



Public Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting will begin at 10:05 am



January 23, 2025

Agenda

1. Call to order.
2. Guidance on virtual meeting participation.
3. Approval of minutes from November 21, 2024, meeting. (Action)
4. TxDOT Public Transportation Division Director's report to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee regarding public transportation matters.
5. Statewide Active Transportation Plan Update. (Discussion)
6. Federal Reauthorization Priorities. (Discussion)
7. Service Expansion Program. (Discussion)
8. PTAC Appointment Process. (Discussion)
9. Public Comment
10. Propose and discuss agenda items for next meeting; confirm date of next meeting. (Action)
11. Adjourn. (Action)

Please mute yourself upon joining the meeting.

It is important to enter your name when joining the meeting – if you didn't do that, please exit the meeting and rejoin.

To comment on an agenda item, use the meeting's chat feature to let Theo know – he will let you know when to unmute your line.

Please don't place this meeting on HOLD – we'll all hear your hold tone.

Agenda Item 3

Approval of minutes from
November 21, 2024,
meeting.

MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

Public Transportation Advisory Committee – Teams Meeting
November 21, 2024 - 10:00 A.M.

Committee Members Participating via Zoom:

John McBeth, Chair
Jim Cline, Vice-Chair
Dietrich Von Biedenfeld

Participating in person:

Ken Fickes
James Oliver
JR Salazar
Eric Gleason, Director, Public Transportation Division, PTN
Bonnie Sherman, Section Director, Statewide Planning and Program Development, PTN
Theodore Kosub, Strategic Programs Development Manager, PTN
Robbi Smith, Public Involvement Specialist, PTN

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to order.

John McBeth calls the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Guidance on virtual meeting participation.

Theodore Kosub gives guidance for those participating virtually.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Approval of minutes from July 25, 2024, meeting. (Action)

Motion: John McBeth
Recommends approval of minutes from the July 25, 2024, meeting.
Second: James Oliver

Members vote unanimously in favor of the motion. 10:05 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 4: TxDOT Public Transportation Division Director's report to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee regarding public transportation matters. (Discussion)

Director Gleason gives an update on challenges for rural and small urban sustainability and mobility. He also discusses congested corridors throughout the state and the potential to improve connectivity and modal options for all users.

Gleason mentions that rural area connectivity is a priority and mentions the Service Expansion Program will be discussed during the meeting in agenda item 7. He also discusses the reallocation of intercity bus funds to rural districts for general purposes.

Gleason mentions the executive leadership seminar is currently underway and explains that a potential division rulemaking will come to the committee at some point in 2025.

Director Gleason gives an update on Federal Reauthorization transit priorities. The department is coordinating with other state highway and transportation officials to refine transportation priorities. Coordination is also underway on bicycle and pedestrian priorities. Priorities include encouraging more federal formula funding, consolidation of federal funding opportunities on the small urban and rural side, and equity in rural versus urban formula funding levels.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Chair/Vice Chair Elections. (Action)

Two nominations were submitted for chair, Jim Cline, and Ken Fickes. One nomination was submitted for Vice Chair, Dietrich Von Biedenfeld.

Members Cline and Fickes give statements on their interest in becoming Chair.

Members vote for PTAC officers, with Ken Fickes elected Chair and Dietrich Von Biedenfeld elected as Vice Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 6: FY 26/27 Legislative Appropriations Request. (Discussion)

Eric Gleason discusses the department's legislative appropriations request and details that the previous biennium baseline request was continued in the current biennium request. The Service Expansion Program funds will be continued into the next biennium as a baseline request.

Next Gleason discussed the departments ten exceptional item requests and notes that they are shown in order of department priority. He mentions the division has requested an exceptional item for the balance of additional funds (\$1.885 million) to offset per capita changes because of census 2020 changes. Gleason also mentions the \$25 million dollar request for rural program and bus facilities over the biennium and details the amount will be split into \$12.5 million dollars for each year of the biennium. Both of PTAC's recommendations were included in the department's legislative exceptional items request for the upcoming 89th Legislative Session.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Service Expansion Program. (Discussion)

Director Gleason discusses the current Service Expansion Program and reminds the committee that the \$12 million dollar program is split into \$6 million per year across the current biennium. The general guidelines for the program are that state funding represents 60% of agency need and the non-state funding portion represents 40%. He notes the program projects began in July and September 2024 with 19 rural agencies participating. He estimates after funding the current projects, there is a balance of around \$3.5 million that could be reallocated to participating agencies. Of the 19 participating agencies, 13 agencies requested additional funds for 31 projects that would be funded from the remaining balance. Funds for the remaining balance would likely be allocated in January 2025 via the Texas Transportation Commission.

Member Cline is curious why some agencies did not participate in the program and asks if the matching non-state funds are the reason for non-participation. Director Gleason responds that non-state money at 40% is fundamental challenge for some rural providers and that providers have been absorbing significant industry cost increases in recent years. Of note, local matching funds availability has not fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels and driver shortages for expansion routes is still an industry issue.

