



Texas Transportation Plan 2050

Public Outreach Plan 2019

Transportation Planning and Programming Division

Introduction

Over the next year, the Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will be engaged in the development of the Texas Transportation Plan (TTP) 2050. When completed, TTP 2050 will serve as TxDOT's long-range, performance-based transportation plan that will guide planning and programming decisions for the development, integrated management, and operation of the statewide, multimodal transportation system in Texas until a subsequent plan update is approved. Historically, TxDOT has used a 25-year planning horizon for the TTP, but for this cycle, the Texas Transportation Commission has adopted a 30-year planning horizon to provide a broader perspective to the planning effort. The 2050 plan is slated for adoption by 2019 to ensure it addresses federal requirements.

The TTP 2050 development team is comprised of personnel from TxDOT's TPP Division and the Consultant Team led by High Street Consulting Group. The TPP Division's Management Team is led by Casey Dusza with support from Ibrahim Tembely, Laura Perez, and Susan Rossi. The High Street team is led by Kevin Ford with support from a consulting team that includes a broad range of consulting experts, including staff from Ximenes & Associates, who will lead public involvement efforts for the planning process.

Project Objectives

Once adopted, TTP 2050 will address statewide planning requirements under the current federal surface transportation statutes, as defined by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 16. Together, these requirements establish the need for the State of Texas and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to measure, manage, and make progress towards improving system performance levels with respect to safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, freight movement and economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and reduced project delivery delays. Of particular relevance, federal surface transportation statutes require:

- Consideration of all transportation modes;
- Coverage of all areas of the state;
- A 20-year minimum planning horizon;
- Consultation with various entities involved with transportation, land use management, natural resources, Native American Indian Tribes, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation; provide for reasonable opportunity for interested parties and the public to comment on the proposed plan;
- Discussion of potential environmental mitigation strategies;
- Inclusion of preservation and management strategies and investments to ensure an efficient system;

- Establishment and use of a performance-based approach that sets performance measures and targets and a system performance report and status updates that reflect actual performance with respect to the measures and targets; and
- Development of capital, operations, and management strategies, investments, procedures, and other measures to ensure preservation and efficient use of the existing system.

In addition, the following Texas laws require that TxDOT incorporate various considerations into the development of long-range plan updates:

- House Bill 20 - establishes measures and tools in a collaborative fashion with other entities;
- Senate Bill 312 - consistent application of goals and measures, making performance-based decisions, effectively communicating results, and prioritizing investments; and
- Senate Bill 1420 - the contents of the plan must include goals and targets; priority corridors, projects, or areas; a participation plan, collaboration with MPOs; transportation goal status reports with TxDOT District, Legislative District, and other political district-specific information that is internet-accessible to the public.

As the successor to the first performance-based, multimodal transportation plan, Texas Transportation Plan 2040 (TTP 2040), TTP 2050 will further the analysis of increasing system demand and assess the impact of emerging technologies. This comprehensive approach will meet or exceed the regulations outlined above. In turn, it will allow decision-makers to better manage transportation assets and develop performance measures and targets to prioritize needs, and align resources, for optimal system performance.

The analysis will include:

- Reviewing and revising goals, objectives, and performance measures consistent with – and in direct support of – on-going state initiatives in metropolitan and rural areas of Texas;
- A descriptive inventory of the existing system;
- An assessment of modal and intermodal conditions;
- An analysis of current and forecasted demand and needs by mode;
- An assessment of investment alternatives and performance outcomes consistent with TTP 2050 goals, objectives, and on-going state initiatives;
- A discussion of implementation strategies for further integrating the State Long Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP) with the state programming processes;
- A description of existing funding sources by mode;
- A projection or forecast of future funding by mode;
- An analysis of safety and security on the transportation system;
- An analysis of existing emerging transportation technologies;

- An analysis and discussion of the progress toward of the goals in the TTP 2040 and Texas Rural Transportation Plan (TRTP);
- Incorporation of the state and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) efforts to develop performance measures and targets pursuant to MAP-21 and FAST Act;
- Involvement of a Technical Working Group and stakeholder groups to provide subject matter expertise and input on the TTP 2050 Plan content; and
- A summary of Consultation, Participation, and Public Involvement efforts.

Purpose of Public Outreach Plan

TxDOT and the Consultant Team understand that communication and transparency are critical to building trust with stakeholders and the public. Well-informed stakeholders can provide valuable input for the transportation planning process. The project team will thoughtfully consider the input and feedback on TTP content received during the public involvement process. The purpose of this document, the Public Outreach Plan (POP), is to outline a public involvement process that is transparent and provides stakeholders and the public with:

- Educational materials and access to the data and information such as documents, exhibits, schematics, maps, and photographs, used in the development of TTP 2050; and
- An opportunity to review and provide input and comments at key decision points throughout the development of TTP 2050.

