

TRANSITIONS 2045

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





The Albuquerque metropolitan area is a dynamic place. With close to a million residents and the state's largest concentration of jobs, it is New Mexico's economic center. The safe and efficient movement of people and goods enables the region to thrive and the economy to flourish. To keep our region moving, we must keep our transportation infrastructure in good working order; improve or add roads, bike facilities, and sidewalks; provide quality transit service; and fine-tune traffic operations through signal timing, real-time traveler information, and advanced technology solutions.

The Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO) plays an important role in keeping the region moving. MRMPO manages transportation investments across the greater Albuquerque metro area, from Belen in the south to Pueblo de Cochiti in the north. Working together with various agencies, organizations, and the public, MRMPO develops the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

The purpose of the *Transitions 2045 MTP* is to provide a framework for establishing shared transportation priorities across the metropolitan area.

The plan is designed to facilitate strategic investments across our transportation systems that support mobility, the economy, the environment, equity, and active transportation to meet the needs of our diverse population.

In recent years, the cost of construction has skyrocketed. At the same time, there is a growing amount of work to be done to strengthen and maintain our existing transportation system. Therefore, it is imperative that projects listed in the *Transitions 2045 MTP* address the most critical needs in the transportation system to ensure the most effective use of public funds.



METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION BOARD

The *Transitions 2045 MTP* is approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Board (MTB) as a shared blueprint for future transportation investments. The MTB is the transportation policy making body for the metropolitan area and is comprised of elected officials from municipal, county, and Tribal governments in Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Valencia Counties as well as other partner agencies such as the New Mexico Department of Transportation, transit agencies, flood control authorities, and public school districts.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE TRANSITIONS 2045 MTP?

The MTP is updated every five years to incorporate the most up-to-date information available. This plan is an update to the *Connections 2040 MTP*, which was adopted in April 2020.

Much has changed over the past five years. Three major factors have emerged that are discussed in detail in the *Transitions 2045 MTP*:

1 THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGED THE WAY RESIDENTS AND WORKERS TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

2 OVERALL POPULATION GROWTH IN THE REGION HAS FLATTENED, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN REDUCED EXPECTATIONS FOR FUTURE GROWTH.

3 THE COST OF INFRASTRUCTURE HAS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, RAISING THE PRICE TAG ON TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS BY 20 TO 30 PERCENT OR MORE.



BELOW ARE SOME ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS PLAN:



Significant progress has been made towards the “Target Scenario” envisioned in the *Connections 2040 MTP*. Through innovative zoning and investment strategies, member agencies have successfully incentivized more **growth into key centers**, a **mix of land uses** where appropriate, and the opportunity for **shorter trips**.



Since the pandemic, **traffic volumes have eased in some areas**, particularly around major employment centers and during peak commute times. This can be attributed to a rise in remote, hybrid, and flexible work schedules and other business conducted online.

The **population is expected to grow by 38,000 by 2045**, with the fastest growth amongst seniors.



Employment in the metro area has rebounded to pre-pandemic levels with approximately 420,000 jobs in the region in April 2024.

Housing affordability is an increasing challenge, particularly for the lowest income households. Over half of all renters spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent; and the rising price of homes has made homeownership out of reach for many.



Equity has been elevated as its own goal in this MTP, reflecting community priorities towards improving transportation access and safety in areas that have been traditionally underserved.

Transit service and **transit ridership decreased in the past five years** and has still not returned to pre-pandemic levels. This plan reflects updated service plans from transit providers in the region.



There is **demand for safer and more comfortable bicycle and pedestrian facilities**. MRMPO maintains seven permanent counters to monitor non-motorized travel and is working to expand this program in the future to better support these modes of travel.



Pedestrian fatalities have risen to record levels in the metro area. The Safety chapter of this plan sets a new target for zero traffic deaths and includes strategies and tools to prioritize safety for all users of the transportation system.



An environmental resiliency analysis provides **new data on greenhouse gas emissions, areas with extreme temperatures**, and other threats to the environment and our most vulnerable populations.



