

Commonly Used Transportation-Related Acronyms for the San Antonio-Bexar County MPO

MPO Committees:

BMAC: Bicycle Mobility Advisory Committee

BMAC advises the Transportation Policy Board issues relating to bicycling concerns. BMAC membership includes representation from interested citizens, economic development interests, the Alamo Area Council of Governments; Bexar County; City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Department, and Office of Sustainability; Texas Department of Transportation, VIA Metropolitan Transit; Greater Bexar County Council of Cities, VIA Transit Police and City of San Antonio Bicycle Patrol, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio Wheelmen, South Texas Off Road Mountain Bikers, Texas Bicycle Coalition, school districts, and a bicycle organization. BMAC generally meets monthly.

PMAC: Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee

PMAC advises the Transportation Policy Board issues relating to pedestrian concerns. PMAC membership includes representation from interested citizens, the Alamo Area Council of Governments, Bexar County, Bexar ADA Council, City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Department, Metro Health, and Public Works Department, San Antonio Utility Coordination Council, Texas Department of Transportation, VIA Metropolitan Transit; Greater Bexar County Council of Cities, and a walking organization. PMAC generally meets monthly.

SGCC: Strategic Geospatial Coordination Committee

SGCC is a regional consortium of geographic information system (GIS) users whose purpose is to coordinate projects and products, and develop consistent technical standards for geographically referenced information. SGCC membership includes staff members from the Alamo Area Council of Governments, Bexar Appraisal District, Bexar County, Bexar Metro 9-11, City of San Antonio, Comal County, City of New Braunfels, MPO, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio Water System, and three at-large members selected by the committee. The SGCC generally meets monthly.

TAC: Technical Advisory Committee

TAC reports directly to the Transportation Policy Board, and provides guidance on the technical products and procedures employed in the transportation planning process, reviews and submits recommendations on the development of Unified Planning Work Program, Transportation Improvement Program, Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the subsequent amendments to each. TAC also reviews any item requested by the Transportation Policy Board and reports its findings to the Transportation Policy Board. TAC membership includes representation from the Alamo Area Council of

Governments; Bexar County, City of San Antonio Planning Department, City of San Antonio Public Works Department, Greater Bexar County Council of Cities, Northeast Partnership, Private Transportation Providers, Texas Department of Transportation, and VIA Metropolitan Transit. TAC generally meets monthly.

TPB: Transportation Policy Board

The policy organizational unit, as outlined in the most recent designation agreement, is the Transportation Policy Board. The Transportation Policy Board is composed of elected and appointed officials representing the Advanced Transportation District, Alamo Regional Mobility Authority, City of Boerne, City of New Braunfels, City of San Antonio, City of Seguin, Bexar County, Comal County, Guadalupe County, Greater Bexar County Council of Cities, the Northeast Partnership, Texas Department of Transportation and VIA Metropolitan Transit. Its responsibilities are as follows:

- 1 Provide policy guidance for the transportation planning process.
- 2 Carry out, in cooperation with the State and local governments, and annually certify a transportation planning process that is in full compliance with Federal requirements.
- 3 Set goals and cooperatively determine the responsibilities of the participating agencies for planning tasks and a budget in the Unified Planning Work Program.
- 4 Review and adopt the Texas Metropolitan Mobility Plan/ Regional Mobility Plan and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (revised as necessary) which provides for both the near-term and long-term needs of the Study area.
- 5 Develop in cooperation with the State and local governments and annually endorse a multi-year Transportation Improvement Program which is consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- 6 Review and revise the limits of the Study area as necessary.
- 7 Designate a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and any other such offices, technical committees, or task forces as found necessary to carry out the transportation planning process.
- 8 Meet at intervals necessary to perform its function.
- 9 Appoint an MPO Director.

Agencies and Organizations:

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

EPA is the federal regulatory agency responsible for administering and enforcing federal environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and others.

FHWA: Federal Highway Administration

FHWA is a branch of the US Department of Transportation that administers the Federal-aid Highway Program, providing financial assistance to states to construct and improve highways, urban and rural roads, and bridges.

FTA: Federal Transit Administration

FTA is a branch of the US Department of Transportation that is the principal source of federal financial assistance to America's communities for planning, development, and improvement of public or mass transportation systems.

MPO: Metropolitan Planning Organization

An MPO is a regional transportation policy body, required in urbanized areas with populations over 50,000, and designated by local officials and the governor of the state. The MPO is responsible, in cooperation with the state and other transportation providers, for carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning requirements of federal highway and transit legislation.

TCEQ: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

TCEQ is the state regulatory agency responsible for administering and enforcing federal environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and others.

Selected Funding Sources:

ATD: Advanced Transportation District

Creation of the Advanced Transportation District and authorization of the imposition of a local sales and use tax for advanced transportation (Senate Bill 769) was enacted by the Texas Legislature during the 1999 session. The Texas Legislature amended this legislation in 2003. Advanced transportation as defined in the legislation includes light rail, commuter rail, fixed guideways, traffic management systems, busways, bus lanes, technologically advanced bus transit vehicles and systems, bus rapid transit vehicles and systems, passenger amenities, transit centers, stations, electronic transit-related

information, fare, and operating systems, high occupancy vehicle lanes, traffic signal prioritization and coordination systems, monitoring systems, and other advanced transportation facilities, equipment, operations, systems, and services, including planning, feasibility studies, operations, and professional and other services in connection with such facilities, equipment, operations, systems, and services.

