



Central Texas *ON THE MOVE*

2180 N. Main Street Belton, TX 76513

Summer 2019

High Speed Rail Study Through Central Texas



Aecom has begun conducting a new high-speed rail study looking at the Dallas/Fort Worth – Laredo corridor. The purpose of the study is to evaluate interest in various rail transport options and to get stakeholder feedback on the possibility of a high-speed rail project from Dallas/Fort Worth to Laredo. The study is looking at conventional high-speed rail and maglev options as well as new technologies like the hyperloop, an Elon Musk idea. For more information about the hyperloop check out: <https://hyperloop-one.com/>.

Contact Us

Contact us for more information about our services.

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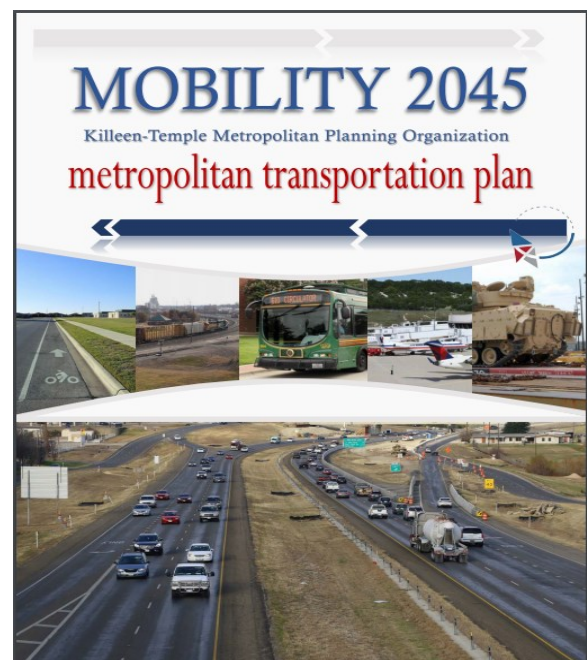
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2045 MTP update

This May, KTMPO completed its regular five-year update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Called Mobility 2045, the 25-year, long range planning document provides a comprehensive overview of our region's transportation system. It describes the current state of the network, projects future needs, and suggests solutions and projects to continue improving and streamlining the network. The 2045 MTP is an important resource for our region, especially as we continue to experience high population growth rates that do not look to be slowing down anytime soon. More information and the full document can be found here:

<https://ktmpo.org/planning/plans/>



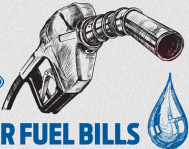
Efficiency in Transportation Planning

Creating a useful, effective, sustainable transportation network is not just about building and improving the network of transportation systems. How those systems are utilized also has a role to play in the effectiveness and sustainability of transportation. The goal of a successful transportation management plan is to maximize efficiency so that the system and those using the system save the most time, energy, and money that they can. The great thing about efficient driving is that you, the driver, are in control and not the system itself.


5 BETTER DRIVING TIPS

from Ford that will

HELP YOU SLASH YOUR FUEL BILLS




1 DRIVE SMOOTHLY




Look far ahead and anticipate road situations to smoothly adjust your speed, accelerating and braking. Aggressive driving such as rapid acceleration, speeding and braking can lower your fuel mileage significantly.

2 USE CRUISE CONTROL




Using cruise control on long stretches of highway helps maintain speed and conserve fuel. Activating your cruise control keeps you from unintentionally driving faster and with lower fuel efficiency.

3 LIGHTEN THE LOAD




Try to travel as light as possible by keeping only the most important items (like an emergency kit, jumper cables, a small toolset, and a small jack) in the vehicle.

4 SLOW DOWN




Speeding wastes lots of fuel. By driving 100km/h instead of 120km/h you can improve your fuel efficiency by up to 10-15 per cent.

5 REDUCE AERODYNAMIC DRAG



Your vehicle is designed for good aerodynamics – but attaching a carrier or bike to the roof adds more wind resistance. If you spend lots of time on the highway or are planning a long trip, try to transport items inside the vehicle.



Quick tips for simple ways you can save fuel while you drive. Anyone can do these, they are easy!

What is Efficient Driving?

Efficient driving is just what it sounds like, driving in a way that maximizes productivity and minimizes effort or expense. The concept is centered heavily around strategies and methods to improve fuel economy. The methods are all pretty simple, but they do require planning, patience, and making sensible decisions to work.

The two big fuel economy killers when you drive are excessive idling and quick acceleration. This is because fuel economy is based on how far your gas will take you, so the less gas you waste, the farther you will go and the more efficiently you will be driving. The reason idling is bad for your fuel economy is because you are using gas, but not going anywhere. To combat this complete waste of fuel, plan your route ahead of time to avoid stop signs and stoplights as much as possible. When you cannot avoid a stop though, you can improve your fuel efficiency by coasting into the stops, or if they are stoplights, trying to time them so you do not have to come to a complete stop. Conserving momentum is the key to helping out your fuel economy because the other big fuel burner is acceleration. When you jam down on the gas, your car adds a lot of fuel into the engine to give you a jump, but it's actually very wasteful in the economy of fuel. Consequently, braking, especially braking hard, is also bad for your fuel economy because it means you are wasting acceleration, which costs a lot of fuel. Instead, what you can do to save fuel is accelerate more gently and coast into stops as much as you can. Yes, it's not as fun and other cars might cut in front of you, but you will save gas and make your driving much more efficient.