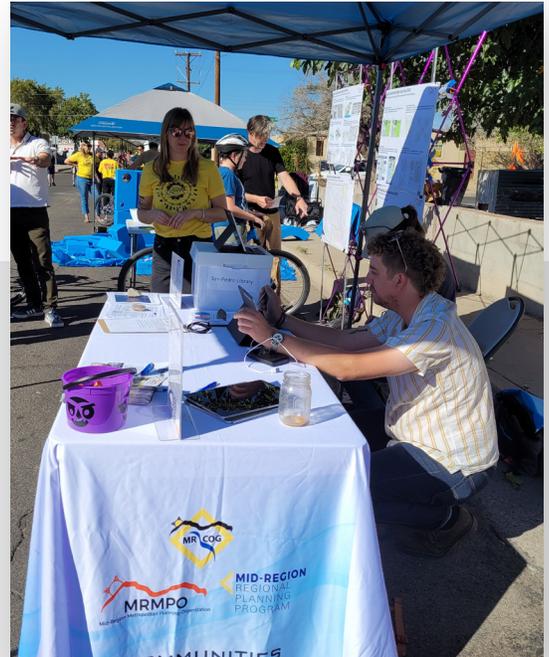
Two counties in the metro area, Bernalillo and Sandoval, are nearing **problematic ground-level ozone levels**, meaning worsening air quality.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Robust outreach and engagement helps ensure that the goals of the MTP reflect community values and needs. A variety of methods were used to solicit input, including online surveys, in-person outreach events and meetings, and interactive mapping exercises. Feedback from the public, stakeholders, and local agencies demonstrated a desire to focus spending on infrastructure maintenance, safety, and bike and pedestrian projects. Throughout the process, engagement generated:

- 1,600 comments from outreach events and surveys
- 662 survey participants
- 1,314 mapped data points
- 25 outreach events and meetings

The public engagement strategy used to guide this plan follows the *Transitions 2045 Public Participation Plan (2023)* and MRMPO's *Public Participation Procedures (2023)*.



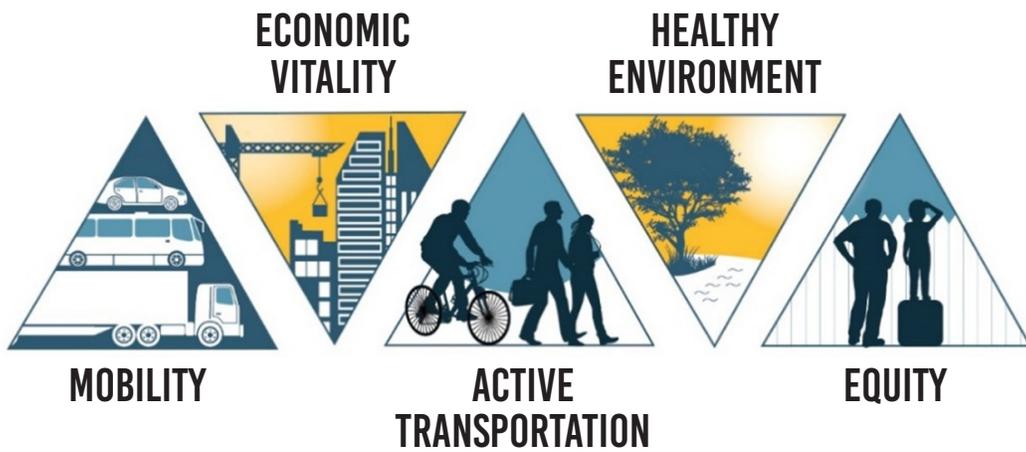
VISION:
**OUR PEOPLE-CENTERED
TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM PROVIDES SAFE,
COMFORTABLE, AND
EASY ACCESS TO DAILY
DESTINATIONS FOR ALL.**

THE GUIDING STRUCTURE FOR TRANSITIONS 2045 MTP:





GOALS



The *Transitions 2045 MTP* is guided by a planning framework developed through extensive engagement efforts, both with the public and with member agencies and approved by the MTB. The MTP goals integrate national transportation goals to align with federal transportation policy. Transportation projects included in the MTP must advance the long-range plan’s goals.

SHARED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES APPROVED BY THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION BOARD

GOAL

OBJECTIVE

MOBILITY

Promote the safe and efficient movement of people and goods throughout the region.

- Prioritize safety for all users of the transportation system
- Preserve and enhance existing infrastructure
- Enhance Transportation System Management & Operations
- Support frequent transit service
- Advance emerging technologies in transportation

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Ensure safe and convenient ways to travel for people who cannot or choose not to drive.

- Improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Build connected bike and pedestrian travel networks
- Coordinate land use and transportation planning

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

Incorporate climate change and environmental considerations into transportation planning and decisions.

- Protect and enhance the natural environment
- Prevent disproportionate environmental impacts to low-income neighborhoods and communities of color
- Reduce transportation contributions to climate change
- Protect public health and safety from the impacts of climate change

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Strategically invest in high-quality transportation systems that support the economic health of the region.

- Invest in creating vibrant places
- Support regional freight, logistics, and goods movement
- Encourage diverse housing options

EQUITY

Improve safe and reliable transportation systems in traditionally underserved communities.

