



Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Transportation Plan

RGV Steering Committee Kick Off Meeting



December 4, 2019



1	Welcome and Introductions	9:00 – 9:30
2	Purpose, Goals, and Objectives	9:30 – 10:00
3	Key Tasks	10:00 – 10:15
4	Needs and Opportunities	10:15 – 10:45
5	Stakeholder Engagement	10:45 – 11:15
6	Closing and Next Steps	11:15 – 11:30



- **Project Team**
- **Committee Introductions**
- **Welcoming Remarks**
 - Casey Wells, TxDOT Project Manager
 - Andrew Canon, Executive Director, RGV MPO
 - Commissioner Alvin New, Texas Transportation Commission

Overview of Steering Committee



Represents locations, industries, transportation network operators, and other interests within the region

Meets approximately four times throughout Plan development

Advises on the region's freight goals, priorities, and stakeholders

Verifies findings through local experience and knowledge

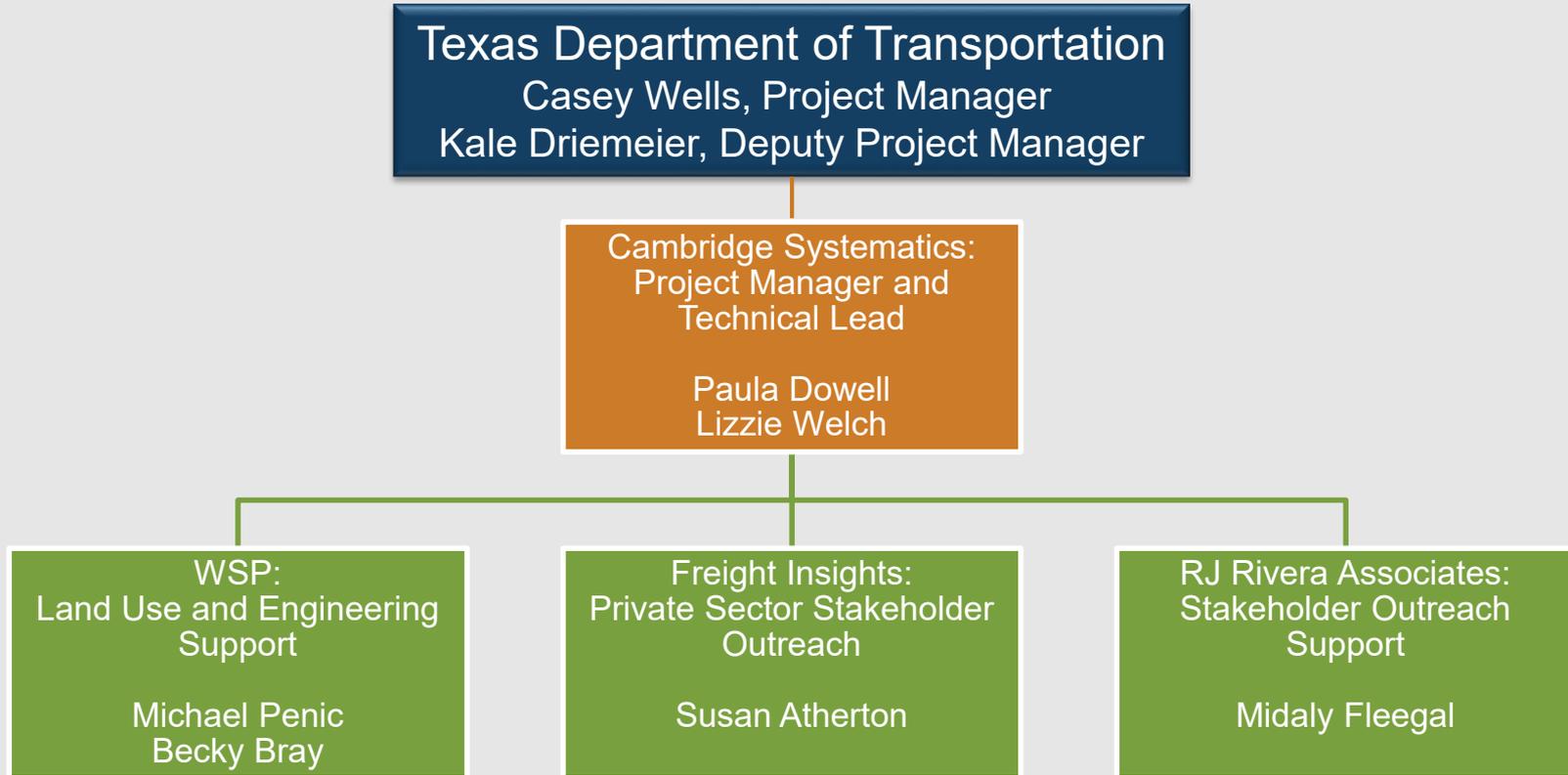
Reviews intermediate deliverables throughout Plan development

