

RURAL COMPONENT TO THE 2035 STATEWIDE LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

DESCRIPTION:

The 2035 Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP) was adopted by the commission on November 18, 2010. Metropolitan planning organizations are required to develop long-range transportation plans; however, no equivalent rural long-range plan exists. The development of a rural transportation component to the SLRTP, known as the Texas Rural Transportation Plan (TRTP), will assist the department in a thorough identification of transportation needs and the prioritization of transportation improvements in rural Texas.

ISSUES:

- Public involvement activities
 - Stakeholders (elected officials, rural planning organizations, rural multi-modal transportation providers, district engineers)
 - Public outreach
- Project ranking criteria
- Plan completion schedule

REFERENCES:

- Title 23, United States Code §135, Statewide Transportation Planning
- Transportation Code, §201.601, Statewide Transportation Plan
- 23 CFR 450.214
- 43 TAC Chapter 16

DESIRED RESULTS:

Receive comments from the commission regarding public involvement and TRTP status.

FURTHER ACTIONS

None.

OTHER:

None.

TEXAS RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2035 (TRTP 2035)

Help shape the future of rural Texas



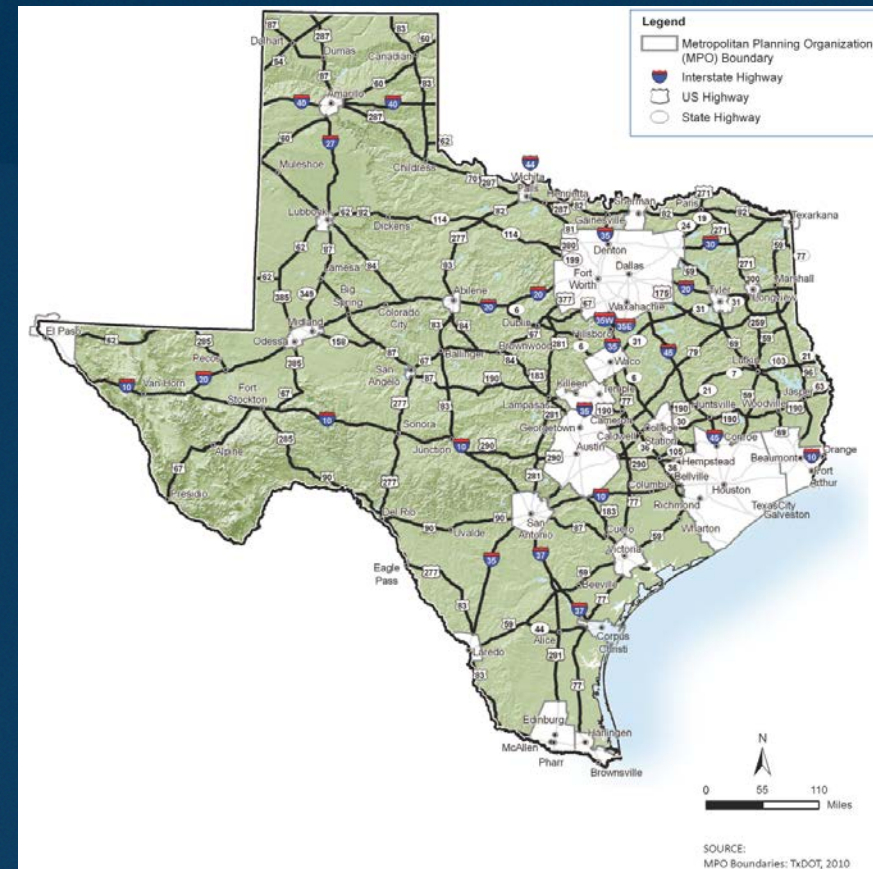
Texas Rural Transportation Plan 2035

What is it?

