



January 26, 2009

To: All Members, Transportation Policy Board
From: Sid Martinez
Subject: Director's Report

1. **Potential MPO Boundary Expansion** – Last month, the MPO sent letters to the Mayors and County Judges in the outlying areas regarding the organization's potential boundary expansion. The letter requested a meeting between the MPO and the elected officials in those regions to continue discussions regarding this important issue. However, we received the attached response from the Mayor of New Braunfels and the Comal County Judge regarding their disinterest in joining our MPO. Since the boundary expansion was initiated because of federal regulations and recommendations made by the Federal Highway Administration, we will forward this information to the appropriate officials to show that the MPO did its part in trying to come into compliance with federal standards.
2. **Joint Austin-San Antonio MPO Meeting** – We have been working with staff from the Austin MPO and the Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council to finalize the details associated with this meeting. It is scheduled for Thursday, February 26th at 6:00 p.m. in the new Embassy Suites Conference Center in San Marcos, Texas (exit 201 – McCarty Lane). Draft agenda items include presentations on Proposition 12, the statewide local-option tax initiative, Commuter Rail and air quality. The agenda should be finalized in the coming weeks and mailed to each of you at least 10 days prior to the meeting.
3. **Call for Planning Studies for FY 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program** – the call the Call for Projects to our partner agencies for the FY 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will occur in early February. The UPWP is the document that outlines all planning studies and their budgets for the upcoming two years. MPO and agency staff will be working on the development of this document over the next few months.
4. **Bicycle Mobility Advisory Committee Activities** – The Bicycle Mobility Advisory Committee (BMAC) has decided to expand their evening meetings from two per year to three per year. The next MPO Bike Night will be held on Wednesday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the VIA Metro Center. BMAC has been very successful in reaching out to the public with the evening meeting format.

Additionally, the Walk and Roll committee will soon begin meeting to plan this year's Walk and Roll events in May.

5. **Federal Aid Project Authorization** – The Texas Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration have asked MPO's to stress the importance of acquiring federal authorization prior to beginning any work on projects expected to receive federal reimbursements. Many of the agencies around this table work with TxDOT when their projects are selected for MPO (federal) funding. The attached memorandum outlines specific steps that need to be followed in order to ensure that state and federal regulations are being met.
6. **MPO Office Schedule** – The MPO office will be closed on Monday, February 16th in observance of President's Day.