Member Cline asks about sustaining service levels as it relates to the Service Expansion Program. Director Gleason notes that these specific funds were used to leverage non-state money for service expansion, so that is the primary focus of this program. He notes that sustaining service has come to the forefront in the intervening period. Member Cline states that the committee should consider a follow-on request that focuses on sustaining service.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan Update. (Discussion)

Tim Sorenson, CDM Smith, gives an update on the status of the current Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan. He mentions that the fall outreach effort has just wrapped up and details the preliminary challenges and strategies identified for the plan. The project team has identified 18 challenges and 12 strategies. These have been developed through consecutive steering committee meetings, stakeholder working groups and extensive outreach efforts.

Member Cline notes the importance of considering aging in place in the plan as it relates to rural and urban areas, particularly for seniors. He mentions the importance of transit as it provides a mechanism that brings employees to businesses and states this is particularly important as the workforce needs to get from rural areas where they live to more urban settings where they work. Cline notes this could be an area of focus within the current service expansion program.

Chair Fickes details the importance of economic development in transit. He cites a critical element of countywide strategic planning is the topic of transportation. He offers non-emergency medical transportation as an example, noting that for each \$1 million spent, approximately \$20 million in benefits is generated via nurses, doctors and related medical services.

Kosub gives an overview of the fall 2024 plan outreach that included: visits to all 25 TxDOT districts, in person surveys that yielded over 1,400 responses, and 1,000 virtual meeting attendees. He also comments on the zip code heat map, which shows a geographic dispersion that includes rural and urban areas. He also describes which challenges and strategies were highest ranked by those who participated in surveys and meetings. Kosub notes that David Kolovson, of outreach team Rifeline, is available to answer any questions.

Kolovson describes how the pop-up events were organized and the types of printed materials available at each event.

Member Oliver asks if stakeholder rail interest comes from mostly MTA and urban areas. He mentions that interest surrounding rail is probably highest in metro areas, while interest in connectivity is likely to rank higher in small urban areas.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Public Comment. (Discussion)

Chair Fickes asks if there are any public comments, Kosub responds there are not.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Propose and discuss agenda items for next meeting; confirm date of next meeting. (Discussion)

Proposed discussion items for the next committee meeting include a deeper dive into federal reauthorization priorities. The Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan will be brought back to the committee as necessary for updates in future committee meetings. Director Gleason also suggests bringing back Service Expansion Program as a topic for the next meeting with preliminary results.

Chair Fickes asks for a rough date on the next committee meeting and wonders if it will coincide with the annual operators meeting. Director Gleason suggests the end of January as the next PTAC window. The date would be Thursday, January 23. Gleason also notes the Transportation Research Board's next meeting is January 5-8.

Member Cline notes that he has been sitting on the Multimodal and Connecting Texas Committees on behalf of the committee. He asks that if given the new election of PTAC officers, he could continue his role representing the committee. Chair Fickes agrees.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Adjourn. (Action)

Motion: Dietrich Von Biedenfeld

Second: James Oliver

Members vote unanimously in favor of the motion. 11:17 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 A.M.

Prepared by:

Theodore Kosub
Public Transportation Division

Approved by:

Ken Fickes, Chair
Public Transportation Advisory Committee

Agenda Item 4

Director's Report

Commission Actions: January 2025 – July 2025

- January:
 - Additional Service Expansion funds
 - Gulf Coast Transit District State and Federal formula funds
- June/July: State/Federal/Discretionary funds

Topics of Interest

- Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan
- TBD: Proposed Rulemaking – changes to 2 CFR 200 (administrative, cost and audit requirements for federal grant awards) and Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities - Section 5310 . Likely after 89th Legislative Session is completed.
- Transportation Alternatives Set-aside (TA) Program
 - Call for Projects – currently open to eligible applicants
 - <https://www.txdot.gov/business/grants-and-funding/bicycle-pedestrian-local-federal-funding-programs.html>
 - Preliminary applications are due February 21, 2025.

Agenda Item 5

Statewide Transportation Plan Update



Statewide Active Transportation Plan

TxDOT's Public Transportation Advisory Committee



Statewide Vision for Active Transportation



A safe, accessible, connected and fully integrated pedestrian and bicycle network that increases active mobility and supports health, economic vitality and resiliency within communities and across Texas.

Planning Process



Identifying Potential Challenges and Strategies

- The SATP team developed a draft list of potential of challenges and strategies facing active transportation in Texas based on direct feedback from the public and key stakeholders, as well as data collection efforts.
- Development of these challenges and strategies has been guided by TxDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, a specialized plan steering committee, and interviews with TxDOT districts.
- In late 2024, the focus of Round 2 engagement was gathering input from the public on the list of potential challenges and strategies.
- This input will be used to refine these concepts for the final plan.



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Round 2 Outreach Results

Round 2 Outreach

- Conducted coordinated outreach with the Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan team.
- Hosted pop-up events from Oct. to Nov. 4 to:
 - gather feedback on potential challenges and strategies.
 - get the word out to more Texans about the plan and benefits of active transportation.
- Materials available in virtual pop-up.
- Hosted virtual pre-meetings with MPO's.
- Presented at TxDOT Planning Conference and APA State Conference.



