

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RGVMPO)**

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 2, 2020**

**AT**

**11:00 A.M.**

**AGENDA**

**VIA – Microsoft Teams**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. CITIZENS INPUT**

**IV. PRESENTATION, ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of August 5, 2020

B. Consideration and Action to Approve New Member

- Christine Donald (Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge)

C. Discussion on 2021-2022 TASA Project Call – Update

D. Discussion on a New Regional Bike Map

E. Discussion Regarding ATG Active Transportation Plan

- Update on Schedule
- Review of Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment
- Reminder for Local Pictures and Comments on Vision Statement by September 9th.
- Questions

**V. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Recycled Bike Art
- Helmets

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

# Meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

At  
11:00 AM

## WebEx MINUTES

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held VIA WebEx and called to order by Chairperson Rose Gowen, at 11:01 AM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

RGVBPAC Representatives in attendance were as follows:

Members Present:	
Entity	Individual
Bicycle / Ped Health Advocate	Rose Gowen (Chairperson)
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Michael McNew – Vice Chairman
City of Brownsville	Cody Baczewski (Designee)
City of Edinburg	Larry Ayala (Designee)
City of McAllen	Martina Mejia (Alternate) ABSENT
Texas Parks/Wildlife Department – Estero Llano Grande State Park	Javier De Leon (Designee)
TxDOT	Joseph E. Leal (Designee)
	Evan Roberts (Alternate)
	Craig Wuensche (Alternate)
Valley Metro – B-Cycle	Juan Macias (Designee) ABSENT
Valley Metro	Frank Jaramillo (Designee)
Bicycle World RGV	Ana Adame (Designee)
Citizen At-Large	Eudenia “Eudy” Carrillo (Designee)
Museum South Texas History	Rene A. Ballesteros (Designee)
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Richard Cavin (Designee)
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Michael Padgett (Designee) ABSENT
<b>Ex-Officio</b>	
Rails -To-Trails Conservancy	Eva Lizette Garcia
<b>STAFF</b>	
RGVMPO	Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO	Crystal Gonzalez
RGVMPO	Rudy Zamora
RGVMPO	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Miguel Arispe
RGVMPO	Gloria Banda-Gonzales
RGVMPO	Fernando Cantu

BPAC Minutes Approved  
September 2, 2020

III. CITIZENS NPUT - NONE  
IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of June 3, 2020

Chairperson Rose Gowen asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes of June 3, 2020. No corrections were noted to the minutes of June 3, 2020, Cody Baczewski (City of Brownsville) made a motion to approve minutes as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Larry Ayala (City of Edinburg) and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Consideration and Action to Approve TASA Funding for UTRGV

Rudy Zamora, Planner I, provided a brief update regarding TASA Funding for UTRGV. The FY2019-2020 Transportation Alternatives Project Call awarded the City of Elsa with \$285,300 for their respective project. The City of Elsa has withdrawn from participation in this grant program and is asking to have their awarded funding rescinded. The official correspondence of the city's withdrawal was made available to BPAC members for their review and consideration. Staff noted that according to the ranking when TASA Funding was awarded to projects presented, UTRGV's TAP Enhancements Project was next in line and is requesting those available funds at this time. UTRGV is amending their original request to fund the "Trail & Bicycle Racks", portion of their project. Staff concluded by providing a support letter including project timeline, budget, and site plan, along with a breakdown of scoring & funding for the 2019-2020 project call VIA – Microsoft Teams to BPAC members.

After some discussion on this item, Javier De Leon (Texas Parks/Wildlife Department) made a motion to recommend to the TAC Committee, to approve TASA Funding to UTRGV according to ranking when TASA Funding was awarded as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Michael McNew and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion Regarding ATG Active Transportation Plan

Mr. Lee Miller with Alliance Transportation Group (ATG) provided an update on the following:

- **Brief Review of Map Comments and Additions**

Comments on the Maps have been broken down by cities throughout the area. Number of comments received were 180. Good positive comments. Andy Vigstol (City of Harlingen) recommended that the link remain posted longer, for the City of Harlingen and other cities wishing to add or leave comments, respectfully.