Advises at key decision points, such as project prioritization methods

Plan Overview

Purpose, Goals, and Objectives







2018 Texas Freight Mobility Plan

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

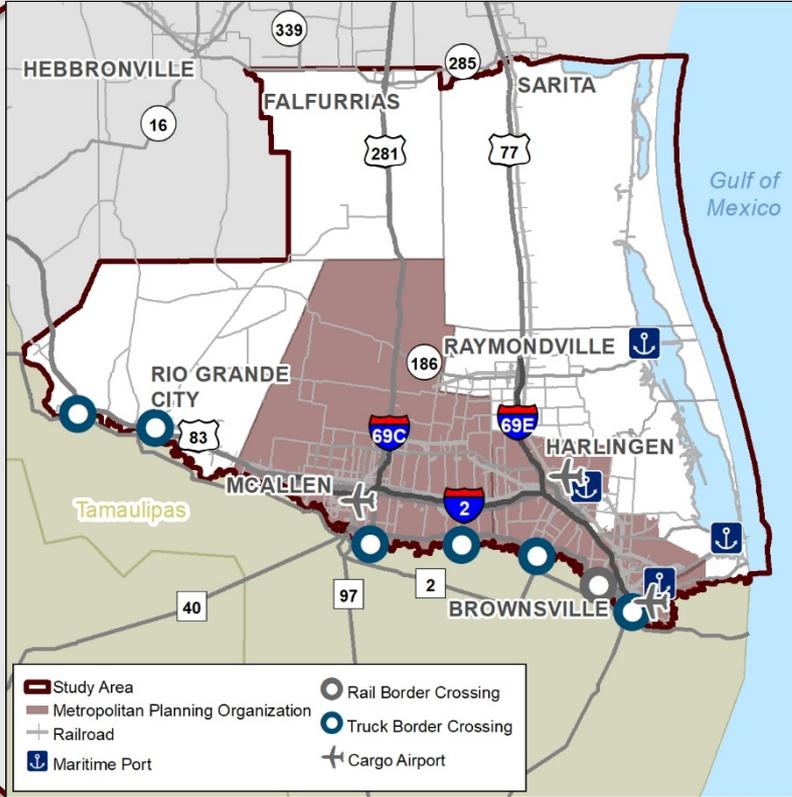
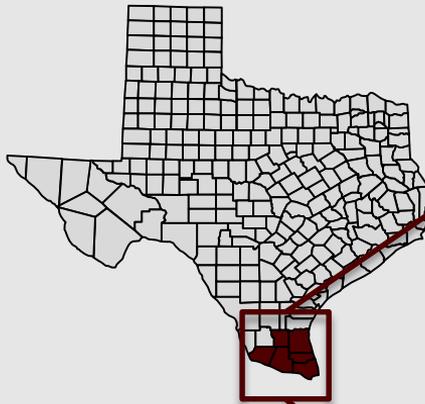
TX-MX Border Transportation Master Plan (on-going)

