



Date: March 26, 2019
Continued From: N/A
Action Requested: Information

To: Burnet County Commissioners Court
From: Mr. Kelly Porter, Regional Planning Manager
Subject: 2045 Regional Arterials Plan – Burnet County Thoroughfare Plan Update

PURPOSE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the first regional plan of its kind for the Capital Area MPO region, the Regional Arterial Study seeks to understand the existing role and function of the region's major arterial corridors and to define their future role(s) and function(s) by mode. The Plan is being developed in close coordination with local jurisdictions and TxDOT; and is anticipated to provide common goals and implementation mechanisms for jurisdictions, transit agencies, CTRMA, TxDOT and Capital Area MPO in their efforts to improve the performance of current and future major arterial corridors and connecting/adjacent higher functional classification facilities. The Regional Arterial Plan will include a facilities inventory, a review of the most current applicable regional policies and data, 2045 illustrative and priority networks, guidance and recommendations on facility design and policy, performance measures, and an implementation plan with project and policy priorities for the next 25 years. The Burnet County portion of the plan will serve as an update to the thoroughfare planning components of the 2010 Burnet County Transportation Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of the 2045 Regional Arterials Plan is to create a hierarchy of roads that provide options for different travel-needs; establish a well-connected variety of roads that work together within the hierarchy that can exist flexibly to move people, not just one transportation mode; establish proper road spacing within the hierarchy and provide a menu street cross sections; and identify policy tools that empower local entities within the region to work to achieve regional connectivity goal. The Burnet County portion of the plan will serve as an update to the thoroughfare planning components of the 2010 Burnet County Transportation Plan.

The plan is being guided through a 20-member steering committee made up of local and regional partners, including City of Elgin. The committee has met four times thus far to provide guidance on the existing conditions inventory and concept planning. The committee will meet at least two more times before the plan is complete including in May when they will make a recommendation on the plan the Technical Advisory Committee. In addition to most cities in Burnet County and some of the school districts, all Burnet County Commissioners have participated in the process either at commissioner workshops, and local government or public meetings.

To date, there have been two rounds of local government outreach (Spring and Fall 2018) in which officials from the cities, counties, school districts, TxDOT and other local government interest were invited to provide comments on planning elements such as the roadway inventory, connectivity needs, policy issues, and other items.

Local government meetings were held in Marble Falls and Bertram. Issues with safety, river crossings, and connectivity were raised. In addition, two rounds of public outreach were held during the same period. The first meeting was held in Marble Falls and the second in Bertram.

Capital Area MPO staff has worked to identify areas where additional connectivity is needed and points in which safety and operational improvements may be considered as part of a regional concept plan. Capital Area MPO staff will continue to work with TxDOT and local governments to refine concept plan and develop priorities which will be part of the final plan. Next steps included working with jurisdictions on the roadway inventory and project list; refinement of the draft concept plan; and development of a draft final plan. The draft plan is expected to be taken to the public for comment in May and brought back to this body for formal adoption of the Burnet County component in May as well. The Capital Area MPO Transportation Policy Board will act on the Regional Arterials Plan in June 2019.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Vision, Goals, and Objectives
2. Burnet Local Government Comments
3. Connectivity Needs Maps



REGIONAL ARTERIALS PLAN - VISION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

Vision: To facilitate a framework of a broad set of transportation choices that improve mobility, are safe, convenient, reliable, resilient, and efficient, and that promote equitable prosperity, region-wide connectivity, economic development, and healthy communities.

Goal 1: Safety – Improve safety for arterial road users.

Objectives

- Reduce severity and number of crashes for all modes to assist local governments and other transportation agencies reach vision zero metrics.
- Reduce emergency response times.
- Enhance evacuation routes.

Goal 2: Mobility – Improve network efficiency and flexibility to reduce travel times and distance.

Objectives

- Expand the network to reduce congestion and increase capacity.
- Decrease network gaps to add connectivity, reduce bottlenecks and remove barriers.
- Improve network redundancy to reduce reliance on the limited access roadway network for short trips.
- Unlock economic development/redevelopment potential by allowing for opportunities to live, work, and play in close proximity.
- Utilize improved technology to increase efficiency of travel.

Goal 3: Growth – Plan for growth more effectively.

Objectives

- Plan for and leverage growth through a more comprehensive network to accommodate different development types.
- Prepare for future land use and development opportunities.
- Identify right of way for preservation, and reservation for future or redeveloping corridors.
- Use available policy tools creatively to achieve community objectives.
- Promote a network that supports a wide range of housing choice near employment.

Goal 4: Multimodal – Design multimodally to provide more transportation choices to move people and goods.

Objectives

- Design the roadway network for all modes.
- Design arterials for all ages and abilities.
- Design network with flexibility for all modes.
- Design arterials that are freight and transit supportive.

Goal 5: Environment – Protect and preserve the environment.

Objectives

- Develop roadway design that limits negative impacts to water and air quality.

- Consider design elements and aesthetic treatments that are context appropriate.
- Consider environmental factors and the impacts of materials on the environment and roadway lifecycle costs.

Goal 6: Economy, Equity, and Health – Foster a system that promotes prosperity and vitality for our region.

Objectives

- Align road functionality with evolving road character and design to community and environmental standards.
- Consider freight and delivery needs.
- Provide equitable access to support economic development.
- Improve public health outcomes through air quality, active mobility and enhanced quality of life.