Chairperson Rose Gowen noted that any further comments and additions to the Map, by BPAC members need to be sent to Lee Miller (ATG) as soon as able, to incorporate those comments to the Active Transportation Plan.

- **Discussion of Draft Vision Statement**

Mr. Miller went over the principles that helped shape the "Vision Statement" and the importance on how the vision touches on some of the key tenants of the FAST ACT planning factors, while also remaining true to values heard and discussed with BPAC Members. First "Draft of the Vision Statement" was provided as follows:

**Vision Statement**

The Rio Grande Valley MPO's regionally coordinated system for walking and bicycling is designed to provide world class facilities for active tourism and to integrate active transportation support for economic opportunity into local communities. The Valley's safe, comfortable and equitable system of active transportation facilities accommodates users of all ages and abilities, and supports increased public health, excellent connectivity to transit and key destinations, simple and clear wayfinding for visitors and tourists, and a unique sense of place that celebrates the rich culture of the Rio Grande Valley.

Chairperson Rose Gowen had only one correction to the Vision Statement, reverse "active tourism" with "active transportation", in other words, that sentence should read as follows:

The Rio Grande Valley MPO's regionally coordinated system for walking and bicycling is designed to provide world class facilities for "**active transportation**" and to integrate "**active tourism**" support for economic opportunity into local communities.

Mr. Miller noted that any other changes to the Vision Statement by the Committee can be forward to either Mr. Lee Miller or Mr. Jory Dille with ATG.

Mr. Dille also reviewed the following FAST ACT planning factors or key points:

1. Regional Accessibility – it identifies the system as a regional interconnected framework, making it more consistent with the FAST act and emphasizing the point that this is an MPO regional plan that will be implemented through the MTP.
2. Economic Vitality - It addresses economic vitality and opportunity, which is a key FAST act factor and reflects the fact that active transportation is not solely a recreational activity but is an economy sustaining resource for a major portion of the population. (big point with FHWA).
3. Integrated and Connected - It addresses interconnectivity to other modes, particularly transit, which is another FAST Act imperative.
4. Travel and Tourism - It addresses wayfinding and tourists and visitors and support for tourism is one of the new emphasis areas and holds true with the goals within the Valley.
5. Cultural Sensitivity / context sensitivity - It addresses cultural resources and context, which is another big item in the FAST Act imperative.

Alliance Transportation Group would like to invite the BPAC Committee to participate in a visioning session for the 2045 Active Transportation Plan. .

- Build Active Tourism Network
- Connect Transit with Active Transportation
- Create a Connected Regional Hike/Bike Network
- Created a Connected Pedestrian Network
- Improve Connections to Key Destinations
- Improve Health
- Improve Safety of System
- Ensure Equitable Transportation
- Support Education & Encouragement

To help gauge availability a Doodle Poll will be activated and sent out to BPAC members, once a date and time is determined, the actual calendar invite will be sent out.

- Request for High Quality Local Photos for use in the Active Transportation Plan

Two requests were made regarding High Quality Local Photos as far as submitting them to ATG.

**1) Please upload any photos you would like to include in the plan themed around active transportation.**

- This could be people walking, biking, rolling, or using public space, landscapes, families, etc.
- Please provide a high quality (300dpi) .png or .jpg if possible
- A descriptive file name of the location or facility name would be helpful!

**2) Submit photos here:**

<https://atginc.sharefile.com/r-r4fb20445d744057b> Or email photos to [lmiller@emailtg.com](mailto:lmiller@emailtg.com)

*After some discussion on this item, it was the Chairperson Rose Gowen recommendation to the BPAC Members to submit pictures from the various cities to ATG to the following links provided. Report only, no action taken.*

**V. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **TASA Project Call** – Staff noted that a date is still pending, waiting on TxDOT to provide a date, but once a date is scheduled, it will be posted on the RGVMPPO Website, FACEBOOK and TWITTER.
- **Virtual Ribbon Cutting** – Chairperson Rose Gowen noted BPAC members share their Virtual Ribbon Cuttings with the committee. The following are some that are scheduled in the next coming weeks:
  - TxDOT Over the Railroad Track Bike Peds Lane
  - Battleship Trail Opening