VIA ordered an election for November 2, 2004. Voters in Bexar County approved the sales tax increase at the rate of one-fourth of one percent.

STP-MM: Surface Transportation Program – Metropolitan Mobility

The STP-MM funding category, also known as “Category 7”, is to address transportation needs within the metropolitan area boundaries of MPOs with populations greater than 200,000. It is the most flexible federal funding source and projects are selected by the MPO. The funding can be used on functionally classified roadways greater than a local road or rural minor collector. Use of the funds requires a 20% local match. The MPO’s average annual allocation over the past 17 years of the program is \$19.5M (\$15.6M is the federal amount).

TMF: Texas Mobility Fund

Texas voter approval in 2001 of Proposition 15 and enactment of legislation by the 77th Legislature in 2001 created the Texas Mobility Fund. The creation of the Mobility Fund allows TxDOT to issue bonds secured by future revenue. This allows the acceleration of mobility projects throughout the state. The Mobility Fund is to be administered by the Texas Transportation Commission (the Commission) as a revolving fund to provide a method of financing for the construction, reconstruction, acquisition and expansion of state highways, including costs of any necessary design and costs of acquisition of rights-of-way, as determined by the Commission in accordance with standards and procedures established by law.

Prop 12: Proposition 12 Funding

In November 2007 Texas voters approved Proposition 12, which authorized the issuance of up to \$5 billion in general obligation bonds. In June 2009 the 81st Texas Legislature approved Senate Bill 1, authorizing TxDOT to go to contract on approximately \$2 billion in voter-approved bonds for non-tolled highway projects. In November 2009 the Texas Transportation Commission took a final vote on the approved list of Prop12-funded projects (\$2 billion) that would go to construction. In June 2011 Rider 42 authorized the remaining \$3 billion in general obligation bonds. Funded projects will begin construction in Summer 2012 and Summer 2013.

Federal and State Plans, Programs and Processes:

“Long Range Transportation Plan” Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

The MTP is the official multi-modal, financially constrained transportation plan that is developed and adopted through the metropolitan transportation planning process for the metropolitan planning area. Locally, the project list is amended quarterly but a complete plan update is federally required to be completed every five years.

“Short Range Transportation Plan” Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The TIP is a financially constrained document prepared by an MPO that lists roadway, bicycle, pedestrian and transit projects to be funded with FHWA/FTA and state funds for the next four-year time period.

“Statewide Short Range Plan” Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

The STIP is a staged, multi-year, statewide, intermodal program of transportation projects, consistent with the statewide transportation plan and planning processes as well as metropolitan plans, TIPs, and processes. It is generally amended on a quarterly basis.

“TxDOT’s Ten Year Plan” Unified Transportation Program (UTP)

The UTP is a statewide ten year financial plan that is adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission and is the Commission’s mechanism to authorize project development. Funding categories include:

- Category 1 Preventative Maintenance & Rehabilitation
- Category 2 Metro and Urban Corridor Projects
- Category 3 Non-traditional Funding
- Category 4 Statewide Connectivity Corridor (Rural)
- Category 5 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Category 6 Structure Rehabilitation
- Category 7 Metro Mobility (Surface Transportation Program – Metro Mobility or STP-MM) (MPO Discretionary)
- Category 8 Safety
- Category 9 Transportation Enhancements Program
- Category 10 Miscellaneous
- Category 11 District Discretionary
- Category 12 Strategic Priority (Texas Transportation Commission Discretionary)

“Needs Based Plan” Texas Metropolitan Mobility Plan (TMMP)

The TMMP addresses a statewide initiative to quantify long-range transportation needs within the eight large metropolitan areas of the state and to develop a shorter-range prioritized listing of projects aimed at improving mobility, reducing traffic congestion, and mitigating air quality impacts. Unlike the region's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Mobility 2030), it is not financially constrained. The TMMP focuses on the magnitude of unmet transportation needs for the region and provides decision-makers with a better feel for the quantity of additional funding needed.

“Unified Planning Work Program”, UPWP or “MPO Budget Document”

The UPWP is the management plan for the metropolitan planning program. Its purpose is to specify and coordinate the planning activities of all participants in the planning process. Activities are arranged under five tasks: 1) Administration, 2) Data Development, 3) Short Range Planning, 4) Long Range Planning, and 5) Special Studies. Planning studies and their budgets are delineated in the document.

“State Air Quality Plan” State Implementation Plan (SIP)

The SIP is produced by the state environmental agency. It is a plan mandated by the Clean Air Act Amendments that contains procedures to monitor, control, maintain, and enforce compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. It must be taken into account in the transportation planning process if an area is “non-attainment”.

“Comprehensive Development Agreement” (CDA)

A Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA) is a public-private partnership that provides needed funding to build projects. For projects of substantial cost, private financing, only recently allowed by the Texas Legislature, may be required. In Texas, CDAs are awarded to a company or team of companies that may provide any combination of finance, design, construction, maintenance and operation services under Department of Transportation guidelines.

“Managed Lanes”

Managed lanes are typically dedicated lanes reserved to meet changing travel needs. Some lanes may be reserved for high occupancy vehicles, commercial vehicles or time-of-day adjusted fees. Drivers typically have a choice of paying to use the managed lanes when the value of a trip is worth the money, or using the free lanes. The value to the users of the managed lanes is the predictability and reliability of travel times throughout the day.