- 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

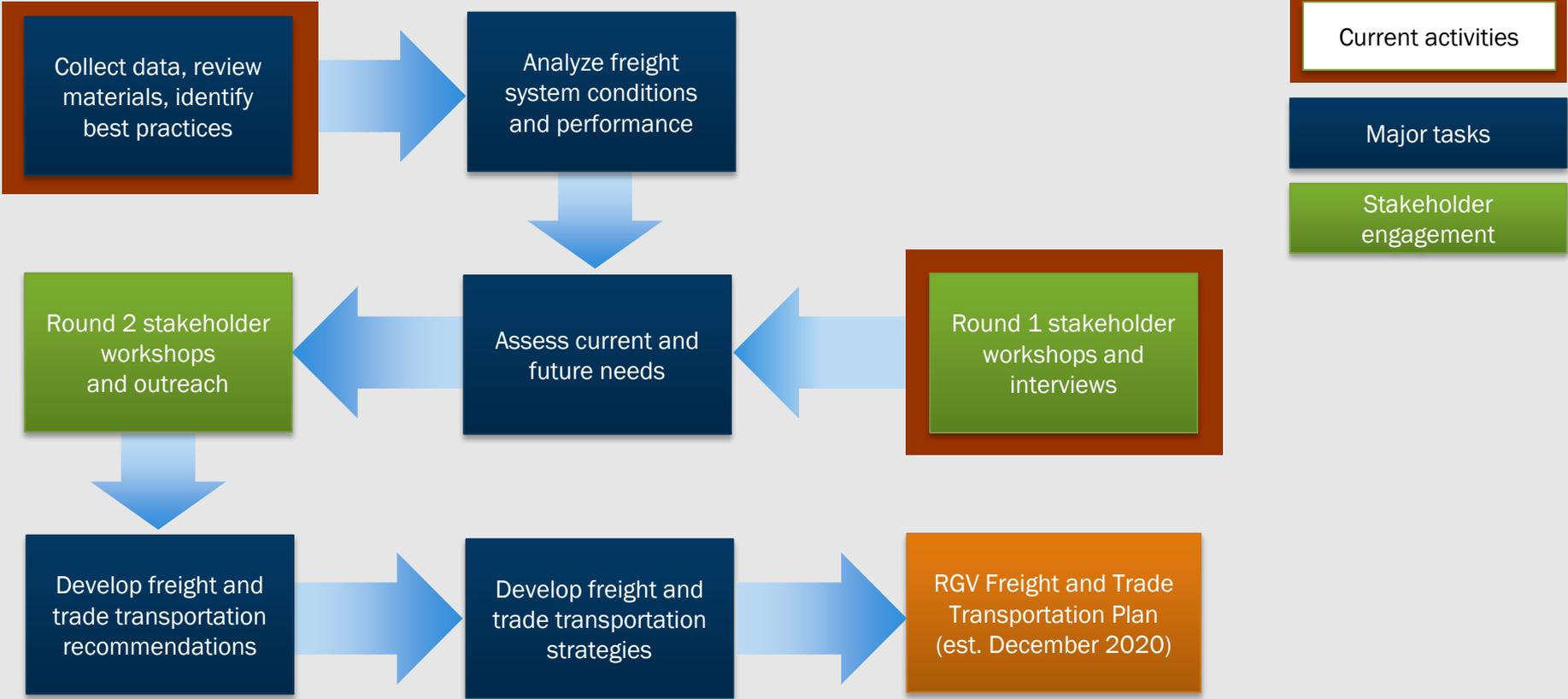
- Covers 6-counties in the RGV
- Focuses on freight and trade movement at local level
- Analyzes infrastructure, operations, land use, and economic impact specific to the region

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

Project Approach





PURPOSE

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

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 specific freight and trade-related transportation needs and opportunities impacting the Texas Multimodal Freight Network and statewide economic competitiveness



What does your organization need from a regional freight and cross-border trade plan?

How would this plan be useful to your organization?

Goals will be pursued through...



Local and regional
data collection

Enhanced regional
freight and trade
forecasts

Identification of a
regional multimodal
freight and trade
transportation
network

Analysis of local
land use and freight
and trade mobility

Identification of
regional, statewide,
national, and
international sphere
of influence

Recommendation
of strategies for
freight and trade
mobility, safety,
and connectivity



Purpose, Goals, and Objectives

The draft purpose, goals, and objectives of the Rio Grande Valley Regional Freight and Trade Plan are presented in this handout. Input from the Steering Committee is needed to confirm or revise the goals and objectives to meet the needs of the region.

Please use this handout to propose edits or additions to the plan purpose, goals, and objectives.

Member Name: _____

Organization: _____

Purpose

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

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 cross-border trade related transportation needs and opportunities impacting the Texas Multimodal Freight Network and statewide economic competitiveness.

Additional Proposed Goal(s):

Would you modify the plan **goals**?