SATP Outreach Highlights



OF POP-UPS & PRESENTATIONS

32 total

TOTAL TOUCHPOINTS

1,412 total

SURVEY RESPONSES

938 total

593 SATP specific

ADDITIONAL PLAN SUBSCRIBERS

523 survey respondents

2,363 total

(all subscribers)

VIRTUAL MEETING UNIQUE VIEWS

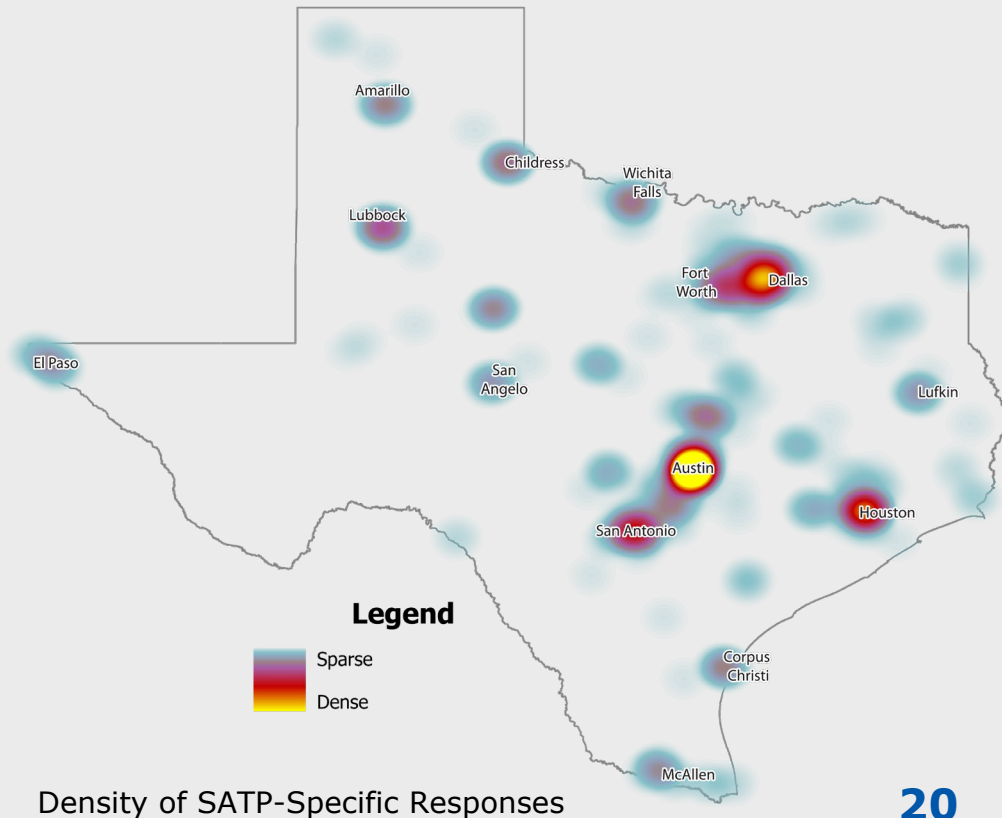
1,123 views

(TxDOT and engagement platform)

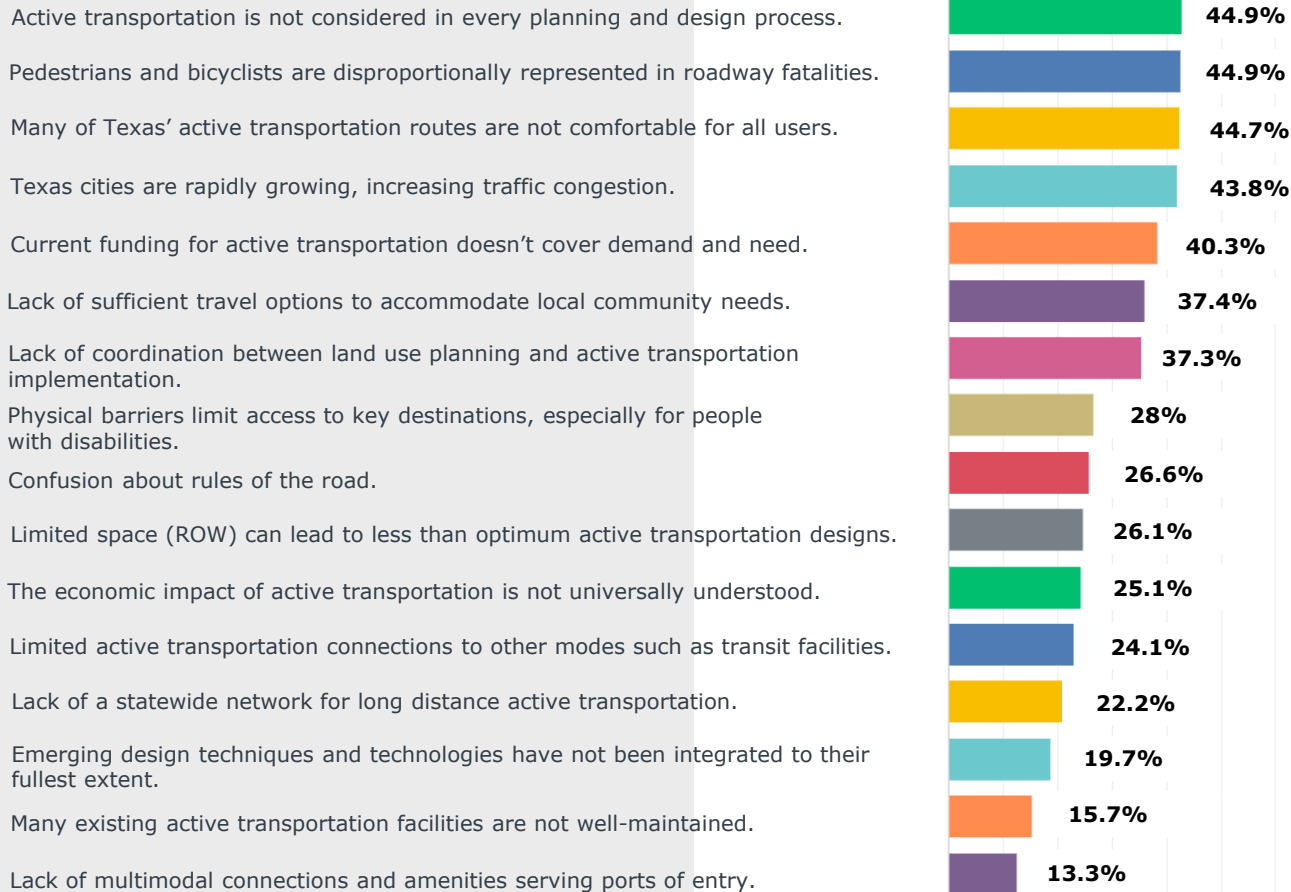
OTHER HIGHLIGHTS: **MULTI-LINGUAL** more than 30 in-person interactions in Spanish; **508 COMPLIANT MATERIALS**