- TRTP – Texas Rural Transportation Plan 2035
- Component of the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan 2035 (SLRTP)
- Ranking of rural highway projects planned beyond 2021
- Identification of rural transportation needs for non-automobile/non-highway modes

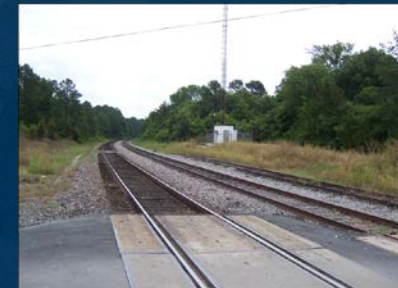
TRTP Study Area and Projects

- Covers rural areas only (shown in green)
- Considers needs of non-highway modes
- Developed with input from stakeholders and system users of all modes
- Analyzed only unfunded projects



TRTP and Non-Highway Modes

- Goal of TRTP for non-highway modes is to
 - Investigate and plan for non-highway mode opportunities in rural Texas
- The TRTP will
 - Discuss rural transportation needs
 - List known non-highway projects
- The TRTP will not rank or prioritize projects for non-highway modes



TRTP and Highways

Highway Projects Considered

- Added capacity
 - For instance, expanding 2 lanes to 4 lanes
- Capacity enhancements
 - “Super 2” – 1 mile of passing lanes every 5 miles
 - Adding frontage roads
 - 2-way left turn lanes over 1 mile in length
 - Undivided to divided highway

TxDOT's Goals

- TRTP criteria based on two of the TxDOT goals:
 - “Address Congestion” - Mobility
 - “Connect Texas Communities” - Connectivity
 - *Safety is covered in short-range planning*
 - *Maintenance & rehabilitation are on-going*

Highway Scoring Criteria

- Connectivity
 - Trunk System
 - System Gap
 - Freight Movement
 - Accessibility to Population Centers
 - Hurricane Evacuation Route
- Mobility
 - Population Near Project (5-mile buffer)
 - Cost Effectiveness
 - Volume-to-Capacity Ratio (Level of Service)
 - Truck and Total Traffic
 - Safe Passing Needs

Stakeholder Meetings and Weightings

- Over 600 public agency & elected officials invited
- Stakeholder Meetings held in 8 Locations (August 2011)
 - Alpine, Lubbock, Wichita Falls, San Angelo, Alice, Lufkin, Atlanta, Belton
- Questionnaire – 100 participants rated each criteria measure
- Summary of results to weight of criteria

