

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY

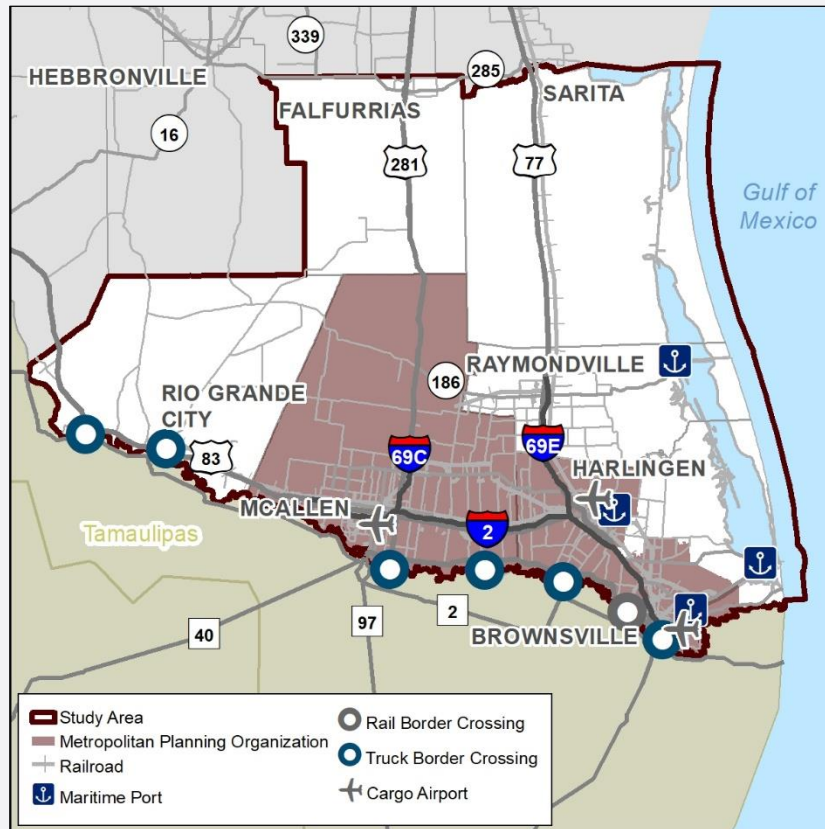
## FREIGHT AND TRADE TRANSPORTATION PLAN



### Overview

The Rio Grande Valley in South Texas is a multimodal freight and international trade hub, and its impact to the state and national economy is growing. During the development of the 2018 Texas Freight Mobility Plan, TxDOT identified the need for a regional freight and trade transportation plan to promote regional connectivity, efficiency at intermodal facilities and border crossings, and continued economic prosperity for the region, Texas, and the nation.

### Rio Grande Valley Study Area



## Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Transportation Plan Purpose:

Identify freight and trade activities, opportunities, challenges, and strategies in the region.

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## Plan Goals

The process used to develop the goals and objectives of the Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Transportation Plan includes extensive stakeholder outreach as summarized below.



State Goal Area	Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Transportation Plan Goals
 <b>Safety</b>	Improve the safety of the Rio Grande Valley region’s multimodal freight system which includes highways, railroads, maritime ports, border ports-of-entry, airports, and pipelines.
 <b>Economic Competitiveness</b>	Enhance the economic competitiveness, productivity, and development in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond by ensuring the region’s freight transportation network is robust enough to support cross-border trade and freight intensive industries.
 <b>Mobility and Reliability</b>	Enhance mobility and improve system efficiency and performance on the Rio Grande Valley transportation system by expanding capacity and addressing freight bottlenecks.
 <b>Connectivity</b>	Improve local, regional, and cross-border highway connectivity as well as connectivity between freight modes within the Rio Grande Valley.
 <b>Sustainable Funding</b>	Identify sustainable funding sources for the Rio Grande Valley’s freight and trade transportation system.
 <b>Stewardship</b>	Manage environmental and state agency resources responsibly and foster accountability and transparency in decision-making.
 <b>Customer Service</b>	Encourage local ownership of and coordination in the development of the Regional Freight Plan by engaging public and private sector stakeholders in transparent dialogue and establishing consistent strategies and recommendations.
 <b>Asset Preservation</b>	Maintain and preserve the Rio Grande Valley’s transportation infrastructure that supports multimodal and cross-border movement of freight.

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## Plan Objectives

The objectives of the Rio Grande Valley Freight and Trade Transportation Plan support the statewide and regional goals and are listed below.

Supplement state data through local and regional data collection activities specific to border crossings, seaport traffic, and regional movement.

Enhance regional freight forecasts, specifically related to international and maritime trade.

Identify and assess the regional multimodal transportation network serving freight and cross-border trade needs.

Examine the link between local land use and freight transportation demand and operations.

Define the Rio Grande Valley's sphere of influence and document key economic and transportation linkages at the regional, statewide, national, and international levels.

Identify implementable strategies for enhancing freight transportation safety, mobility, and connectivity on the local, regional, and state transportation system.

Support identification of freight transportation projects for inclusion in statewide and regional transportation improvement programs.

Enhance transportation planning and investment decision-making processes through stakeholder engagement.