

# Texas Rural Transportation Plan 2035



# Shaping the Future of Rural Texas

August 2011

## The TRTP will Focus on Rural Texas

Rural transportation planning in Texas is a collaborative process that brings the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) together with public and private transportation stakeholders, elected officials, and the public to shape the future of rural transportation for all users. Annually, the Texas Transportation Commission adopts the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) to guide the development and authorize construction of urban and rural transportation projects over the next 10 years. The TRTP will provide a more comprehensive rural component to the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan 2035 (SLRTP), and include a clearly defined process for the prioritization and development of long-range rural projects in the 14-year planning horizon between the final year of the UTP and 2035.

## The Texas Rural Transportation Plan



The Texas Rural Transportation Plan 2035 (TRTP) will focus on rural areas of the state and transportation projects that connect users in rural areas to urban markets, jobs,

and services. As a component of the SLRTP, the TRTP will provide a blueprint for the development of a more safe, efficient, and less congested transportation network between population centers, and compliment other transportation plans and programs such as the Texas Statewide Rail Plan, the Texas Airport Systems Plan, and the Unified Transportation Program. The most comparable document to the TRTP is a Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) 25-year Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

TxDOT has contracted with a team led by Atkins to provide planning and engineering services in support of the development of the TRTP. TxDOT and their study team will be engaging transportation stakeholders, elected officials, and the public to assist with the analysis



and prioritization of rural projects; as well as preparing a final ranked and scored list of roadway projects that improve connectivity and mobility, and a list of non-roadway projects and regional needs. This process will include:

- Developing a list of potential roadway and non-roadway projects in areas outside MPO planning area boundaries; and
- Assessing needs for non-roadway modes in rural areas and identifying potential projects



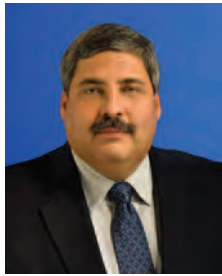
to address those needs.

This analysis will help transportation decision-makers plan for improved mobility and

connectivity among the different modes of transportation (i.e., trains, automobiles, buses and pedestrians) and between communities which will provide a more efficient rural transportation system. With limited transportation dollars, it is important to provide the best value for every transportation dollar spent. TxDOT wants and needs your perspectives and suggestions to guide future decisions. Successful development of the TRTP requires a cooperative process on the part of TxDOT, and various public and private transportation stakeholders, elected officials, and you—the traveling public.



# Texas Rural Transportation Plan 2035



Amadeo Saenz, Jr., P.E.  
Executive Director,  
Texas Department of Transportation

To the People of Texas:

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is currently developing the TRTP as a component of the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan 2035 (SLRTP). I would like to personally invite you to participate in this rural planning process.

Our mission at TxDOT is to provide safe and efficient movement of people and goods, enhance economic viability, and improve the quality of life for the people that travel in the state of Texas by maintaining existing roadways and collaborating with private and local entities to plan, design, build, and maintain expanded transportation infrastructure. We will develop the TRTP in a manner that emphasizes cooperation and accountability. Our approach is designed to promote widespread, meaningful participation from our transportation partners, public and private stakeholders, elected officials, and all Texans.

I encourage you to participate in the planning process at both the state and local level. We want to ensure that your ideas and concerns are taken into consideration as decisions are made with regard to your transportation system and the services you depend on for your quality of life.

I invite you to provide written comments at an open-house public meeting, by mail, or on the TxDOT website. Your input is essential to TxDOT's ability to serve the citizens of, and visitors to, the State of Texas and to be responsive to your transportation needs.

Sincerely,  
Amadeo Saenz, Jr.  
Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation

## Stay Connected:

- Visit our website at [http://www.txdot.gov/public\\_involvement/rural\\_2035/](http://www.txdot.gov/public_involvement/rural_2035/)
- Email comments to us at [TPP\\_TxTranPlan@dot.state.tx.us](mailto:TPP_TxTranPlan@dot.state.tx.us)
- Write to:  
Peggy Thurin, P.E., Project Manager  
Texas Rural Transportation Plan 2035  
4544 Post Oak Place, #224  
Houston, TX 77027
- Call us toll-free at 1-855-TX-RURAL (1-855-897-8725)
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube
- Attend a public meeting in early 2012 (dates and locations will be posted in the next newsletter and on the website)

## How Will We Compare Projects?

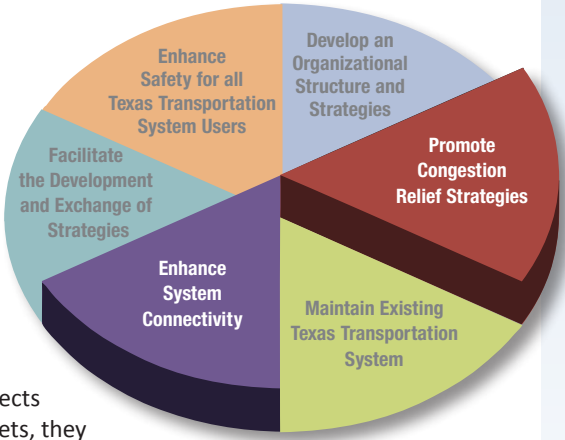
The TRTP will address ALL of the goals in the TxDOT 2011 – 2015 Strategic Plan, but roadway projects will be scored using two goals in particular:

- Enhance system connectivity
- Promote congestion relief strategies

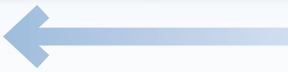
Although maintenance and safety projects are a part of rural transportation budgets, they are programmed separately. The TRTP's focus is on capacity and mobility; and as such, maintenance and safety projects will not be included in the evaluation process.

