



# 2052 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Process

## Overview

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) establishes the long-term transportation policy agenda for the region. The MTP outlines regional transportation priorities and identifies transportation projects to meet regional transportation goals over the plan's horizon, while remaining fiscally constrained. As a long-term plan, the horizon for the MTP is 20 years minimum. The MTP is developed with consistency to the statewide long-range transportation plan.

The El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (EPMPO) is responsible for developing the MTP for the urbanized area

comprised of El Paso County, Texas, the cities of Sunland Park and Anthony, New Mexico, and parts of Doña Ana and Otero Counties, New Mexico. The development of the MTP is a collaborative process between stakeholders, the public, and the EPMPO.

The EPMPO must update the MTP every four years, as the region is classified as a non-attainment area for air quality standards. As such, the MTP must conform to the Statewide Improvement Plan for air quality standards. These updates ensure compliance with federal standards while addressing the region's evolving transportation needs.

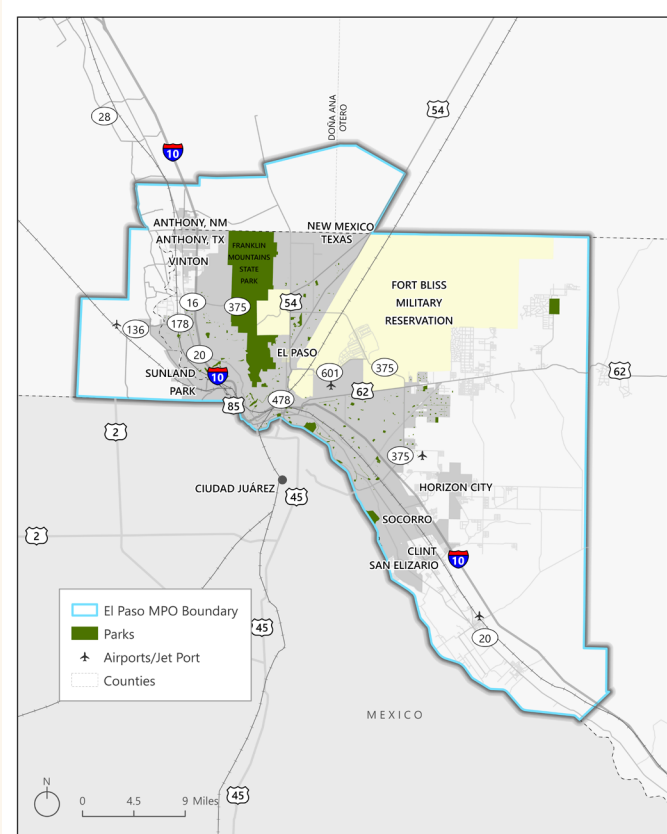
## About the El Paso Metropolitan Organization (EPMPO)

### Who is EPMPO?

EPMPO is the regional body responsible for coordinating transportation planning across the El Paso region. It brings together local governments, counties, and transportation agencies to make decisions that guide the region's transportation needs and future. EPMPO is led by a 30-member Transportation Policy Board (TPB) that sets policy and allocates transportation funds. The TPB is supported by a 16-member Transportation Project Advisory Committee (TPAC) that provides technical expertise and recommendations

### What is an MPO?

An MPO is a regional transportation planning agency designated by federal and state authorities. Established by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962, MPOs oversee the allocation of federal transportation funding in urban areas with populations greater than 50,000. EPMPO works closely with local



EL PASO MPO REGION

governments and transportation agencies such as Texas Department of Transportation, New Mexico Department of Transportation, Sun Metro, and Sun Central Regional Transit District to plan and improve regional transportation. While EPMPO provides the planning framework and technical studies, it does not directly construct projects. That responsibility lies with project sponsors like cities, counties, and transportation agencies.

EPMPO is responsible for developing two main planning documents:

- **Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):** A long-range, 20+ year plan updated every four years.
- **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):** A short-range, four-year plan updated every two years.

### Where is EPMPO?

The EPMPO planning area covers all El Paso County, including municipalities, in Texas and parts of Doña Ana and Otero counties in New Mexico.



## Data Collection and Analysis

The first step in developing the MTP is collecting data on the region's existing transportation system.

We collect and analyze data to understand:

- Existing and future traffic patterns
- Land use
- Population growth and demographics
- Environmental conditions



## Goal Setting and Visioning Process

We work with the community and stakeholders to identify transportation needs, values, and opportunities that shape the vision and goals for prioritizing transportation improvements.



## Needs Assessment

We evaluate the region's transportation system to identify gaps and areas for improvement based on the insights gained from data collection and analysis to determine how well the current system meets regional mobility, safety, and accessibility goals while considering future population, employment, and travel demands. This process highlights key issues such as congestion hotspots, safety concerns, underserved areas, and insufficient infrastructure.



## Project Identification and Prioritization

We determine projects ranging from roadway improvement to transit routes to active transportation improvements that meet the needs of the region and evaluate them based on criteria such as safety, environmental impact, and cost-effectiveness.



## Financial Planning and Fiscal Constraint

Federal legislation mandates that the plan identifies reliable funding sources, such as federal, state, and local funds, and ensures all listed projects can be funded. Some projects also require local communities to contribute matching funds to secure federal funding. To create a viable MTP, we carefully estimate project costs and anticipated revenues, ensuring the plan is both realistic and achievable.



## Systems Level Analysis

The MTP prioritizes projects based on a regional analysis of how projects and potential policy decisions like land use changes may have an impact on the community. This analysis also ensures compliance with federal air quality standards by conducting air quality conformity analyses.



## MTP Development

After projects are identified and funding is allocated, we draft the MTP, detailing the proposed projects, funding sources, and timelines. The draft also includes strategies for meeting regulatory requirements, such as air quality standards. Once complete, we make the draft MTP available for the public to review.



## Final Approval and Adoption

After the public review, the MPO revises the plan based on feedback and finalizes it. The completed MTP is presented to the Transportation Policy Board (TPB), which is composed of local leaders and other key stakeholders, for approval and adoption. This step formally authorizes the MTP. After the MTP is approved by the MPO's policy board, it undergoes a required conformity review by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This review typically lasts 90 days and ensures the plan complies with federal air quality standards and regulatory requirements. To avoid a conformity lapse, the MTP must be finalized and approved before the review period concludes.