Stakeholder and Public Participation Objectives

The outreach efforts associated with development of TTP 2050 will strive to achieve the following seven objectives:

- 1) Establish early and continuous public participation opportunities that provide timely information about transportation issues and decision-making processes to all interested parties;
- 2) Provide reasonable public access to educational, technical, and policy information to enhance the public's knowledge and ability to participate in the development of TTP 2050;
- 3) Provide adequate public notice of participation opportunities during the development of TTP 2050, and time for public review and comment at key decision points in the planning process;
- 4) Ensure that public participation opportunities are held at convenient and accessible locations and times and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990;
- 5) Make information easy to understand, using visualization techniques, and available in commonly-used electronically-accessible formats and means, such as Portable Document Format (PDF) and PowerPoint presentation via the TxDOT website, technology-enabled media, such as Facebook and Twitter, and video-teleconferencing;

- 6) Include measures for seeking input from, and considering the needs of, those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems as defined in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), such as low-income, minority, and non-English speaking households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services; and
- 7) Provide for the periodic review, and revisions as deemed appropriate, of the public participation process to ensure the effectiveness of TxDOT's public involvement efforts.

Stakeholder and Public Participation Approach

The stakeholder and public participation activities for the TTP 2050 are intended to solicit meaningful input from:

- Users of the transportation system (all modes), including disabled, low-income, minority, and non-English speaking populations;
- Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations (MPOs and RPOs);
- Public transportation agencies (metropolitan and rural);
- Texas Freight Mobility Plan stakeholder engagement efforts;
- Private providers of transportation;
- Affected state and federal resource agencies;
- Affected Tribal Governments;
- State and local elected officials (metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas); and
- All other interested parties.

Technical Working Group (TWG) Meetings

The TWG will include subject matter experts from within TxDOT who will meet, as necessary, to participate in an on-going dialogue with regard to TTP 2050 goals, measurements, and targets. This group's participation will provide comprehensive support and oversight to guide the cross-disciplined approach to the development of TTP 2050.

Stakeholder Workshops/Public Open Houses

All stakeholders are of vital importance to TxDOT, and will play a significant role in the development of the TTP 2050. A smaller representative group of stakeholders and planning partners with subject matter expertise in transportation planning and delivery – as defined in 23 USC 135(f)(3) as “interested parties” – will be invited to participate in two rounds of TTP 2050 development workshops. The TWG assisted the project team in identifying the following entities to invite to participate:

- TxDOT Districts and Divisions
- Councils of Governments
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Port Authority
- Counties, cities/municipalities
- Elected local and state officials

- Federal Highways Administration
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- MPOs and Rural Planning Organizations
- Native American Tribes
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Regional mobility authorities
- Transit/Rail providers
- Transportation related non-government organizations

This diverse set of stakeholders will be invited to engage and contribute to the development of TTP 2050 to ensure a well-balanced, multi-disciplined, and multimodal approach.

While the aforementioned stakeholders will contribute significantly to the plan, the general public's input and feedback is imperative and important to us. TxDOT and the Consultant Team will use traditional participation methods and technology-enabled media to engage the general public about TTP 2050, solicit their comments, and invite them to actively participate, online and in-person, in its development. The team will promote activities through neighborhood and community groups, civic and professional organizations, churches, and educational institutions. Special consideration will be given to the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems as defined in Title VI, such as low-income, minority, and non-English speaking households who may face challenges accessing employment and other services.

Two rounds of stakeholder workshops/public open houses will be held in locations throughout the state (Table 1).

- Round 1 will include 14 stakeholder workshops and 14 public open houses between January and March 2019.
- Round 2 will include 14 stakeholder workshops and 14 public open houses between June and July 2019.

The purpose of the first round of workshops and open houses will be two-pronged:

- 1) To educate and inform about funding, performance-based metrics, environmental elements, disaster planning, and the TTP 2050 process and schedule; and
- 2) To collect and garner understanding about local transportation needs and priorities.

The second round of workshops and open houses will be held to validate and present the first round findings and gather feedback on the proposed system scenarios and investment strategies that will form the basis of the TTP 2050. Finally, the effort will culminate into a public hearing that will allow stakeholders and the public to provide comments on the draft TTP 2050. Each engagement round and the public hearing will be followed by a comment period of at least 15 days. During that time, other comments will be received through various published avenues and included in the documentation for that particular round or the public hearing.