**VI. There being no further business to come before the BPAC Committee, Michael McNew (Vice Chairman) made a motion to adjourn meeting at 11:40 AM. The motion was seconded by Cody Baczewski (City of Brownsville), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.**

# FY 2021-2022 TASA CALL FOR PROJECTS

## IMPORTANT DATES:

### Call Opens:

Tuesday, September 1st,  
2020

### Call Closes:

Friday, October 23rd, 2020  
@ 5:00 PM

## FUNDING AVAILABLE:

**\$3,084,185 for  
Construction  
&  
\$342,687 for Planning**

**Please mail or hand-  
deliver applications to:**

### **RGVMPO**

510 S. Pleasantview Drive  
Weslaco, TX 78596

**Please Contact Us Regarding  
Questions or Concerns**

Phone: 956-969-5778

E-mail: rzamora@rgvmppo.org



The RGVMPO is opening the FY 2021-2022 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Call for Projects. The RGVMPO must have the submitted application “in hand” at the RGVMPO offices by October 23rd at 5:00 PM.

An evaluation by selected BPAC and TAC members will review and score submitted projects. TAC and TPB will approve selected projects on designated meeting dates and MPO staff will prepare for public involvement.

Selected projects will go through a 30-day public involvement period in preparation for the February 2021 STIP Revisions.

For access to TASA application, timeline, scoring criteria, and workshop presentation, please visit our webpage: <https://www.rgvmppo.org/news/displaynews.htm?NewsID=215&TargetID=1>

**RGV  
MPO**

## **RGVMPO**

### **FY 2021-2022 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TASA) Timeline**

**September 2020 - October 2020** - Call for Projects will open on September 1<sup>st</sup> and applications will be accepted until the deadline of October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 PM.

The week of October 26<sup>th</sup> - An evaluation by selected BPAC and TAC members will **review, and score submitted projects.** (Possibly on Monday October 27<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday October 28<sup>th</sup> since TPB is scheduled for Wednesday October 29<sup>th</sup>) \*An email will be sent out to members prior to scheduling a set date.

**November 2020** - TAC and TPB will **approve** selected projects on designated meeting dates and MPO staff will prepare for public involvement.

**December 2020 – January 2021** - Selected projects will go through a **30-day public involvement** period in preparation for the February 2021 STIP Revisions.

- TAC and TPB will formally approve the February 2021 Revisions, including the 2021-2022 selected TAP projects. (Scheduled January TAC & TPB Meetings)

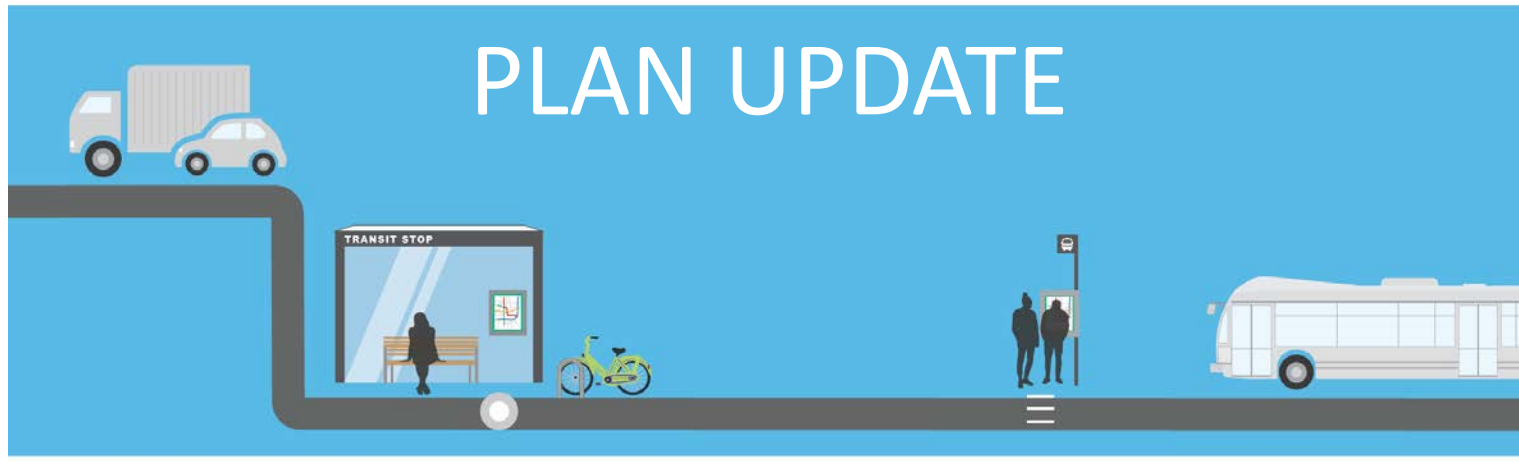
**February 2021** – Selected TAP projects will be part of the amendments submitted to TXDOT for the February 2021 STIP Revisions

