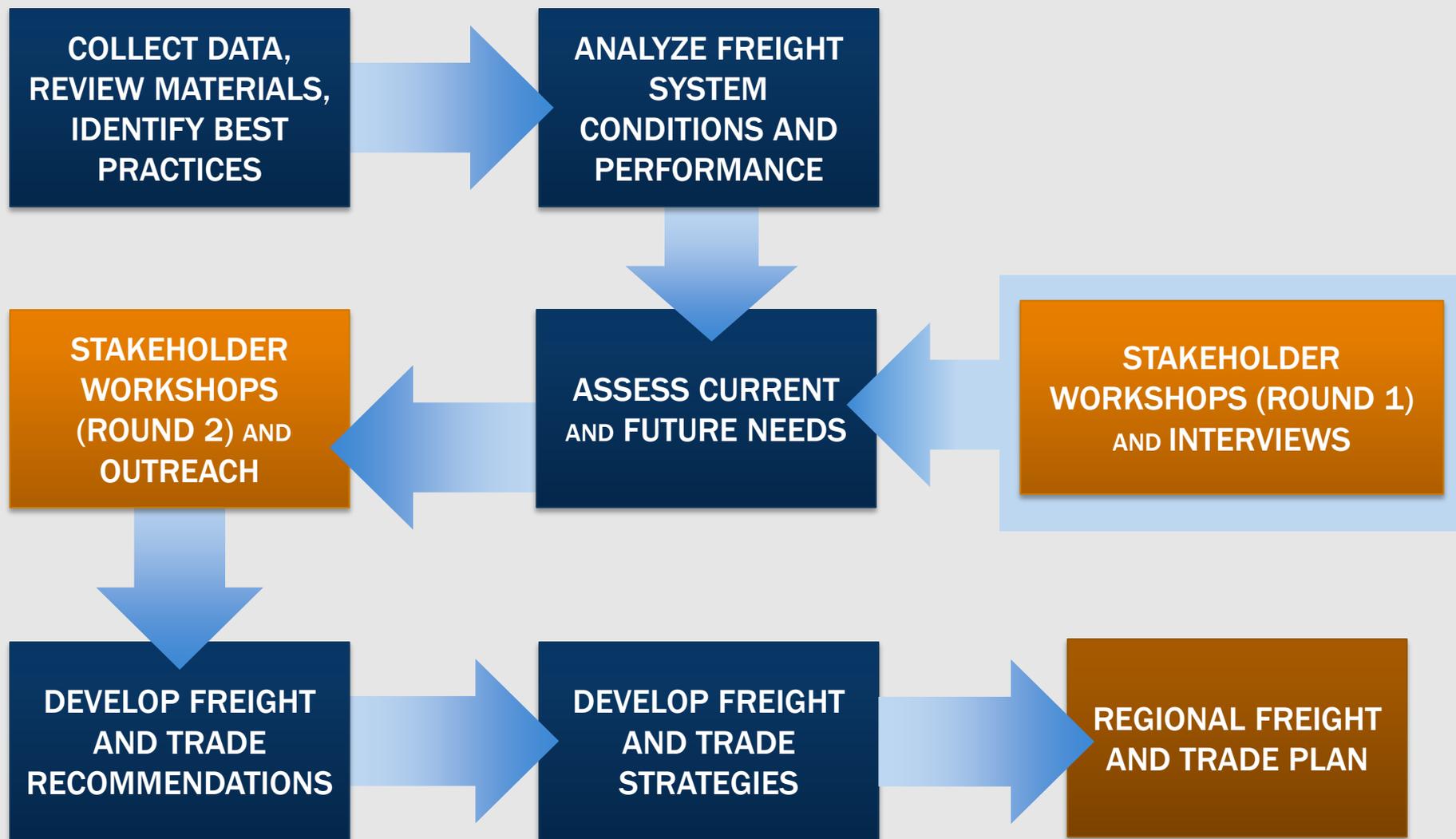
Regional,
Statewide,
National,
International
Sphere of
Influence

Enhance
Freight and
Trade
Transportation
Mobility,
Connectivity,
and Safety



SCOPE OF WORK

Project Approach Overview



CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

- Assess and collect data and review existing studies and plans
- Formulate regional freight and trade transportation goals and objectives
- Designate regional multimodal freight and trade network
- Assess conditions, performance, and needs
 - Congestion, bottlenecks, and reliability
 - Commodity and trade flows
 - Infrastructure characteristics and conditions
 - Safety
 - Connectivity analysis – local to international scales
- Identify freight and trade transportation needs and issues
- Analyze freight and trade land use and community impact
- Document economic importance and impact at local, regional, state, and national levels

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY REGION

- Collect and evaluate relevant regional socioeconomic and other data
- Profile key freight and trade intensive industry sectors and supply chains in the region
- Identify, quantify, and document the importance of the region's freight and trade and economic activity to the state and the nation
- Identify the employment, income, GRP and tax revenue generated by freight and trade intensive industries
- Quantify economic impact of multimodal freight and trade transportation
- Assess implications of not effectively meeting the region's freight and trade transportation needs

RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES

- Identify current, anticipated, and proposed projects with freight and trade impact
- Include multimodal infrastructure projects
- Develop operational and technology strategies
- Identify freight-based economic development strategies
- Identify policy strategies
- Create screening and performance-based prioritization methods and tools
- Compile regional Freight and Trade Transportation Investment Plan
- Develop implementation plan

Scope of Work Technical Deliverables

Task	Deliverables	Schedule
Technical Analysis and Reports	Freight Data and Studies Assessment Matrix	November 2019
	Regional Multimodal Freight Network and Memo	March 2020
	Regional Commodity Flow and Forecasts Profile	April 2020
	Freight and Trade Needs Assessment Memo	May 2020
	Economic Importance and Impact Memo	June 2020
	Land Use and Community Impact Memo	June 2020
	Regional Freight Strategies and Recommendations Memo	July 2020
	Regional Freight Investment Plan and Implementation Program	September 2020
	Regional Freight Plan and Executive Summary	November 2020



STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

STAKEHOLDER INPUT

- Develop stakeholder outreach plan
- Engage and coordinate with Rio Grande Valley Steering Committee
- Conduct stakeholder interviews
- Analyze stakeholder surveys conducted during Texas-Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan (BTMP)
- Coordinate with RGV MPO
- Conduct stakeholder meetings, in coordination with the BTMP when possible

Who are the Freight and Trade Stakeholders?

Public

- TxDOT Pharr District
- RGV MPO
- Cities and counties
- Economic development officials
- Maritime ports
- International ports of entry
- Elected officials
- TxDMV
- TxDPS
- FHWA
- FMCSA
- CBP

Private

- **Carriers**
 - Trucking
 - Rail
 - Maritime
 - Pipeline
 - Air cargo
- **Freight handling facilities**
 - Rail and port terminals
 - Trucking terminals/transload facilities
 - Warehousing and distributions
 - Foreign Trade Zones
- **Transportation and trade associations**
 - Texas Trucking Association
 - Border Trade Alliance
 - Texas International Produce Association
- **Economic development organizations**
 - Chambers of commerce
 - Economic development agencies
 - Private developers

Who should we target for interviews?

Convene Steering Committee

- Identify potential members
- Develop considerations for engagement
- Establish steering committee structure

Engage Steering Committee

- Define role and responsibilities
- Set meeting dates/places
- Establish communication methods
- Deploy best practices



Rio Grande Valley Steering Committee: Tentative Roster



Coordinate with MPO Committees

Presentations to MPO Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Board – Proposed Topics

Project introduction, existing conditions, and stakeholder outreach overview

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graph TD; A[Project introduction, existing conditions, and stakeholder outreach overview] --> B[Needs, challenges, and opportunities (after round 1 listening sessions)]; B --> C[Strategies, projects and implementation (after round 2 listening sessions)];
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Needs, challenges, and opportunities (after round 1 listening sessions)

Strategies, projects and implementation (after round 2 listening sessions)

Round 1 – Early Spring 2020

- Trends, challenges, and opportunities
- Multimodal network designation
- Needs and bottlenecks

Round 2 – Late Summer 2020

- Multimodal strategies
- Screening and prioritization process
- Implementation plan