Table 1. Round 1 Stakeholder Workshop and Public Open House Schedule

TTP 20150 Public Outreach Schedule for Rounds 1 and 2				
Round 1 Anticipated Dates	In-Person Stakeholder Workshop & Public Open House Location	Stakeholder Video Teleconference Opportunity	Virtual Open House (VOH)	Round 2 Anticipated Dates
Tuesday January 29	Austin	✓	↑ ↓	June/July 2019
Thursday January 31	San Antonio	✓		June/July 2019
Tuesday February 5	Laredo	✓		June/July 2019
Wednesday February 6	Corpus Christi	✓		June/July 2019
Thursday February 7	Pharr	✓		June/July 2019
Tuesday February 19	Tyler	✓		June/July 2019
Wednesday February 20	Houston	✓		June/July 2019
Thursday February 21	Dallas/Fort Worth (NCTCOG)	✓		June/July 2019
Tuesday February 26	Abilene	✓		June/July 2019
Wednesday February 27	Lubbock	✓		June/July 2019
Thursday February 28	Amarillo	✓		June/July 2019
Tuesday March 5	El Paso	✓		June/July 2019
Wednesday March 6	Odessa	✓		June/July 2019
Thursday March 7	San Angelo	✓		June/July 2019

The TxDOT TTP 2050 Team will approve the information gathered for both rounds of public involvement efforts and the public hearing for consideration by the TWG. The TWG will review the information and provide feedback to the management team for further review. The information will then be presented to stakeholders and the public (process illustrated in Figure 1).

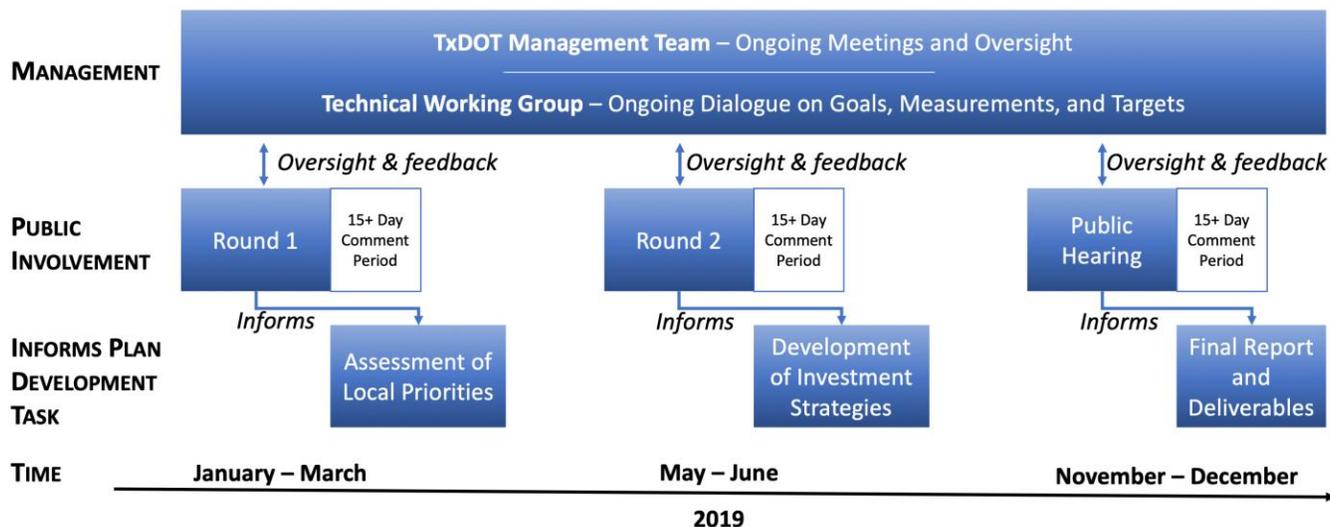


Figure 1: Public Involvement Process

To maximize resources and ensure consistency, workshops and open houses will be held at different times on the same day (with breaks between open houses), at the same location, using the same project information and visualization resources. In consultation with TxDOT Districts, the TxDOT TTP 2050 Team and Consultant Team will determine the exact date, geographic location, and venue for each workshop/open house.

All stakeholder workshops will be accessible via video teleconference (VTC) from the designated geographic location. TxDOT staff and the Consultant Team will coordinate stakeholder invitations and arrangements for VTC access. All public open houses will be accessible via online with smart phone compatibility, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, beginning with the first round of public open houses.