Survey Results Overview

- Survey created by taking the previous input provided for goals, strategies, and actions to listing challenges and potential strategies to address those challenges.
- A handout is available for you to see those potential strategies and challenges.
- 938 total responses, 593 responses to SATP specific questions



What do you consider to be the top challenges and associated strategies related to using active transportation (walking and bicycling) in Texas?



Top Challenges and Potential Strategies

Challenges

Potential Strategies

44.9%

Active transportation is not considered in every planning and design process.

- Strengthen active transportation considerations in existing project development processes.
- Provide active transportation design training opportunities.
- Monitor progress and report results.

44.9%

Pedestrians and bicyclists are disproportionately represented in roadway fatalities.

- Prioritize vulnerable road users such as bicyclists and pedestrians in roadway design.
- Maximize physical separation of pedestrians and bicyclists from auto travel.
- Expand investments in safe intersection and crossing designs.
- Evaluate posted speeds to prioritize vulnerable user safety at potential risk areas.
- Invest in travel safety education and enforcement.

44.7%

Many of Texas' active transportation routes are not comfortable for all users.

- Build more sidewalks, bikeways, and trails
- Develop strategies to enhance lighting to improve bicyclist and pedestrian visibility.
- Perform regular maintenance and sweeping to ensure passable and smooth surfaces.
- Evaluate posted speeds based on roadway usage and surrounding context.
- Maximize physical separation of pedestrians and bicyclists from auto travel.

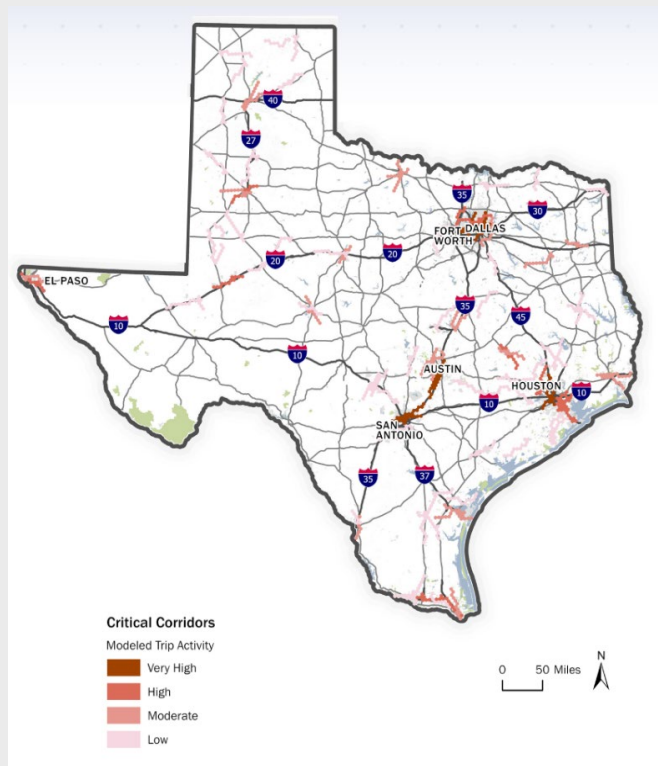


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Analyzing Active Transportation and Measuring Progress