# Rio Grande Valley MPO

2045 Active Transportation Plan

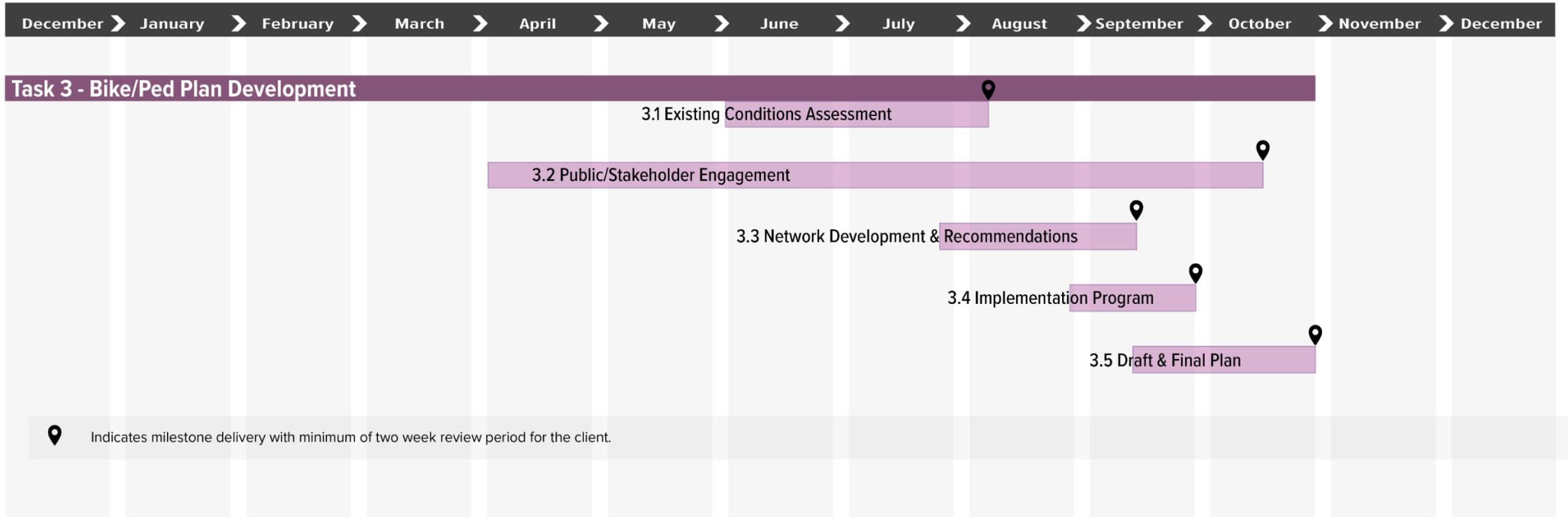
September 2020

## PLAN UPDATE

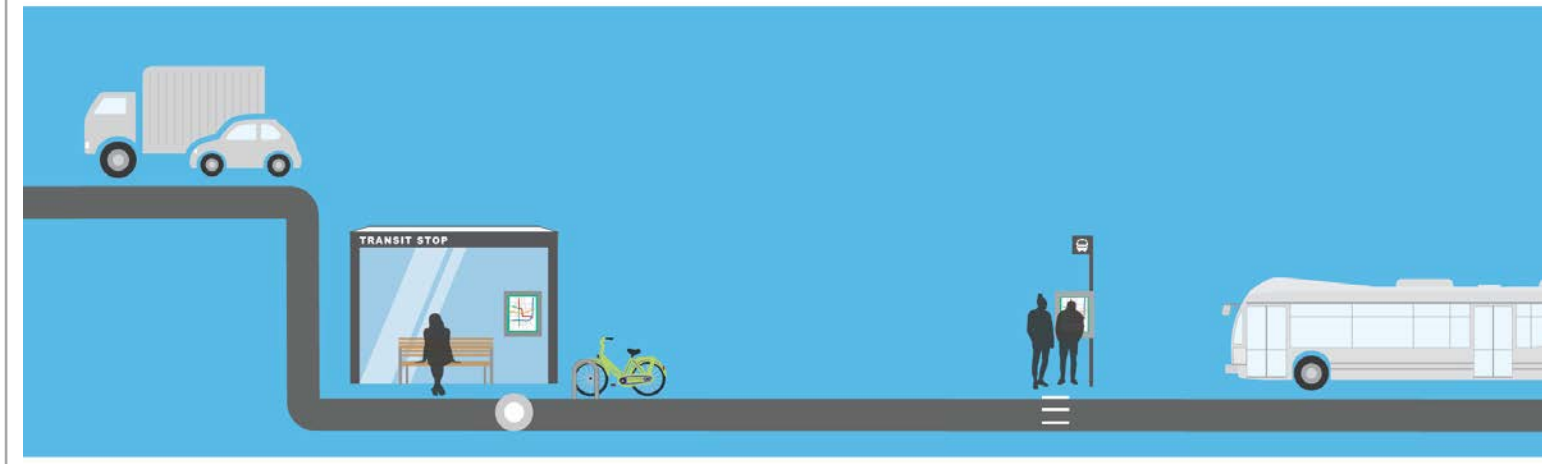


# Schedule

2019 2020



# Existing Conditions & Needs Assessment



Region	Complete Streets	Open Streets Events	Parking Enforcement	Safe Passing Ordinance	Safe Routes to School	Planning Goals	TDM Programs	Vision Zero
State of Texas	Progress				Present			Present
RGVMPO						Present	Progress	
Cameron County								
Hidalgo County								
Brownsville		Present	Progress	Present		Present		
Edinburg			Present	Present		Present		
Harlingen		Present		Present				
McAllen				Present				Progress
Mission	Present			Present				
Pharr			Present	Present				
San Benito						Present		
San Juan			Present	Present				
Weslaco	Progress			Present		Present		