Texas Rural
Transportation
Plan
2035



Shaping the Future
of Rural Texas

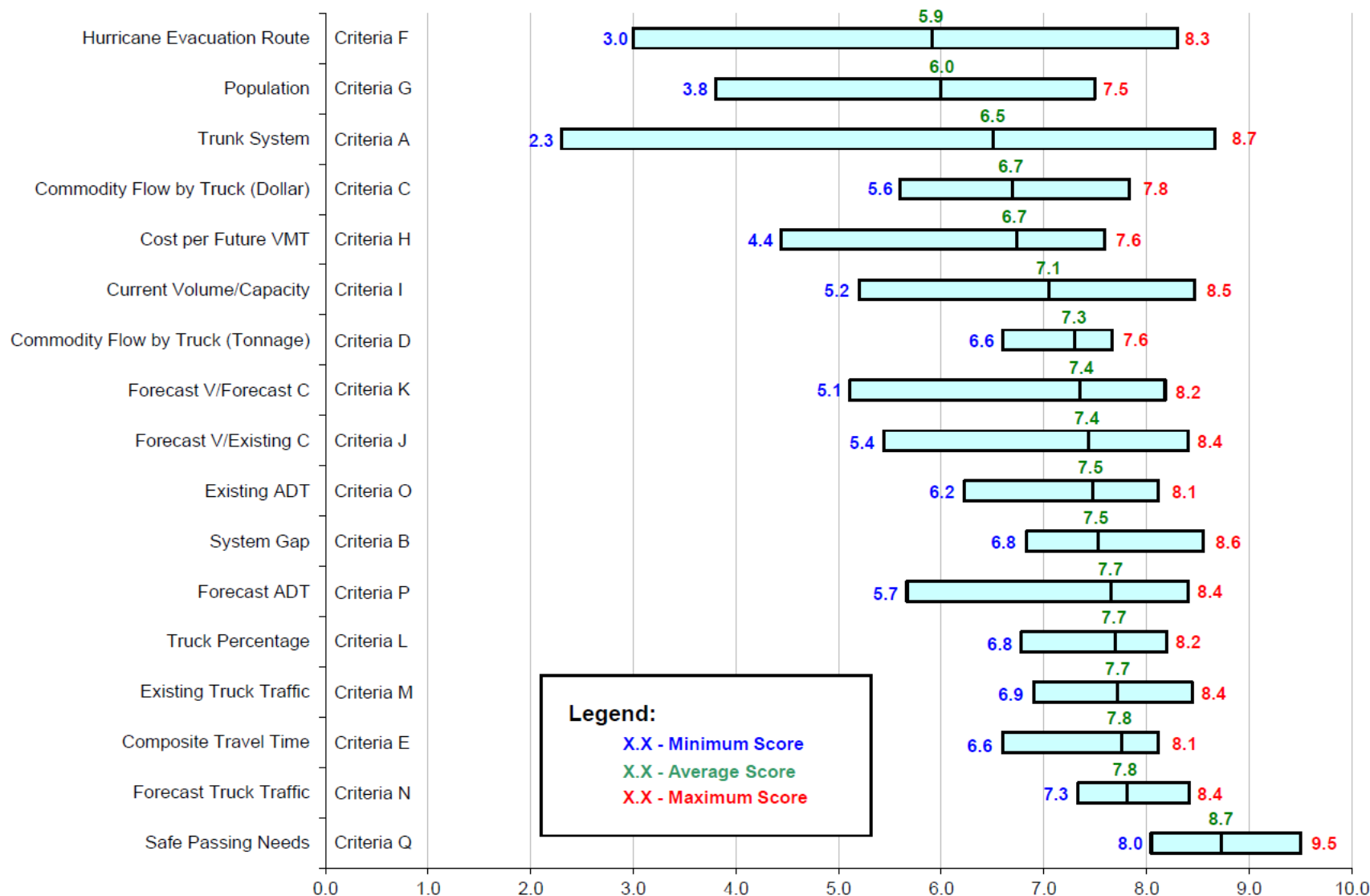
CRITERIA QUESTIONNAIRE

Stakeholder Meeting #1: 2011
[Location/Date]

