



July 27, 2009

To: All Members, Transportation Policy Board

From: Sid Martinez

Subject: Director's Report

- 1. Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program** – As I reported last month, a new Recovery Act program has made available up to \$1.5 billion through September 30, 2011, for the Secretary of Transportation to make grants on a competitive basis for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. Projects eligible for funding provided under this program include, but are not limited to, highway or bridge projects, public transportation projects, passenger and freight rail transportation projects, and port infrastructure investments.

Any state, city, county, transit agency, RMA or MPO is eligible to submit projects directly to the federal government. However, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) decided to have their own call for projects to select a handful of projects that could be submitted through the State of Texas, with specific endorsement from the Texas Transportation Commission and the Governor. Five projects were submitted to TxDOT from our region which included four from the City of San Antonio (three dealing with BRAC issues around Fort Sam Houston and one project in partnership with Brooks-City Base) and VIA's Fredericksburg Road Bus Rapid Transit Project.

Again, if any of these projects are not selected through TxDOT's process, they can still be submitted directly through the federal government. Questions about this program can be addressed to TIGERGrants@dot.gov.

- 2. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update** – the MPO's federally required, financially constrained long range transportation plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), is nearing completion. The MTP is the area's blueprint for future roadway, transit, rideshare, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities - comprising a complete multimodal transportation system. Work has been underway on the Plan by the MPO staff, partner agencies, committees and consultant team for the past 2 ½ years. A thorough briefing will be given at your August meeting and portions of the document will be presented at your September and October meetings with adoption of the MTP scheduled for December 7, 2009.

3. **MPO Third Edition Bike Map** – the development of the 3rd edition of the MPO's bike map is well underway. The map is being developed in house and will show completed bicycle facilities and the bicycle level of suitability for main travel corridors in the MPO study area. The map will also showcase the City of San Antonio's linear creekways, Mission Trails, the MPO's Walk & Roll program and VIA's Bike & Ride program. The maps will be available for distribution in the early Fall. As an aside, the area had 34 miles of bicycle facilities in 2000 and now has 136 miles of bicycle facilities.