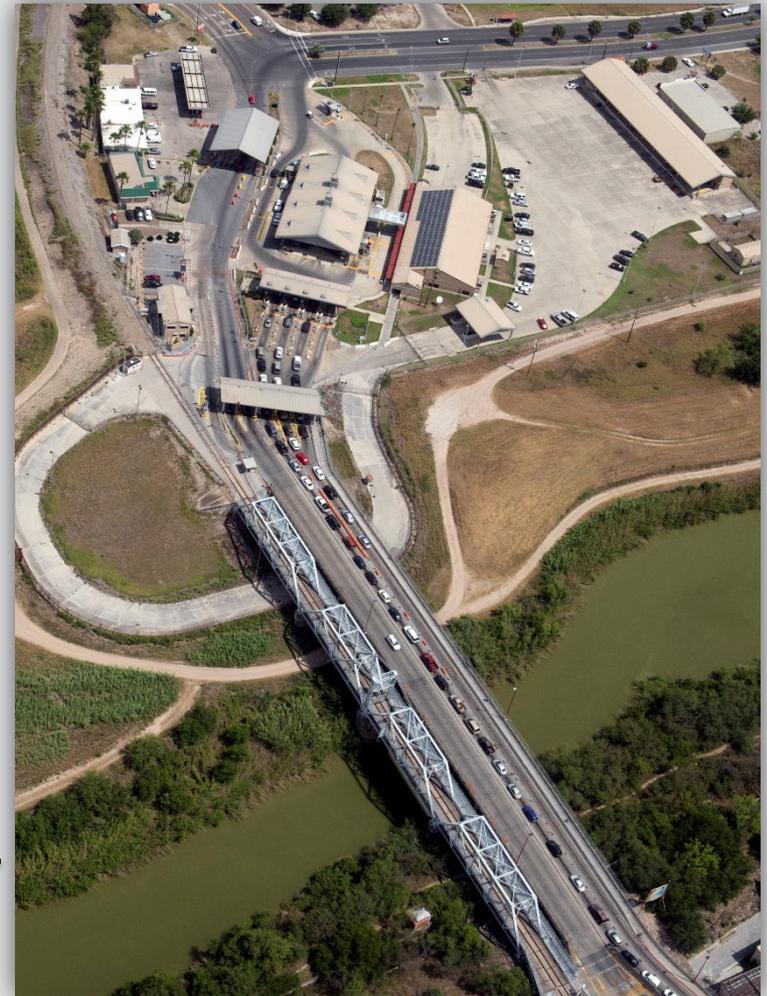
Stakeholder Outreach Deliverables

Task	Deliverables
Stakeholder Outreach	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
	List of interviewees and Interview Guide
	Regional and state stakeholder database
	Notification and reminder emails or printed notices
	Materials for each meeting: presentation, interactive mapping, handouts, sign-in sheets, etc.
	Meeting summaries for all stakeholder meetings

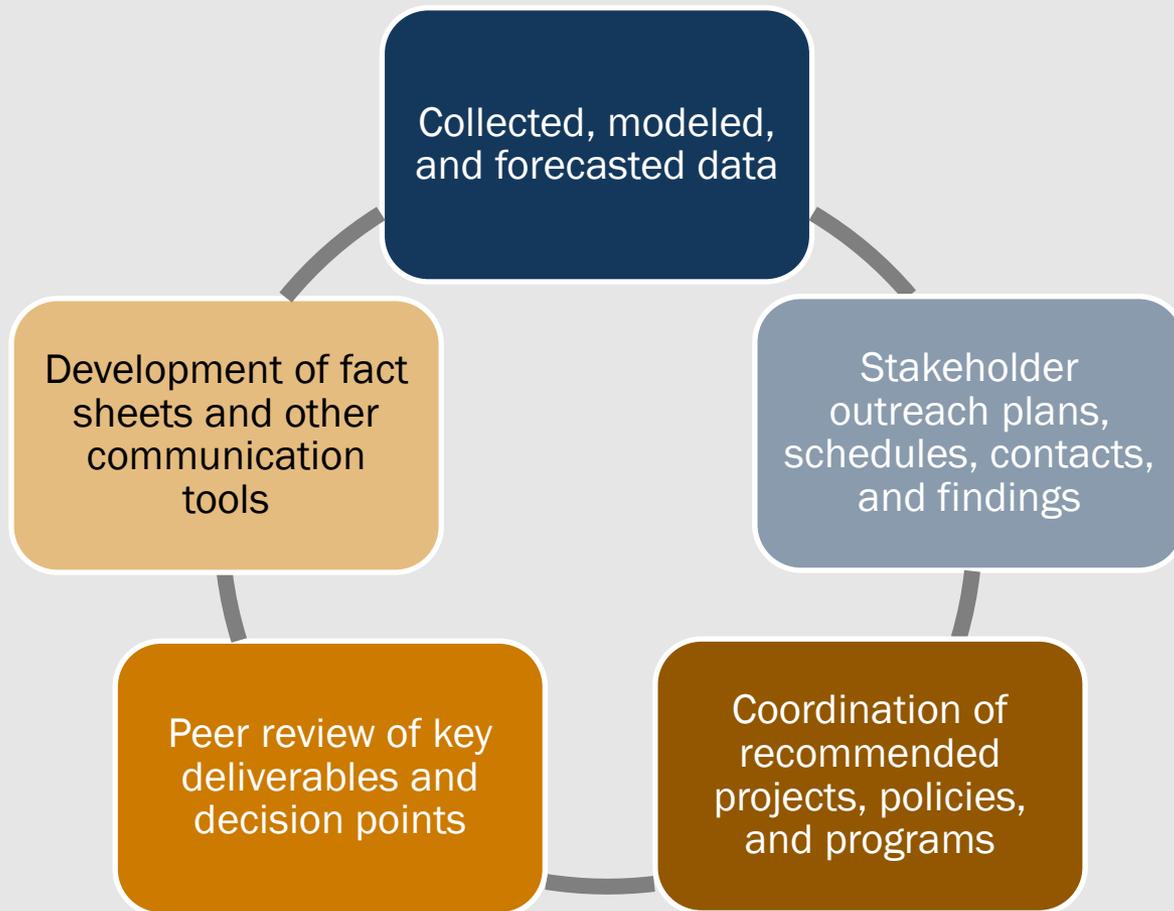




COORDINATION WITH THE TEXAS - MEXICO BORDER TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN



Key Coordination Points





DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

Technical Analysis

- Data needs and inventory matrix
- Materials review
- Finalize goals and objectives

Stakeholder Outreach

- Rio Grande Valley Steering Committee
- Enhance local and regional stakeholder database
- Develop list of interview targets

Contact Information

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