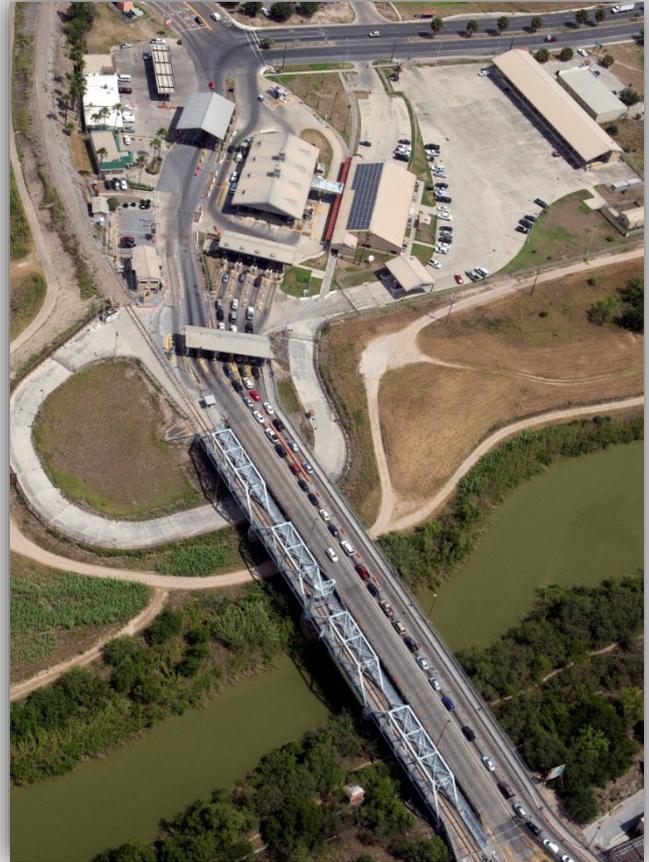
If so, in what way?

Would you modify the plan **objectives**?

If so, in what way?

Plan Overview

Key Tasks





Existing Conditions

- Existing data and plans
- Infrastructure condition
- Congestion, bottlenecks, and reliability
- Safety and crash analysis
- Connectivity analysis
- Commodity flow and supply chain patterns
- Operational constraints
- Stakeholder input

Future Conditions

- Commodity flow forecasts
- Travel demand modeling
- Stakeholder input



Current and Future Needs Assessment

Key Task: Economic Importance of the Rio Grande Valley



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 the economic impact of multimodal freight and cross-border trade transportation

Assess implications of not effectively meeting the region's freight and trade cross-border transportation needs

Collect and evaluate relevant regional socioeconomic and other data



- Federal and state data sources on cross-border activity, trade volumes, vehicle counts, crashes, asset condition, etc.
- Freight and modal profiles – *highway, rail, maritime, brokers, warehousing*
- Economic impact of cross-border trade
- **Throughout: utilize data collected by the TX-MX BTMP**
- **Regional insight**
 - What additional data should we consider, especially locally focused?
 - Does your organization have information that would improve our estimation of freight movement, supply chain linkages, or economic impact?
 - What local entities have this information?

