

activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS).

During project development, HSBMPO staff will work with the entity responsible for implementation of the project to assure that potential air quality issues are adequately addressed and mitigated according to federal law. Air quality is another important part of environmental protection and is a very important aspect of transportation planning.

## 8 MTP Public Comments

This chapter outlines the Harlingen-San Benito MPO's public outreach efforts and outlines the efforts to pursue public comments for the *2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan*.

### **2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Comment Efforts**

The Harlingen-San Benito MPO has been seeking comments from the general public, planning partners and other interested parties since March 2014. Efforts to obtain information were made by posting public comments notices in the Harlingen-San Benito MPO website, HSBMPO & You Newsletter, and the local newspapers.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Meeting**

The Harlingen-San Benito MPO hosted the first public meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2014 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. The meeting was focused on what the MTP is and that the document would be updated.

Two individuals attended the meeting. They both had questions on what was the MTP and what projects were in the plan. The MPO staff answered their questions.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Meeting**

The Harlingen-San Benito MPO hosted a second public meeting on Friday, March 21, 2014 from 11:00am to 1:00pm. The meeting was focused on what the MTP is and that the document would be updated.

A total of eight people attended the meeting. Some had questions on what was the MTP; others had questions as to how to add projects into the MTP. The MPO staff answered their questions. One public comment sheet was turned in to the MPO. See figure 8.1.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Meeting**

The Harlingen-San Benito MPO hosted a third public meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2014 from 11:30am to 1:00pm. The meeting was focused on public transportation for the MTP.

A total of seven people attended the meeting. Most of them had questions on how to get the bus, what are the times schedules for the bus, and what is the cost of fare. One individual had a question on what are Valley Metro's future projects. Mr. Rodney Gomez from Valley Metro answered their questions.

### **Final 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Meeting**

The Harlingen-San Benito MPO hosted the final public meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2014 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. The 2015-2040 MTP Draft Document was presented to the public.

Two individuals attended the meeting. One of them wanted more information on the FM 509 Ext Project. The MPO staff answered their question. One public comment sheet was turned in to the MPO. See figure 8.2.

The Harlingen-San Benito MPO will continue meeting with the member cities and TxDOT in order to continue with the development of the 2015-2040 MTP document, which includes the listing of projects. The 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan was presented to the Technical Advisory Committee on November 20, 2014. The 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan was also presented to the Transportation Policy Committee and the document was approved and adopted on December 3, 2014.



## PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

If you would like to make a written comment, please fill out the following information and write your comment below:

Name: Raudel Garza

Organization/Company: Harlingen Economic Development Corp.

Address: 2424 Boxwood Street, Ste 125

City: Harlingen State: TX Zip: 78550

Comments may be handed in or mailed to: Harlingen-San Benito MPO Attn: Kara Alcocer, 502 E. Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550. You may also email us your comments to: [kalcocer@myharlingen.us](mailto:kalcocer@myharlingen.us).

Comments: The overweight corridor coming from the  
Free Trade Bridge along FM509 to I-2 should be  
extended north to the Harlingen Industrial Park  
and continuing to the Port of Harlingen.  
Along with that, upgrading that roadway to  
interstate standards, as was done with Bryan  
Road in Mission, should be a high priority  
to accommodate future growth in international  
trade.



## PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET (November 20, 2014)

If you would like to make a written comment, please fill out the following information and write your comment below:

Name: JUDY RUTH FUNK

Organization/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 1049 E. Alcott Ave

City: Harlingen State: TX Zip: 78550

Comments may be handed in or mailed to: Harlingen-San Benito MPO Attn: Joe Vasquez, 502 E. Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550. You may also email us your comments to: [jvasquez@myharlingen.us](mailto:jvasquez@myharlingen.us).

Comments: Please keep me informed as to  
progress of extension of FM 509 northside  
of Harlingen

Email: jruthfunk@yahoo.com

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# 9 Conclusion

The 2015-2040 MTP thus far provides an inventory of the HSBMPO's MAB existing conditions, forecasts the HSBMPO's MAB future conditions, identifies goals and objectives for the future transportation system; analyses the current system to determine areas of need; identifies projects; strategies, and initiatives to improve the system; identifies financial resources available to implement the proposed projects; and, identifies potential impacts and mitigation strategies to the natural and human environment.

Upon adopting the newly developed 2015-2040 MTP, the HSBMPO moves to plan monitoring and plan updates, as needed, to ensure project implementation consistency with the MTP and to track how well the MTP's assumptions fit with the changing socioeconomic data conditions.