- Provide safe and reliable routes to daily destinations
- Increase access to green space and outdoor recreational opportunities
- Improve access to economic opportunity
- Expand access to affordable housing

PERFORMANCE DRIVEN

The *Transitions 2045 MTP* includes quantitative federal performance measures to help measure the region's transportation system performance. The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) sets performance targets that MRMPO adopts and are monitored by this plan.

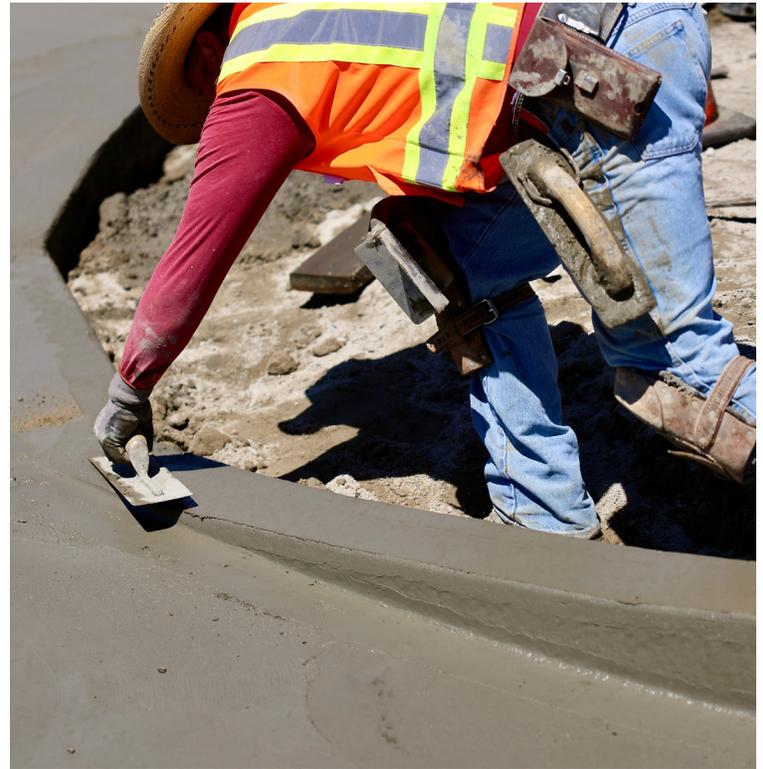
These measure include:



MRMPO also develops its own regional metrics that are tracked to evaluate progress towards advancing the goals and objectives of the plan (see Chapter 11).

FISCAL CONSTRAINT

Metropolitan transportation plans are required to be fiscally constrained. This means that the *Transitions 2045 MTP* must demonstrate that the total cost of all transportation projects in the MTP do not exceed the projected financial resources available. The *Transitions 2045 MTP* is fiscally constrained based on projected budgets (see Chapter 10).



TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The *Transitions 2045 MTP* contains a list of projects that are eligible for federal funding (see Appendix A). The following map illustrates the location of many of these projects. Note that this is not an inclusive map of all projects in the MTP; for example, systemwide programs such as “Vision Zero” cannot be mapped.

**MTP Project List:
Publicly Funded Projects**

**Publicly Funded
Transportation
Network Projects**

- By Project Type*
- Capacity
 - Safety
 - Bicycle and/or Pedestrian
 - Transit
 - Highway and Bridge Preservation
 - ITS-TSM
 - Travel Demand Management
 - Miscellaneous
 - Design/Right-of-Way*