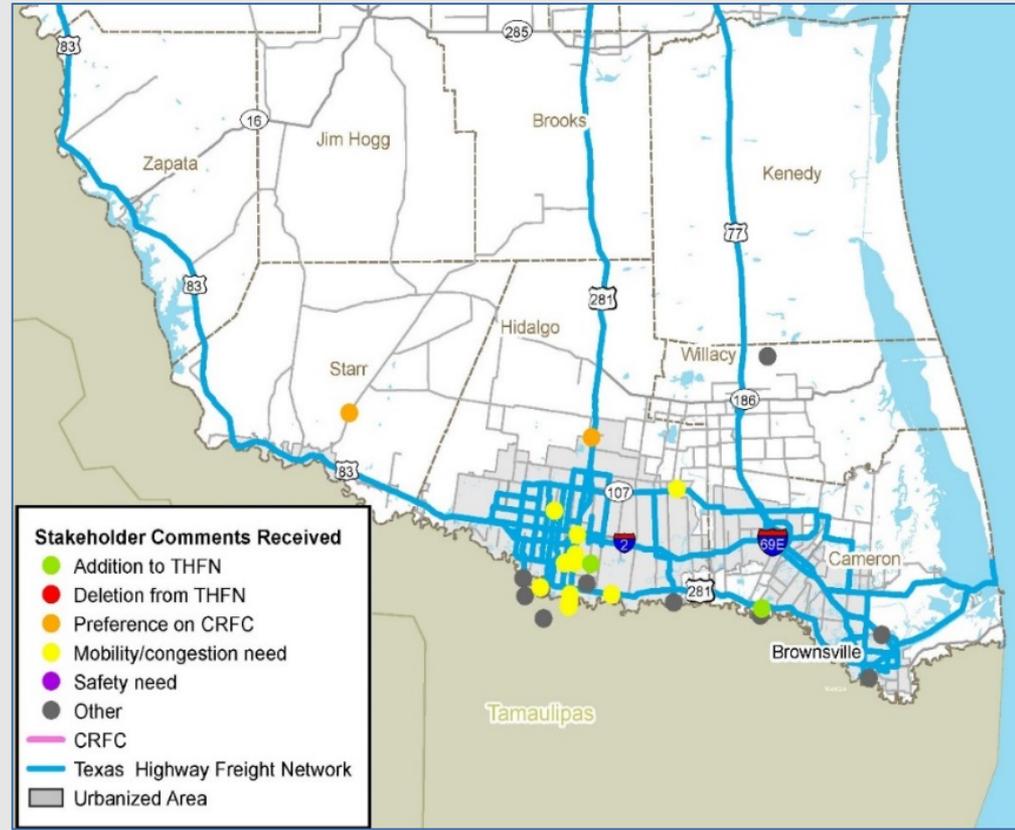
Needs and Opportunities



Needs Identified in the 2018 TFMP and BTMP



- Lack of or strained local and regional connectivity impacts regional mobility and connection to hinterland markets
- Inefficiency in moving freight in and out of intermodal facilities and border crossings increases public and private costs
- Warehousing facilities are often accessed by roads not designed for freight vehicles
- Oversize and overweight truck traffic in the RGV require targeted strategies to improve mobility, asset condition, and safety in the region





- What freight or trade **needs and challenges** does your organization face?
- What **opportunities** do you see for the region?
- What are the **can't-miss critical freight/trade issues** in this region?

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Stakeholder Engagement





Steering Committee

- Regional leaders in freight and trade transportation
- Guidance on key decision points throughout project
- Recommendations for stakeholder interviews

Focus Groups and Interviews

- Targeted industries, carriers, public entities
- Provide input on needs, challenges, trends, and opportunities specific to their experience and the region as a whole

MPO Committees

- Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Board
- Verify findings and vet potential strategies

Online Survey

- Collect input on regional priorities, needs, and opportunities
- Interactive map to identify safety hotspots, chokepoints, etc.



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

Freight handling facilities

- Rail terminals, maritime ports, ports of entry
- Trucking terminals / transload facilities
- Warehousing and distribution centers
- Foreign Trade Zones

Transportation and Trade Associations

- Border Trade Alliance
- Texas International Produce Association
- South Texas Manufacturers Association
- Customs Brokers Associations

Economic development organizations

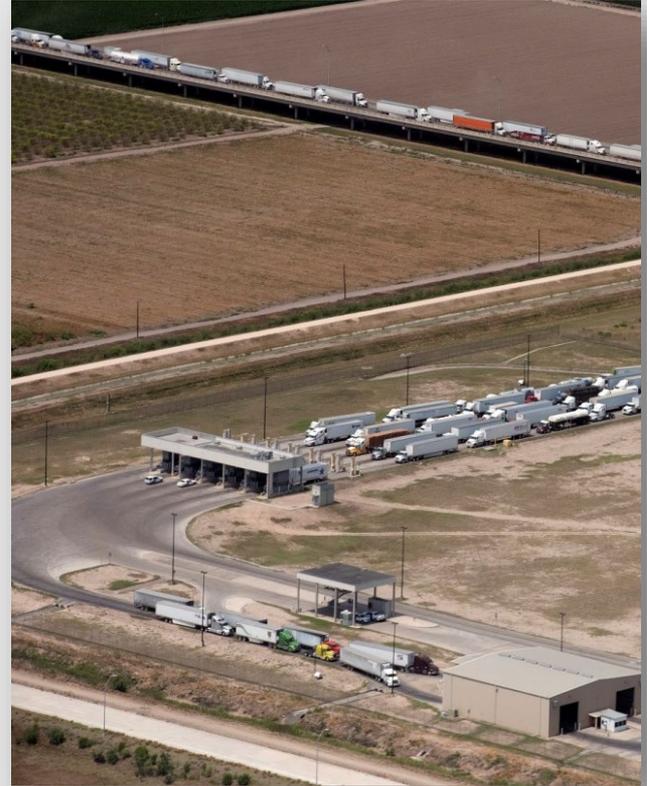
- Chambers of commerce
- Economic development agencies
- Private developers



What are some other organizations or people we should involve in outreach?

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Closing and Next Steps





Technical Analysis

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

Stakeholder Outreach

- Online survey
- Stakeholder interviews
- Focus groups (Spring 2020)
- Next RGVSC meeting (Spring 2020)

Project Milestones and Timeline



Milestones	Schedule
Stakeholder outreach plan, review of freight data and studies	Summer 2019 – Fall 2019
Stakeholder interviews, data collection	Fall 2019 – Winter 2020
Regional freight profile, needs assessment, and performance measures	Winter 2020 – Summer 2020
Regional freight recommendations, strategies, and implementation plan	Summer 2020 – Fall 2020
Regional Freight Plan and Executive Summary	Late 2020

Contact Information



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