# Policy Review

## Needs:

- Complete Streets
- Safe Routes to School
  - Vision Zero

## Existing:

- Safe Passing
- Planning Goals
- Parking Enforcement



Policy or Program Present

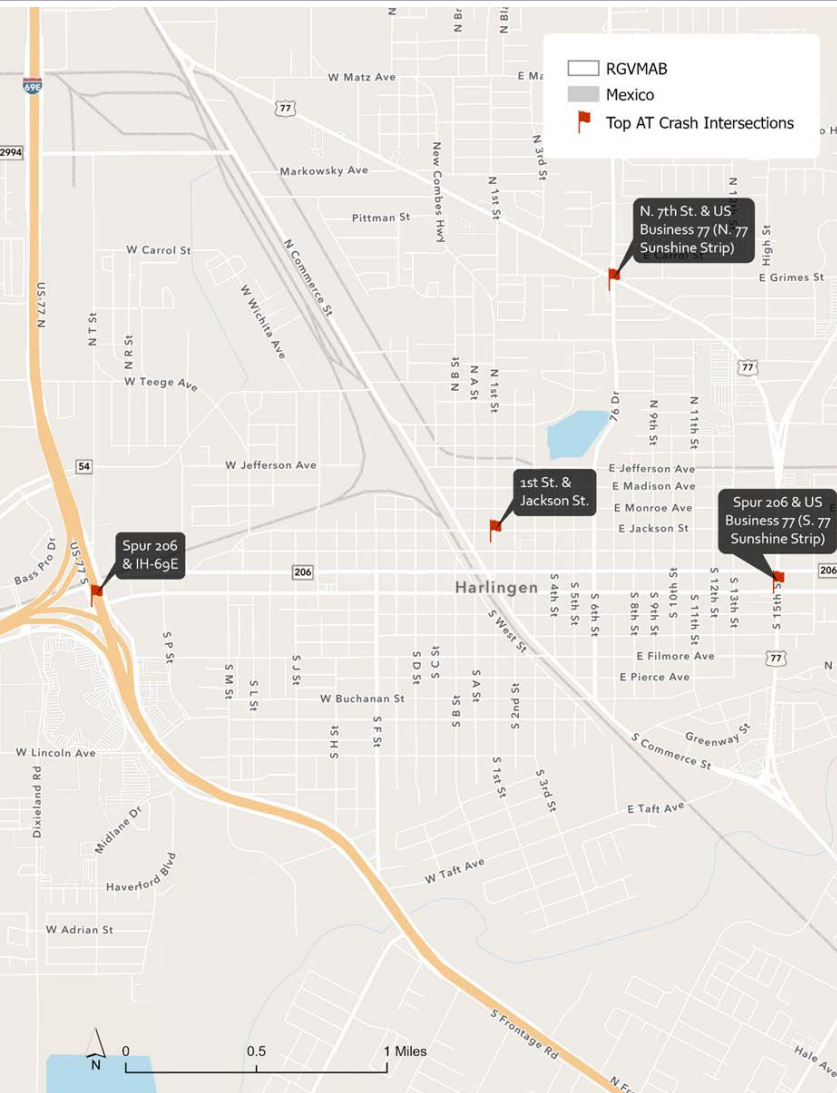


Policy or Program Progress

# Crashes

## Intersections with 4 or More Crashes

- 19 total through Region
- 11 crashes at International Blvd. @ Southmost



Intersection	Location	Crash Count
Spur 206 @ IH-69E	Harlingen	8
Spur 206 @ US Business 77 (S. 77 Sunshine Strip)	Harlingen	4
N. 7th St. @ US Business 77 (N. 77 Sunshine Strip)	Harlingen	4
1st St. @ Jackson St.	Harlingen	4

# Crashes

Disproportionate number of fatal crashes for people using ...