TxDOT and the Consultant Team will cooperatively develop all educational and informational materials for the workshops and open houses. All open house materials will be translated to Spanish and other languages as deemed necessary. The Consultant Team will package open house materials including a narrated PowerPoint presentation, illustrative boards, comment forms, handouts, and web links for use by TxDOT staff at meetings not attended or coordinated by the consultants.

Public open house notices, surveys, and comment forms will be available at the public open houses and on the TxDOT website/project webpage in both English and Spanish. Every reasonable effort will

be made to accommodate persons with disabilities and those with special communication or accommodation needs. Instructions regarding accommodation requests will be included in the public open house notices.

Virtual Open House

A new element for the TTP 2050 planning effort is the statewide introduction to a Virtual Open House (VOH). The VOH provides the public with an opportunity to explore open house materials online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week beginning with the first round of public open houses. Each VOH will include the same exhibits and stations as the actual public open houses being hosted around the state. The user will have the ability to visit the open house space and click on the various exhibits to hear a narrated explanation. The explanation will also be available in Spanish and may be read using Closed Captioning settings. If a survey is being utilized, links to the surveys will also be available through the VOH platform. Upon conclusion of visiting the VOH, users will have an opportunity to submit comments for the record.

Information and notice about the VOH will be included in all public notices and public outreach communications.

Additional Meetings/Conferences

TxDOT and the Consultant Team recognize the need to convey critical messaging surrounding the TTP to audiences other than those listed specifically in this document. As such, selected members of the Consultant Team will attend up to four conferences or additional meetings to present TTP materials, background, and findings as authorized by the TxDOT Management Team.

Interactive Planning and Programming Tool

Following Round 1 of stakeholder and public engagement activities, the Consultant Team will develop an online survey tool to provide a “real-time” planning and budgeting experience that can be explored by Round 2 workshop and public open house participants. The tool will enable users to simulate decision-making scenarios encountered in the planning and programming processes.

The tool will be developed in consultation with the TWG, based on existing conditions and needs scenarios as part of the data collection, review, and assessment of existing conditions, current/forecasted demands and needs – taking into consideration, the comments gathered and transportation priorities identified during the first round of stakeholder workshops and public open houses.

Electronic Contact and Mailing List

The Consultant Team will prepare, and update monthly, an electronic contact and mailing list for e-blast messages and public open house notifications that will be distributed via email and the United

States Postal Service (USPS) upon request. This mailing list will be based on existing TxDOT contact information and may include research to identify new stakeholders for inclusion.

Throughout the stakeholder and public participation process, interested parties will be added to the electronic contact list by registering their email address on any workshop/open house sign-in sheet, comment submittal or email correspondence, or upon request through the project webpage or project email.

The electronic contact list will be stored in a single database to be used by the project team to maintain consistency of the data and for tracking purposes.

E-Blast Messages

The project team will distribute project information via e-blast – in addition to the information provided on the project webpage – for the duration of the project. TxDOT’s Office of Public Involvement will be engaged to review the content of each E-Blast message. All project information will be distributed electronically with USPS delivery available to any stakeholder or member of the public upon request. At a minimum, three project messages will be sent.

The first TTP 2050 public message will be prepared and distributed prior to the first round of stakeholder and public open houses. It shall include information on the dates, times and locations of public open houses and a description of the purpose of the planning effort. This information will also be made available at each of the Round 1 stakeholder workshops and public open houses.

The second message will be prepared midway through the effort to provide recipients an update on the development of the TTP 2050. It will be distributed prior to the second round of stakeholder and public open houses. It shall include the status of the TTP 2050 effort and an invitation to provide comments and feedback on the planning scenarios and investment strategies.

The final message will provide information on the results of the project and will be distributed prior to the public hearing. It shall include information about the public hearing, how to access and review the draft TTP, along with next steps and dates for TTP 2050 adoption by the Texas Transportation Commission.

Surveys

Survey instruments will be accessible online via the project webpage. Alternatively, hard copies will be available at TxDOT District Offices and provided at Round 1 and Round 2 public open houses. The surveys are straightforward and will solicit stakeholder and broad community feedback. The survey will not require detailed answers or extensive writing. Hard copies of the surveys may also be completed and mailed to or dropped off at a District office or emailed using the information provided on the survey.

Project Webpage, Email, Toll- Free Hotline, and Social Media

TxDOT – in consultation with the TxDOT TTP 2050 Team and Consultant Team – will develop a TTP 2050 project webpage on TxDOT.gov, and make regular updates to the webpage content. TxDOT will be responsible for developing, maintaining, monitoring, and adding content to the webpage and will review and approve all webpage content developed by the Consultant Team. All public comments obtained via the webpage will be delivered to the Consultant Team for inclusion in the TTP 2050 Public Comment Database.

