

7 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR February 21, 2025 EL PASO MPO TPB MEETING

Public comments for amendments to the El Paso MPO's documents are being accepted. The MPO's Transportation Policy Board (TPB) will consider these projects for approval at the February 21, 2025 meetings.

 Consider approval of amendments to the Regional Mobility Strategy (RMS) 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Amended RMS 2050 MTP, and the RMS 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to program the *Montana Brio Corridor - Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Feasibility Study* project using \$750,000 of Category 3 USDOT Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.

Sun Metro Mass Transit submitted a successful grant for the *Planning Study for the Montana BRIO route extension to service Beast Regional Park* project, which now needs to be programmed into the 2025 – 2028 TIP in fulfillment with USDOT RAISE program requirements. The proposed planning study will consider expanding Sun Metro's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service along the Montana Brio Corridor starting at 2830 Montana Avenue to 13501 Jason Crandall Drive. The study will identify transportation challenges and recommendations on potential safety and route improvements, as well as speed and reliability investments.

2. Consider approval of an amendment to the RMS 2050 MTP, Amended RMS 2050 MTP, and the RMS 2025-2028 TIP to program the *Border Highway Connector Phase 2 Traffic and Improvements Feasibility Study* project using \$2,000,000 in New Mexico state funds in Fiscal Year 2025.

The proposed *Border Highway Connector Phase 2 Traffic Impact and Improvements Feasibility Study* will analyze the potential impacts of the *St. Francis Drive Extension/Border Highway Connector* project (MPO ID: A606X) on the existing transportation network beyond its easternmost terminus at NM-273 (McNutt Road). The project will then develop recommendations for needed improvements at the most severely impacted points. EPMPO anticipates opening a procurement for professional planning & engineering services to complete this project this coming Spring.

3. <u>Consider approval of an amendment to the EPMPO FY 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program</u> (UPWP) to create work Subtask 5.6 (*Border Highway Connector Phase 2 Traffic Improvements and Feasibility Study*).

The FY 2024-25 UPWP is the work plan that details the planning activities EPMPO will undertake, and the associated funding sources, during the two-year period. EPMPO staff is requesting approval of an amendment to add the *Border Highway Connector Phase 2 Traffic Impact and Improvements Analysis Feasibility Study* project as a new subtask under Task 5 (Special Studies). At the January 21, 2025 TPB meeting, the board authorized the Executive Director to execute a funding agreement between EPMPO and the New Mexico Border Authority through which EPMPO will receive \$2,000,000 in New Mexico state funding to complete the project. As the project will be completed by EPMPO, a



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description of the project and its funding amount and source must be added to the UPWP. It is anticipated that the project will commence in late-FY 2025 and be complete by May of 2026.