Active Transportation

## BIKE & PEDESTRIAN CRASHES



1.6% OF ALL CRASHES



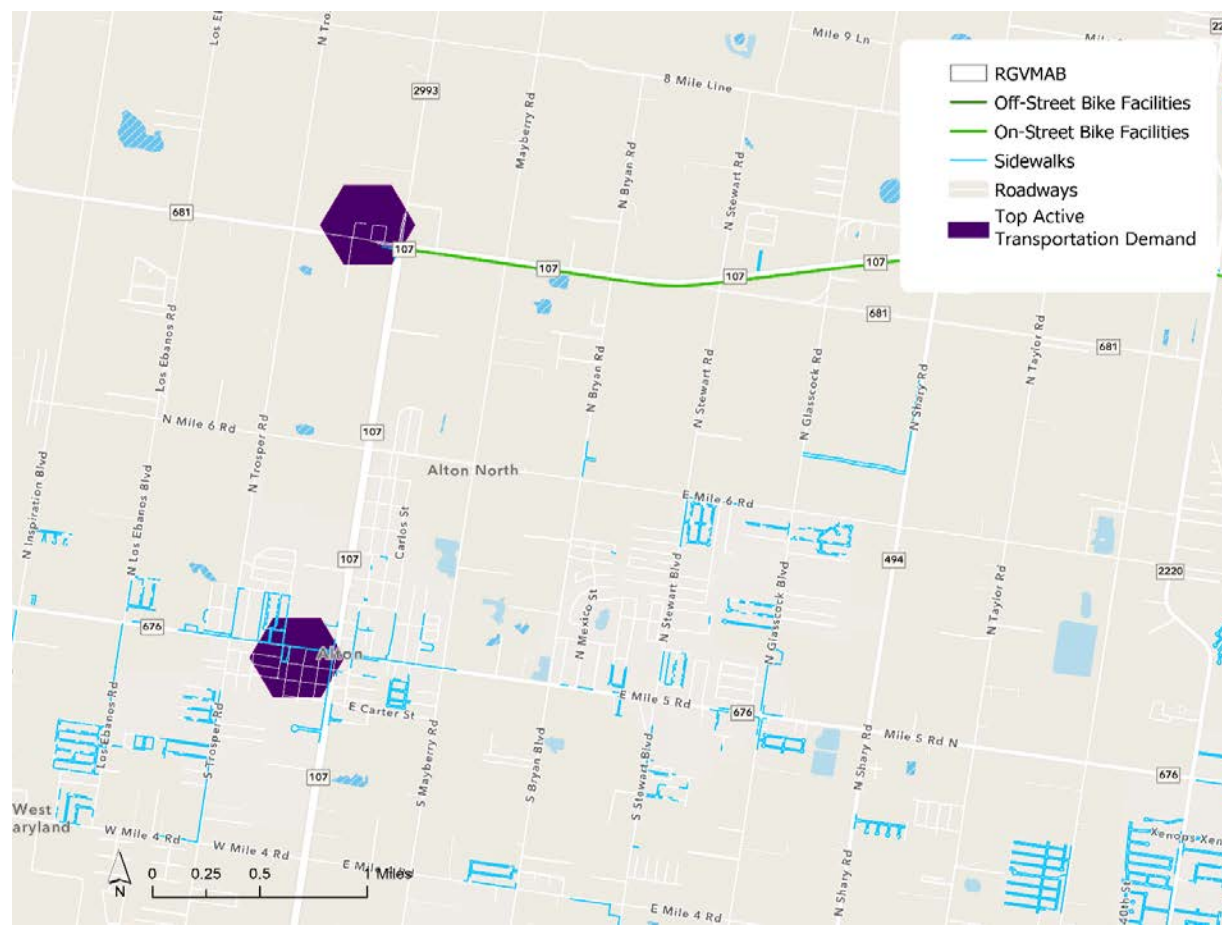
28% OF ALL FATAL CRASHES



# Active Transportation Demand

## Where is Demand?

Criteria	Description
Population & Employment	Total count of people and jobs per square mile.
Population with a Disability	Percent of total population with a disability.
Population in Poverty	Percent of total population in poverty.
No Vehicle Households	Percent of total household without access to a vehicle.
Crashes	Number of crashes.
Key Destinations	Number of key destinations including: schools, grocery stores, medical facilities, civic amenities, and recreation facilities.
Intersections	Number of intersections.



# REMINDER:

Please help us with  
Photos

[LINK](#)

**September 9th**

Last Call for Vision  
Statement edits

Follow Up Email

Questions?



# kindness trail

QUINTA  
MAZATLÁN



Leave a trail of kindness  
wherever you go.

## SHARE YOUR MESSAGE OF KINDNESS

[www.facebook.com/mcallenquintamazatlan](http://www.facebook.com/mcallenquintamazatlan)

#KindnessTrailQM

Around the world, children of all ages are leaving  
*messages of kindness:*

*painted rocks, window art, driveway drawings,  
photographs, music, poetry, more!*

Share your message for an opportunity to inspire others and win PRIZES!  
Awards for various age groups will be chosen at the end  
of September, so share artists age!

## Walk the Kindness Trail in the woods at Quinta Mazatlán

Thank you for following health and well-being practices in the park.

**SOCIALIFE**  
THE MAKERS OF THE BIG BROTHER SHOW!

**Quinta**  
MAZATLÁN



600 Sunset Dr.  
McAllen, TX  
956-681-3370

Open  
Tuesday to Saturday 8am to 5pm  
and Thursday Evenings!