The Consultant Team and TTP staff will establish and monitor an email address to obtain public input and comments for the duration of the planning effort. The email address has been established as TTP_2050@txdot.gov. The management team will forward all email communications to Ximenes & Associates for inclusion in the Stakeholder/Public Engagement Log (Table 3). In addition to an email address, a toll-free hotline has been established to receive phone comments/messages. The hotline (1-866-TEXAS50 or 1-866-839-2750) is maintained by Ximenes & Associates, who will seek the assistance of the appropriate team members and work to respond to information requests within 48 hours. All telephone messages will be documented in the Stakeholder/Public Engagement Log (Table 3) and shared weekly (or more often as necessary) with the TxDOT TTP 2050 Team and the Consultant Team.

The project team will group comments and draft general responses to public comments and questions for review and inclusion in the public record. The public record will consist of the Round 1 Public Involvement Summary, Round 2 Public Involvement Summary, the Public Hearing Documentation, and the TTP 2050 Public Comment Database. Comments will be included in the respective summaries/documentation and all comments will be included in the database.

The Consultant Team will prepare up to three media releases for distribution by TxDOT staff and will support TxDOT's use of social media by providing text for up to 18 Twitter posts. TTP staff will be responsible for all media relations and social media with the Communications Division and District Public Information Officers.

Stakeholder/Public Engagement Log

The Consultant Team will document stakeholder and public participation activities in an electronic log for internal use by the project team. The contents will include a summary of the engagement process and copies of all E-Blast message content, open house notifications, mailing lists, attendee sign-in sheets, open house photos, open house summaries, stakeholder/public comments, and TxDOT's responses to all comments received.

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be conducted by TxDOT and held in Austin prior to finalizing the plan. The Consultant Team will provide materials for the public hearing and support TxDOT staff at the hearing and document any public comments received. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate persons with disabilities and those with special communication needs at the hearing. Instructions regarding requests will be included in the hearing notice.

Concurrent TxDOT Public Engagement Efforts

Similar public engagement initiatives for other planning activities and projects may be initiated or underway concurrent with the development of TTP 2050. To avoid confusing the public and to prevent engagement “fatigue,” the project team will coordinate activities and will accept comments from stakeholders and the public for any TxDOT activity and ensure those comments are routed to the appropriate recipient for response/action.

Key Stakeholder and Public Participation Activities

The key public engagement activities and tools to be implemented in the development of the TTP are summarized below in Table 3.

Table 3. Key Stakeholder and Public Participation Activities

First Round of Outreach			
Event	Description	Approximate Date	Desired Outcome
E-Blast #1	E-Blast announcing TTP 2050, upcoming open houses / VOH, and survey	January, 2019	Notify public of planning efforts, Round 1 open houses /VOH, and survey
Social and Digital Media	Social media and digital ads	January, 2019	Notify public of effort with links to official TTP information/notices
Stakeholder Workshops	Workshops with stakeholders (MPOs, elected officials, etc.) in 14 locations	January, 2019	Notify stakeholders of planning efforts; Obtain input/feedback on TTP framework and approach.
Public Open Houses	Public open houses in 14 locations	January 29, 2019 – March 7, 2019	Notify public of planning efforts; Obtain input/feedback from the public on TTP framework and approach.
Second Round of Outreach			
Event	Description	Approximate Date	Desired Outcome
E-Blast #2	E-Blast announcing study results to date, Round 2 open houses, and survey	Summer 2019	Notify public of current status and Round 2 public open houses and survey
Social and Digital Media	Social media and digital ads	Summer 2019	Notify public of effort with links to get to official TTP information/notices
Stakeholder Workshops	Workshops with stakeholders (MPOs, elected officials, etc.) TxDOT District Offices	Summer 2019	Notify stakeholders of TTP development status/initial study results; Continue to obtain input/feedback
Public Open Houses	Public Open Houses TxDOT District Offices	Summer 2019	Notify public of TTP development status/initial study results; Continue to obtain input/feedback
Public Hearing			
Event	Description	Approximate Date	Desired Outcome
E-Blast #3	E-Blast announcing study results and upcoming public hearing	Fall 2019	Notify public of draft TTP; Announce the Public Hearing with comment opportunities
Social and Digital Media	Social media and digital ads	Fall 2019	Notify public of draft TTP with links to official TTP information/notices
Public Hearing	Conduct a Public Hearing TxDOT Austin Office	Fall 2019	Present DRAFT final TTP document and obtain feedback from stakeholders and the public