The El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is developing a new set of transportation planning documents which will cover transportation investments up to the year 2045. The 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) will encompass multimodal, regionally significant projects that demonstrate the ability to meet prescribed federal, state, and MPO requirements. Along with the 2045 MTP, a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Transportation Conformity Report will be developed. The new planning documents will reflect investments from performance-based valuations.

To advance the development of these documents, projects are subject to performance indicators at a corridor and regional level via the Block System. The Block System was introduced to the TPB at the July 22, 2016 meeting. With this approach, 4 planning levels or scales are identified each with a specific goal and objectives for the advancement of transportation needs and gaps. The group consist of Within Community, Community to Community, Community to Region, and Region to Region. The purpose of the Block System is to promote the interaction of a project with all applicable scales. In addition to the Block System, the 2045 MTP will cover the following items to demonstrate compliance with federal and state laws and guidance:

- Baseline information
- Regional goals and objectives
- Performance measures
- Trends and Target setting
- System Performance Report
- Forecasts of future conditions and needs
- Strategies and Investments
- Financial plan

As with any call for projects, the MPO will ensure that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects and programs adhere to standing policies and requirements and are based on a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive (3-C) planning process. Although the financial forecasts for the planning documents have yet to be memorialized, projects will be evaluated on eligibility across funding categories. This approach will maximize the opportunity to make recommendations to the TPB and provide a reliable transportation system.

The El Paso MPO is accepting Project Request Forms (PRF) for the call for projects that will open on April 3, 2017 and closes at 11:59pm Mountain Standard Time (MST) on May 2, 2017. The call for projects is for the years 2021-2045. Projects within this timeframe will not automatically rollover from the current transportation planning documents to the new transportation planning documents.

The MPO will also be examining current added capacity project (adding new lanes to an existing road or building new roads) in the 2020 network (2017-2020 TIP) which are required to be open to the public by December 31, 2020. Projects not meeting this requirement are subject the Call for Projects and Project Reporting Policy.

MPO staff will continue to work with sponsoring agencies after the call for projects close date, as necessary, to meet and assist with projects that were submitted during the call for projects. Final submittal of PRFs will depend on documentation and materials determined necessary for eligibility during the multimodal, system level corridor analysis for the new transportation planning documents. All project submittals will require a new PRF. Information on the submittal of PRFs can be found at www.elpasofwd.com

Participation is encouraged and is highly recommended that governing bodies acknowledge nominations of project(s) via a resolution. Should you have any questions please contact the El Paso MPO at (915) 212-0258.