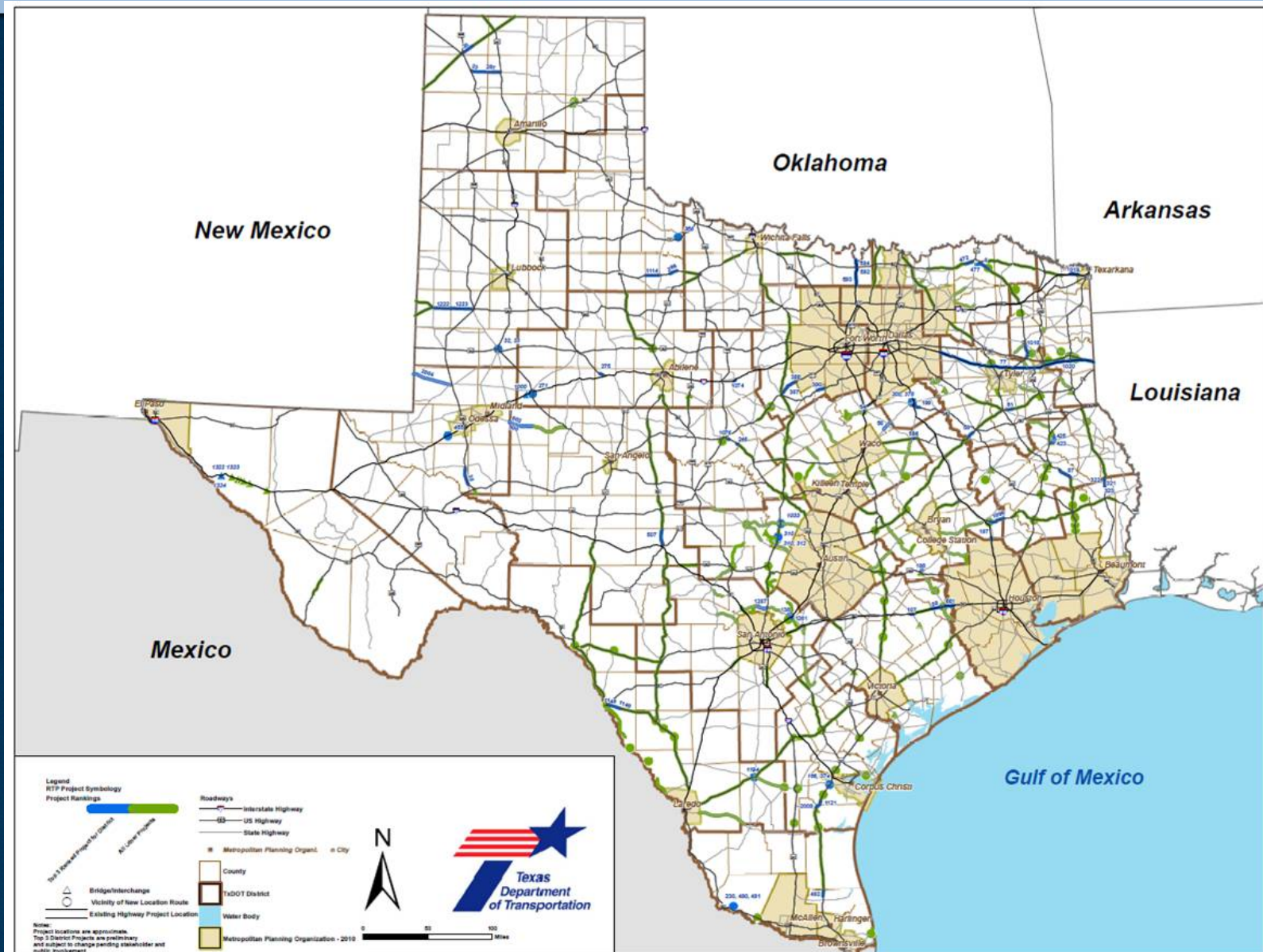
Please rate the overall importance of each of the following criteria for prioritization of rural highway projects:

CRITERIA	Criteria Questions	How Important is this criteria? (Circle One)									
		Less Important									More Important
Trunk System	Is project on the Texas Trunk System?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
System Gap	Is there a difference in the number of lanes on either end of the project that the proposed project will address either completely or partially?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Truck Freight Movement: Tonnage	How much TONNAGE of freight is generated in or shipped to the county	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Truck Freight Movement: Dollars	How many DOLLARS of freight are generated in or shipped to the county	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Accessibility	Compared to the other projects, how well does project connect people and jobs?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hurricane Evacuation Route	Is the project on Hurricane Evacuation Route or intersect one?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Population	Compared to other projects, how many people live within X miles of the project?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cost Effectiveness (Cost per future VMT)	How does the construction cost compare to the forecasted usage?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Existing Volume on Existing Capacity (V/C Ratio)	Is there an existing congestion problem?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Forecast Volume on Existing Capacity (V/C Ratio)	Will there be a congestion problem in the future if the project isn't built?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Forecast Volume on Future Capacity (V/C Ratio)	How well does the project address the congestion problem?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Truck Percentage	Is there a large percentage of current truck traffic on the facility that could affect travel? (% trucks)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Existing Truck Traffic (trucks per day)	How much current truck traffic travels within the project limits that could affect travel? (# of trucks)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Forecast Truck Traffic (trucks per day)	How many trucks are forecast to be traveling within the project limits that could affect travel?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Existing Total Traffic (vehicles per day)	What is the current traffic volume within the project limits that could affect travel?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Forecast Total Traffic (vehicles per day)	What is the forecast traffic volume within the project limits that could affect travel?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Safe Passing Needs	Can you pass safely on the current highway?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Questionnaire Results



Statewide with Top 3 by District



Public Meeting Results

24 Public Meetings held March 5-8:

- *Number of attendees - 205*
- *Number of comments received - 34*