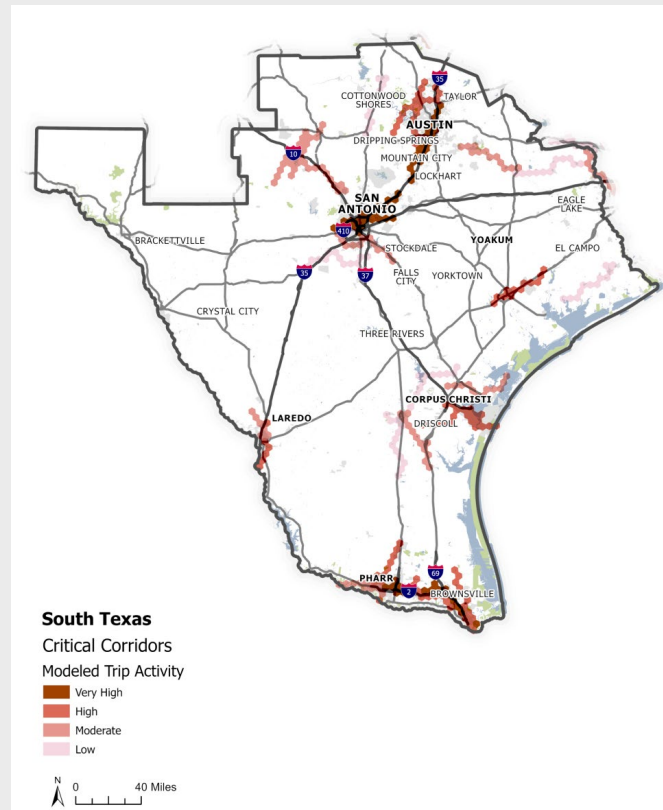
Critical Connections Analysis

- Travel demand model simulates travel activity based on mobile device, demographic, built environment, economic and other verified data.
- Only includes trips less than 3 miles.
- Walking, bicycling and transit trips less than a mile were given the highest priority.



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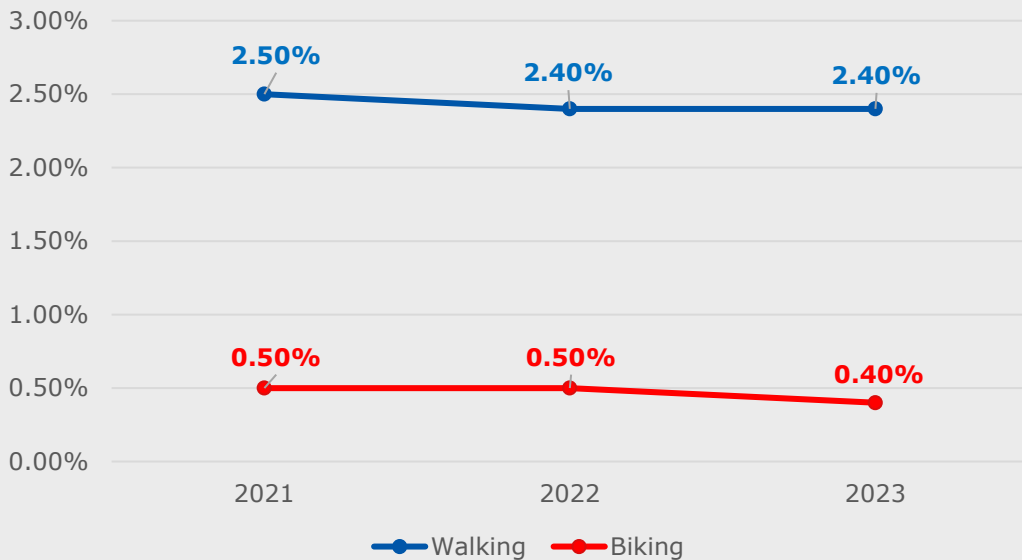


Progress Measures

Progress Measure	Current Value (Statewide)
Active Transportation Mode Share	
Percent of Commute Trips by Walking	2.4%
Percent of Commute Trips by Biking	0.4%
Active Transportation Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes (Pedestrians, Bicycles, and E-Scooters)	
Active Transportation Fatal Crashes	903
Active Transportation Serious Injury Crashes	1,790
Active Transportation Fatal Crashes per 100,000 Population	2.96
Active Transportation Serious Injury Crashes per 100,000 Population	5.87
Amount of Active Transportation Facilities Constructed Annually	
Pedestrian Facilities (FY 24 - Miles)	238.10
Bicycle Facilities (FY 24 - Miles)	439.36