**Publicly Funded
Interchange Projects***

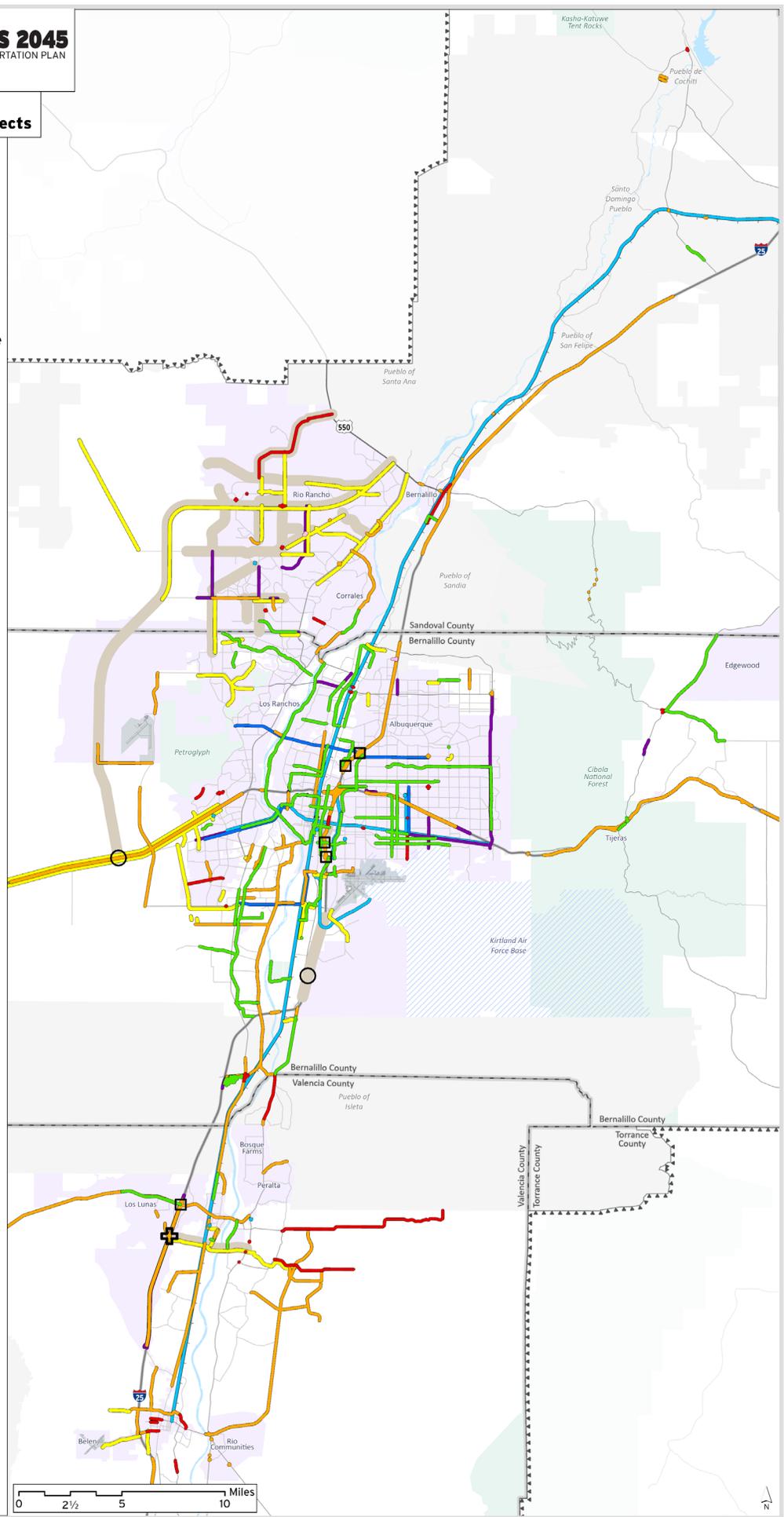
- By Description
- + New Construction
 - Reconstruction or Reconfiguration
 - Design/Right-of-Way

*Design/Right-of-Way and Interchange are not project types in the MTP Project List. They are used only on this map to provide additional information about project phases and are based on Project Title and/or Project Description.

Mappable projects have a clearly defined alignment and termini on a transportation network (roadways, bike trails, or rail). Projects with jurisdiction-wide or vague extents were not mapped.

Privately funded projects are not shown.

See Appendix A for the complete Project List.



Map Data Sources: See Appendix I.