Why: Benefits of Efficient Driving

The obvious answer to this is that efficient driving results in saving money. Driving to increase your fuel economy, so that you use less gas means that you are spending less money on gas. Saving money is not the only way that you benefit from driving more efficiently though. Using less gas also means that you are reducing your emissions output and not putting as much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This is good for the environment and it is good for you because it means you are helping contribute towards cleaner air where you live. Finally, utilizing efficient driving strategies is safer for you. To have a better fuel economy pushes you toward driving slower, being more aware of what is going on around you, driving less, and taking alternate routes which probably have less traffic on them. All these things might make it take you a little longer to get to your destination, but what is five or ten minutes if it means that you are way less likely to get into an accident. Choosing to drive more efficiently is good for you, good for the environment, and honestly also probably better for your car too. Lots of reasons for you to make getting a better fuel economy a priority as you drive.

How much money can you actually save? This table is an example of savings from different driving strategies.

Action	Fuel Economy Benefit	Gas savings
Not aggressively driving (eg. No speeding, rapidly accelerating or braking hard)	10 – 40%	\$0.23-0.92/gal.
Going the speed	7-14%	\$0.18-0.35/gal.
Avoiding hauling cargo on your roof	2% - 17% (depending on speed)	\$0.05-0.42/gal.
Removing excess weight	1%/100 lbs.	\$0.02/gal
Avoiding idling		\$0.01-0.02/min.

Local Events

Killeen

Centex Race Series

This is the 7th annual year of the Centex Race series, a series of races is held in the cities of Belton, Killeen, Temple, Harker Heights, Copperas Cove, and Nolanville. This year there are 17 races being held between January 12th and December 7th. The races are a mix of 5ks and 10ks and are open to anyone. In addition to being healthy, fun events, the Centex Race series awards points to every participant to create a little competition. An awards banquet honoring the best male and female runners of the year as well as runners who participate in a certain number of races is held at the end of the year. More information including the points system and race dates can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/CentexRaceCLF/>

Belton

4th of July Parade

The city of Belton is preparing to celebrate Independence Day with the 100th anniversary of their annual 4th of July Parade. The long-standing tradition has become a big draw for visitors every year with many families making the parade a yearly tradition and traveling down to Belton to attend. Over 30,000 people are expected to be in downtown for the parade, some of them even coming in as much as a week in advance and parking trailers (with approval) to ensure they have a good spot to watch the parade from. With floats, old cars, decked out bicycles, bands, and all sorts of other special entries, the 4th of July parade is a "can't miss" event for Central Texas. The parade has even been mentioned on national news outlets as one of the best places to celebrate Independence Day in the country. Don't miss it!

Top Hiking Trails

It's summer time and that means no school and sunny days. The perfect opportunity to take advantage of the many great trails in the KTMPO region. Highlighted here are a few options for those interested in hiking. For more trail information check out: <https://www.alltrails.com/>



Above: Dana Peak Park—Explore Fence Line Trail to Twin Peaks Trail for wide smooth trails and some narrower tracks in the cedar trees. Has a short climb in the middle.

Right: Pepper Creek Trail in Temple is made up of 8 miles of paved path through natural surroundings. The trail also connects to the new Crossroads Park opening in early 2020.



Above: Miller Springs Nature Center—Walk along Green Pond trail to explore the area below Belton Dam. Hop onto Armadillo Trail or South River Trail for a longer route.



Regional Multimodal Plan

The Regional Multimodal Plan is a document that outlines the future development of an integrated transportation system. Previously called the Regional Thoroughfare Plan, the name now reflects the importance of planning for all transportation modes moving forward. The Plan has short term and long term sections that address both the existing needs and the future needs of the region. Practically, the plan is comprised of multiple parts, each discussing different modes of transportation and also incorporates a large portion of the old Thoroughfare Plan focusing on roadway functional classes and cross sections. To read the whole plan go here:

<https://ktmpo.org/planning/plans/>

Air Quality Update

Monthly Maximum 8-hr. Ozone Readings (ppb)

Month	Killeen	Temple
January	46	44
February	52	48
March	67	63
April	72	67
May	56	53
June	60	55

How You Can Get Involved

KTMPO MEETINGS: The public is encouraged to attend various KTMPO meetings including the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Transportation Planning Policy Board (TPPB). The public is given an opportunity to speak at these meetings and have their voices heard. Please visit <http://www.ktmpo.org/meetings/> for meeting dates.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES: We currently have a Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and a Freight Advisory Committee. If you wish to attend these meetings or serve on one of these committees, contact KTMPO staff for more details.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Public hearings are held to receive comments on changes to KTMPO documents to include the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Members of the public are encouraged to fill out a public comment form during public involvement periods. A general contact/comment form is also available at <http://www.ktmpo.org/contact/>.

KTMPO VOTING REPS: To contact your TAC and TPPB voting representatives please visit <http://www.ktmpo.org/about/members/>

CITY STAFF: KTMPO recommends that you contact the planning office in your city to identify areas that need improvement. City planners can then use the public input to design transportation projects that may move forward when funding becomes available.

Meeting Dates:

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC):

- First Wednesday of every month

Transportation Planning Policy Board (TPPB):

- Third Wednesday of every month

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We want to hear from you!

What is important to you in regards to transportation and connectivity??

Please email us!