Progress Measure #1: Active Transportation Mode Share

Percent of Trips by Walking and Biking (Statewide)*



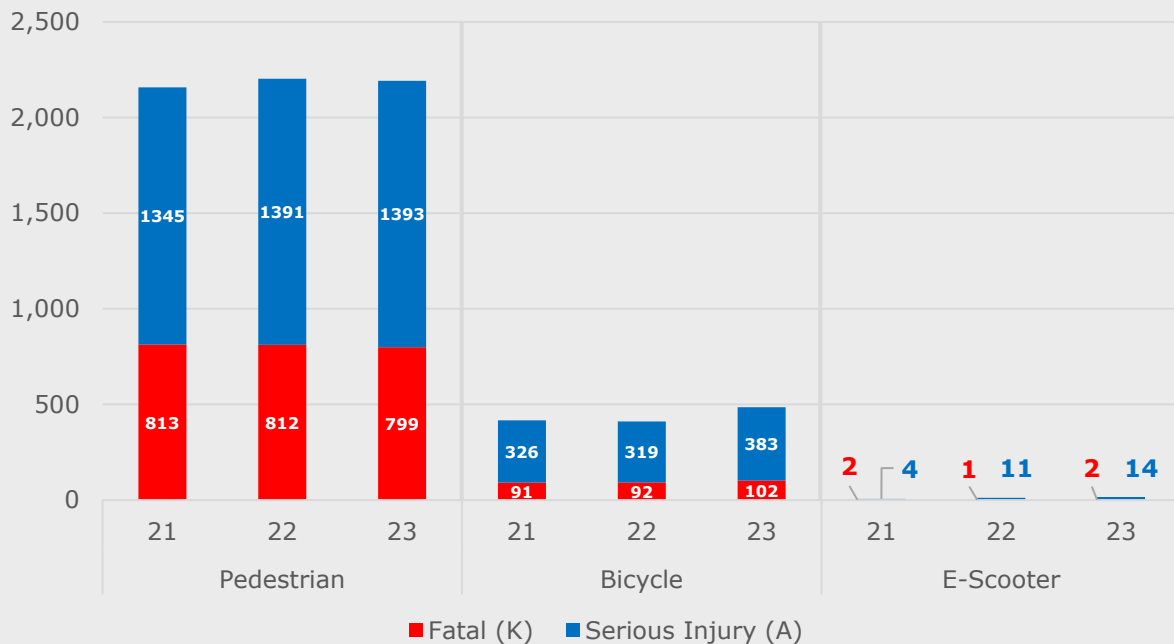
*ACS 5 Year Estimates

Desired Trend:



Progress Measure #2: Active Transportation Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes

Fatal (K) and Serious Injury (A) Crashes by Mode

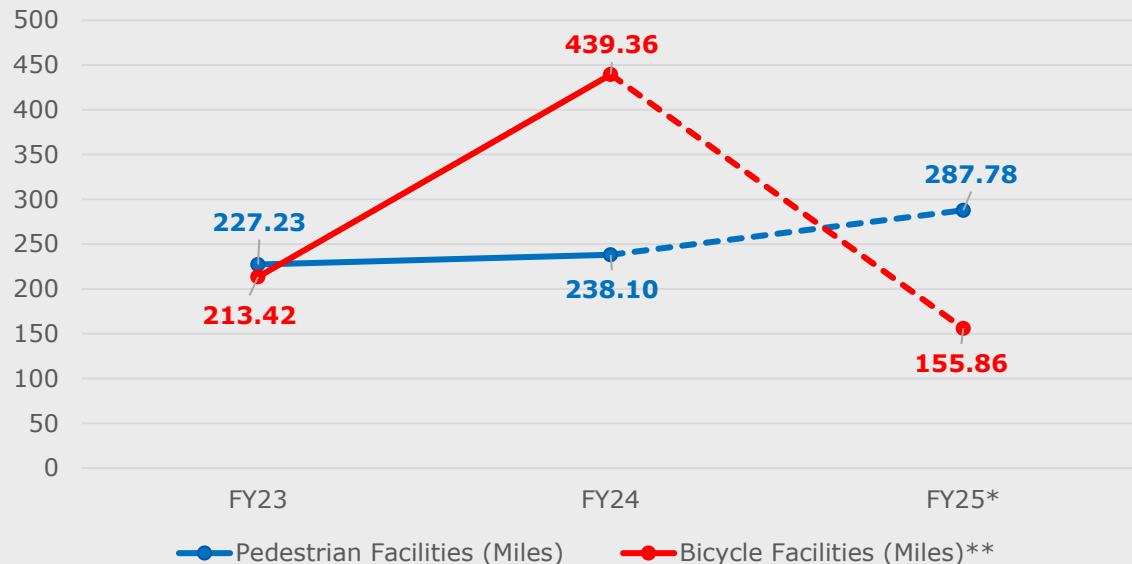


Desired Trend:



Progress Measure #3: Amount of Active Transportation Facilities Constructed

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities by Fiscal Year



*Projected based on Sep '24-Jan '25 data
 **Shared-Use Paths are counted in both totals

Desired Trend:





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Next Steps

Next Steps

Winter 2025

- Update, review, and finalize draft plan document.
- Meet with Steering Committee.

Spring 2025

- Update, review, and finalize draft plan document.
- Conduct engagement round 3 to provide a plan for public comment.
- Analyze public comments.

Summer 2025

- Update, review, and finalize plan.
- Present plan to Texas Transportation Commission.