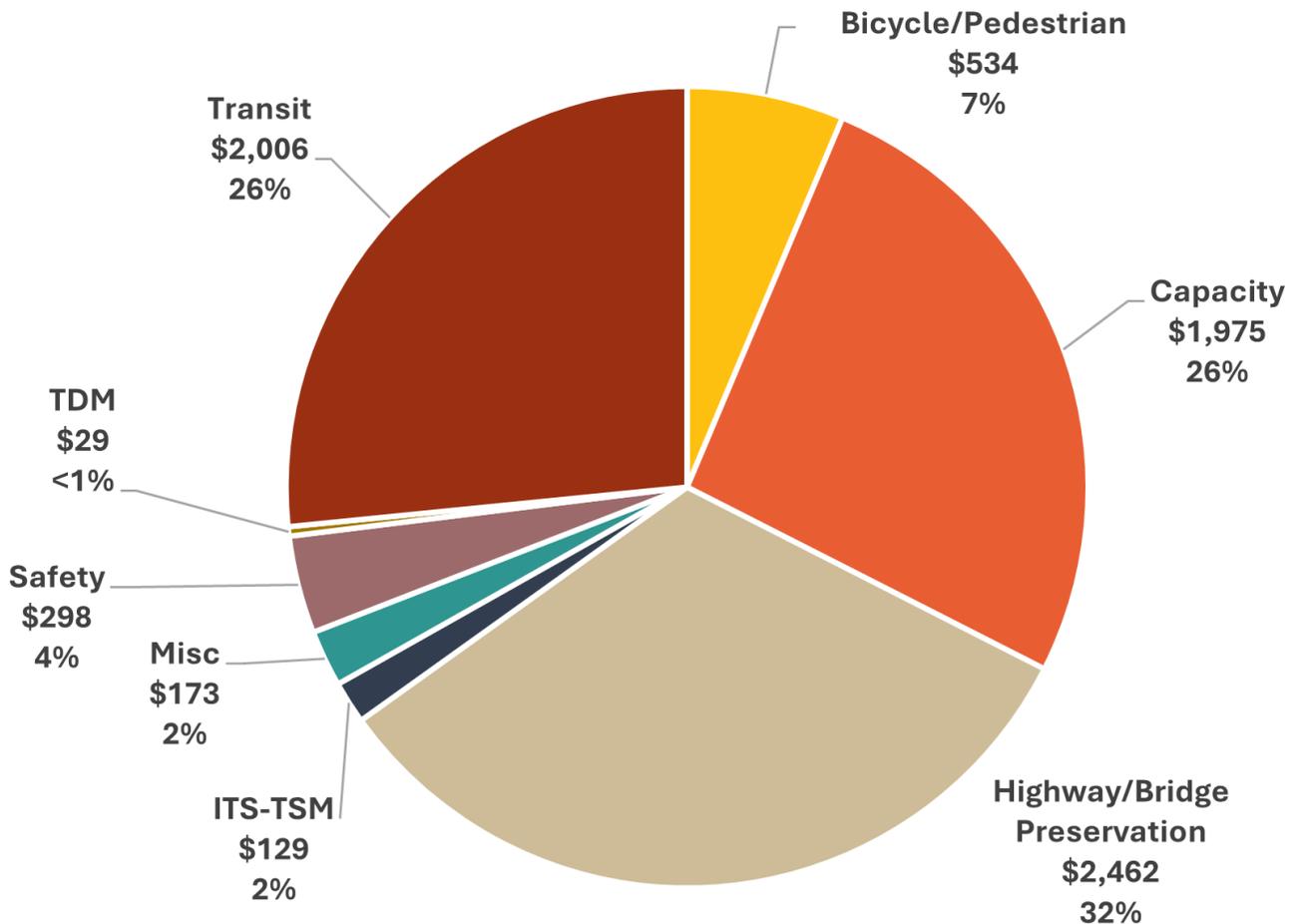


FINANCIAL PLAN

In all, the MTP project list includes an estimated \$7.6 billion in public funds that are available to the metro area for transportation projects and programs. This is not inclusive of funds that local entities have budgeted to spend on maintenance or smaller, regionally insignificant projects.

The chart below shows how the public funds available for capital projects will be spent across the different project types over the next 20 years. Projects include new interchanges, additional and expanded roadways, various pedestrian and bike improvements, and expanded transit services.

2045 MTP PUBLICLY FUNDED PROJECTS BY TYPE (MILLIONS)



Preserving existing infrastructure is a top priority of the MTP. The largest share of spending, \$2.4 billion, is dedicated towards the preservation of roads and bridges nearing the end of their lifespan and other improvements to the quality of our existing transportation networks.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing the MTP is essential to achieving its vision. While MRMPO does not construct projects, there are various mechanisms that move the metropolitan area closer to its goals.

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

MRMPO scores agency project proposals to assist with the development and prioritization of the Transportation Improvement Plan, which is a near-term list of projects eligible for federal funds. The scoring criteria reflect the goals and strategies of the MTP.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

MRMPO reviews development proposals from local agencies to ensure consistency with the MTP and submits comments.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS GUIDE

This document provides high-level guidance regarding the context sensitive design of transportation facilities to meet the needs of users of all abilities. It also includes aspirational “beyond 2045” networks for bikes, transit, and roadways.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACTION PLAN

This plan represents an inter-agency effort that provides direction and support related to safety projects and programs implemented throughout the region.

The *Transitions 2045 MTP* also contains a list of strategies to implement the Plan (see Appendix D). These strategies were developed in coordination with local entities and are intended to serve as a toolbox to address the unique transportation needs throughout the region.



The Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO) is a division of the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), an association of local governments and special units of government in New Mexico's middle Rio Grande region tasked with conducting and coordinating regional planning efforts.

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