For each project, TxDOT and the study team will consider measures including, but not limited to:

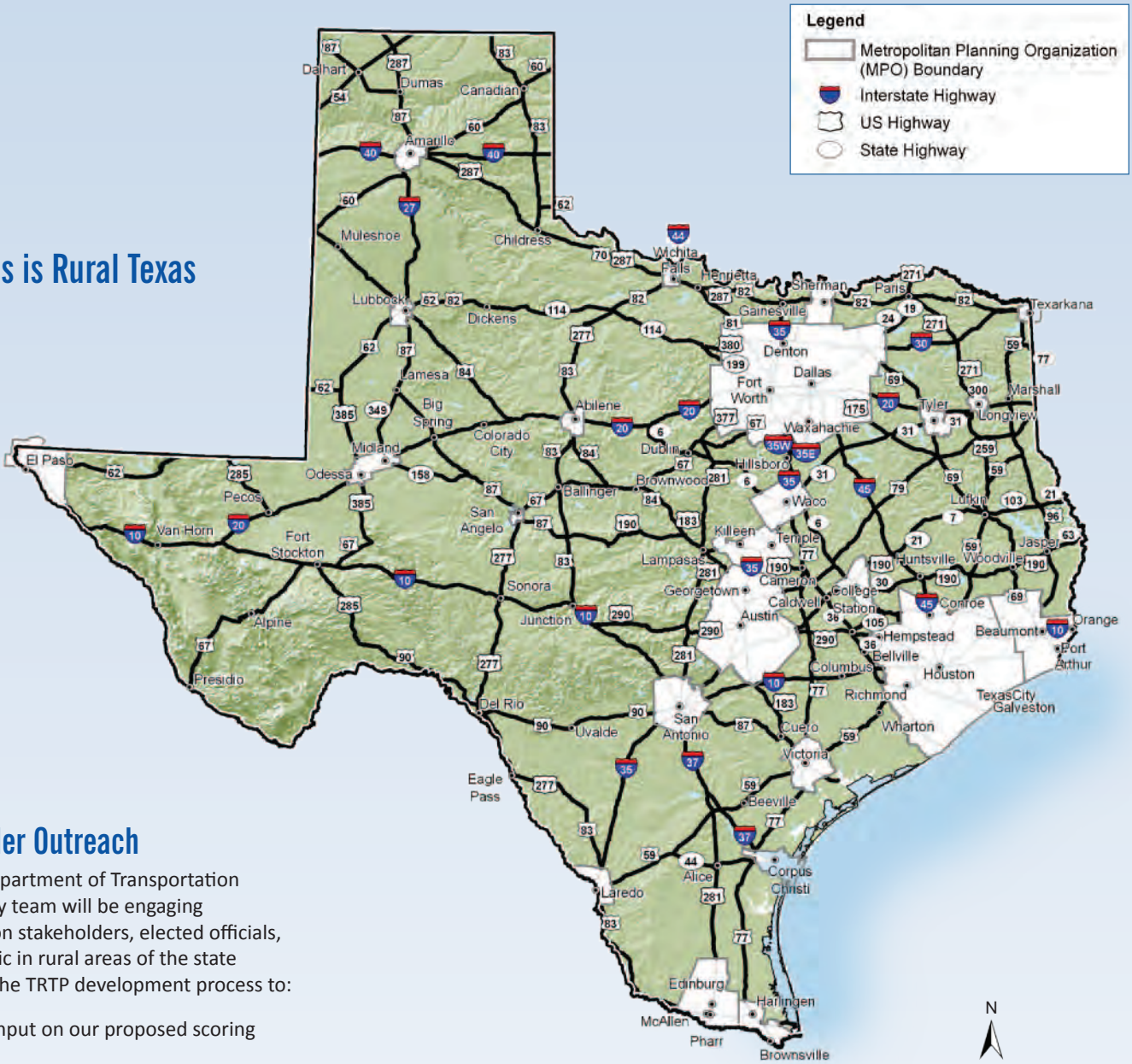
- Capacity needs based on existing and projected traffic
- Freight movement
- Cost effectiveness



## June 2011



## Our Focus is Rural Texas



## Stakeholder Outreach

The Texas Department of Transportation and the study team will be engaging transportation stakeholders, elected officials, and the public in rural areas of the state throughout the TRTP development process to:

- Get their input on our proposed scoring process,
- Confirm that we have a complete list of identified projects, and
- Determine if our preliminary results look reasonable from a user perspective.

SOURCE:  
MPO Boundaries: TxDOT, 2010

## Texas Rural Transportation Plan 2035 Schedule

June 2012



PUBLIC COMMENTS WELCOME