**timeframe subject to change*



January 28, 2025

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Agenda Item 6

Federal Reauthorization Priorities

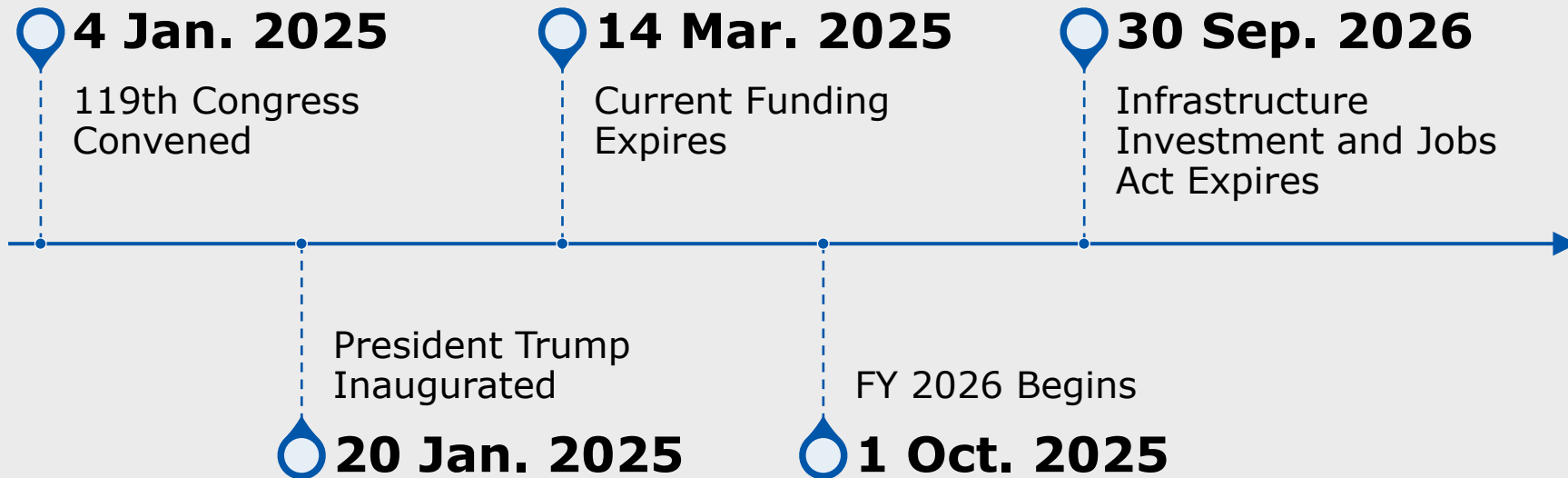


2025-2026 Federal Priorities

Government Affairs Division: Federal Legislative Affairs *Presented by: Federico Rodriguez*



Key Dates for 119th Congress



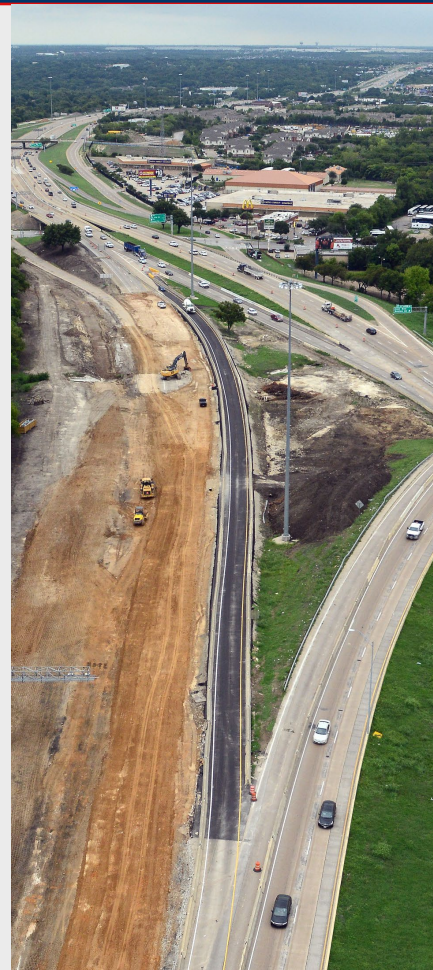
GENERAL TXDOT PRIORTIES

“First 100 Days”

- Address concerns with Federal Discretionary Grants
- Build America/Buy America Provisions
- Withdrawal of FHWA’s Green House Gas Rulemaking
- Rescind Burdensome FTA Rules
 - Rail Transit Roadway Worker Protections
 - Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program

IIJA Reauthorization

- Maintain and grow federal funding levels for infrastructure
- Eliminate federal overreach and unfunded mandates.
- Eliminating discretionary grants and distributing those funds via formula.
- Harmonize National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes across agencies within USDOT.



TRANSIT PRIORTIES

- Increase efficiency and funding for rural formula programs.
- Streamline the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) grant approval processes.
- Reduce and consolidate federal discretionary grant opportunities.

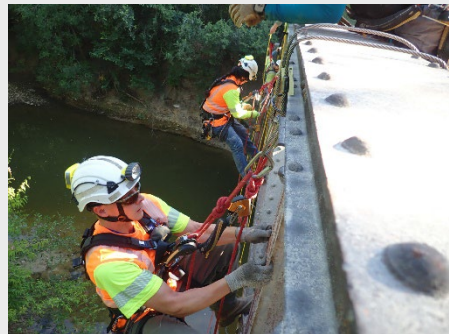


AASHTO Transit Reforms

- AASHTO Committee Participation
- 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities formula program
 - \$4M to each state
 - Ideal scenario fold into Rural (5311) and Urban (5307) formula program distributions
 - An additional \$200 million to the state DOTs as a formula sub-allocation, and distribute these funds by a proportional share distribution, based on statewide land area, population, revenue vehicles miles, and/or low-income individuals.



FEDERAL AFFAIRS CONTACT



Thank You

- Contact Information:
 - Federico Rodriguez, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
 - (512) 305-9530

Agenda Item 7

Service Expansion Program

Service Expansion Program (SEP):

Monthly Reporting (performance evaluated quarterly)

- Began November 2024 (phase 1 projects)
 - Some agencies delayed in providing complete data
- Performance Metrics include:
 - Vehicle Revenue Hours
 - One-Way Trips
 - One Way Trips per Hour
 - Cost Per Hour
 - Trips per Revenue Hour
 - Cost Per one way Trip
 - Subsidy per passenger
 - Customer Satisfaction

Service Expansion Program (SEP):

Summary of preliminary data:

- High customer satisfaction levels
- Most have met or exceed one-way trips per hour targets
- Areas of concern: subsidy per passenger and cost per hour

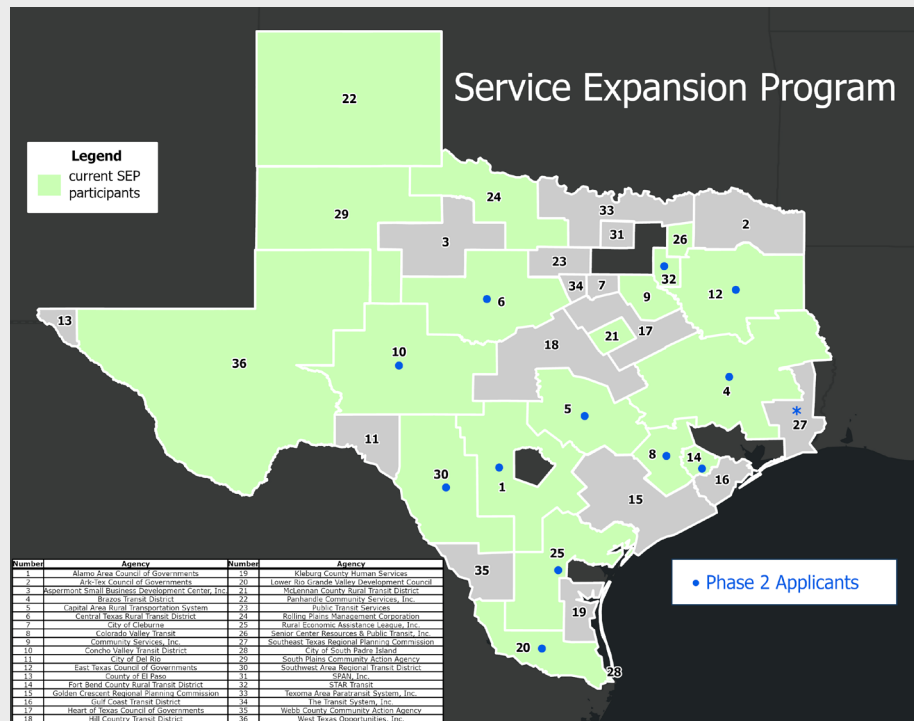
Service Expansion Program (SEP):

Phase 2

- 13 agencies applied, 31 projects proposed
- 26 projects approved
 - 19 need additional funds (the other 7 will use existing SEP funds)
- All 13 agencies had at least 1 project approved
- All available SEP funds will be distributed with Jan commission award

Schedule for Phase 2

- ✓ Oct 11 – Application Deadline
- ✓ Nov 29 – Draft funding decision
- Jan – Profiles updated
- Jan 30 – Commission Action
- Feb 15-28 – PTN processes PGA amendments
- March 1 – All amendments executed and all services must start



Agenda Item 8

PTAC Appointment Process

Texas Transportation Code § 455.004

Sec. 455.004. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) A public transportation advisory committee consisting of nine members shall:

(1) advise the commission on the needs and problems of the state's public transportation providers, including the methods for allocating state public transportation money;

(2) comment on rules involving public transportation during development of the rules and before the commission finally adopts the rules unless an emergency requires immediate commission action;

(3) advise the commission on the implementation of Chapter 461;

(4) perform any other duty determined by the commission; and

(5) reflect the diversity of the state.

(b) The members of the committee shall be appointed by the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives, who shall each appoint:

(1) one member who represents a diverse cross-section of public transportation providers;

(2) one member who represents a diverse cross-section of transportation users; and

(3) one member who represents the general public.

(c) A member serves at the pleasure of the officer who appointed the member. A member is not entitled to compensation for service on the committee but is entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses the member incurs in performing committee duties.

(d) The public transportation advisory committee shall meet as requested by the commission.

(e) The commission may adopt rules to govern the operation of the advisory committee.

Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 165, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1995. Amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1325, Sec. 13.03, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 281 (H.B. 2702), Sec. 4.01, eff. June 14, 2005.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 117 (H.B. 2219), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Current Member Appointments

Member	Hometown	Entity Represented	Appointed By	Total # Yrs. Served
Vacant	–	General Public	Governor	
Vacant	–	General Public	Lt. Governor	–
James C Cline, Jr.	Carrollton	General Public	Speaker of the House	7
Dietrich M. von Biedenfeld (Vice Chair)	West Columbia	Public Transportation User	Governor	6
Vacant	–	Public Transportation User	Lt. Governor	–
James Oliver	Galveston	Public Transportation User	Speaker of the House	2
J.R. Salazar	Coleman	Public Transportation Provider	Governor	13
Ken Fickes (Chair)	Houston	Public Transportation Provider	Lt. Governor	6
John McBeth	Bryan	Public Transportation Provider	Speaker of the House	9

Agenda Item 9

Public Comment

Agenda Item 10

Propose and discuss agenda items for next meeting;
confirm date of next meeting

Agenda Item 11

Adjourn