



MPO/ Port Coordination in Southeast Texas



Presented to
3rd NARC Freight and Goods Movement Summit
by Bob Dickinson, Director
Transportation and Environmental Resources
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
December 4th, 2006





The History

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) was established in June 1970 under authority provided by the Texas Legislature in 1965.

SETRPC is one of 24 Regional Planning Councils that serve all of Texas. Regional Council boundaries conform to the State Planning Region System whereby 24 areas or regions are delineated according to socio-economic and physical characteristics that set one area apart from another. Each of these Regional Councils were founded for the purpose of solving area wide problems by promoting intergovernmental cooperation and coordination, conducting comprehensive regional planning, and providing a forum for the discussion and study of area issues.





The History - mpo

SETRPC is governed by an Executive Committee composed of elected officials from the various city councils, county commissioner's courts, and special district boards that form its membership. These member governments pay yearly dues to the Planning Commission based on their population.

On May 15, 1974 the SETRPC was designated as the **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** for southeast Texas. The MPO develops the transportation plans which cover the counties of Jefferson and Orange and Hardin. The MPO develops and maintains an efficient, effective, and financially responsible multimodal transportation network that protects the environment and provides a net social benefit for all users.





The History - SETEDD

Also under the SETRPC umbrella is the **South East Texas Economic Development District (SETEDD)** which was created in the spring of 1993 to facilitate the flow of U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA grant and loan funds for creating new jobs and/or saving existing jobs in the southeast Texas region. This non-profit corporation is governed by a Board of Directors composed of twenty-five persons nominated by each County Commissioner's Court in our three-county region for staggered two-year terms. Board members represent a cross-section of the region's population and economic interests. The Board elects a President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer for one-year terms. The SETRPC serves as staff support for the District.

With funding sources from the MPO and SETEDD, there has been significant potential for port infrastructure improvements in the southeast Texas area.





MPO - Who We are & What we Do

MPO - a forum for cooperative transportation decision-making that is responsible, in conjunction with operators of public transit agencies, for carrying out the metropolitan planning process for the metropolitan area. MPOs receive **Planning Funds** from the Federal government, through the State. Funds are distributed in accordance with a formula developed by the State, in consultation with the MPOs, and approved by Federal Highway Administration.

Due to the Region's current ozone nonattainment status, **Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Funds** are also available. This designation means the area does not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards according to the Environmental Protection Agency.





The Process - MPO

Transportation Planning Committee (TPC)

Official MPO decision makers, sets policy, selects and funds projects

Technical Committee

Provides technical support by developing and utilizing the approved Projection Selection Process and makes recommendations to the TPC in determining the dedication of CMAQ funds;
Ensures accuracy of transportation data; Guides planning process

SETRPC-MPO staff - Organizes the decision making process

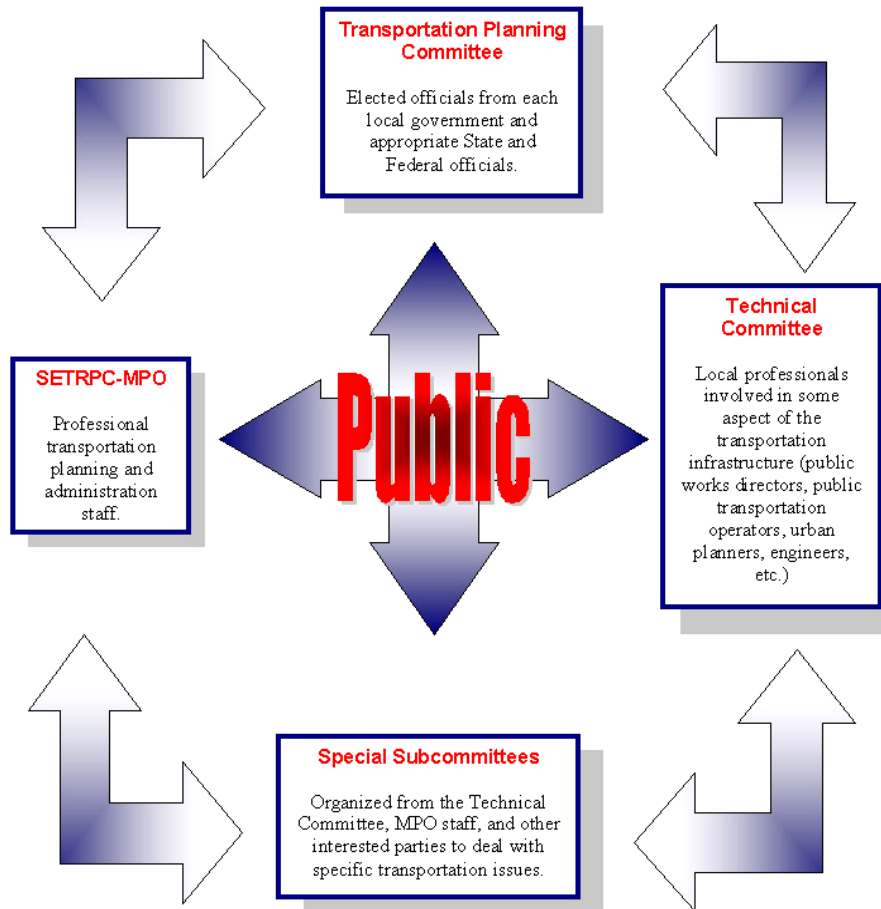
Special subcommittees - Used for special projects

The General Public - Provides input at all levels





The SETRPC-MPO Organization





MPO Responsibilities

Development and revision of all Metropolitan Transportation Planning Documents.

Major Documents

The regional long-range transportation plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

The regional short-range transportation plan, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Other Responsibilities

Collect and maintain, forecast, and report socio-economic, demographic, roadway, and travel data.

Share information and data sources concerning regional transportation planning issues.

Ensure that all transportation plans and programs adhere to the 1990 Clean Air Act and other federal and state regulations and legislation.





Project Fruition

(CMAQ Funds)

Port of Beaumont

Estimated Total Cost: \$8,800,000 **State/Federal Share:** \$7,040,000

Project Description: Improves the efficiency of the movement of international cargo by constructing rail interchange facilities inside the Port terminal. This allows rail cars switched to be accomplished inside the Port Rail Yard and reduces rail/vehicular conflicts on city streets.





Project Fruition (CMAQ Funds)

City of Beaumont

Estimated Total Cost: \$2,000,000 **State/Federal Share:** \$1,500,000

Project Description: Widened existing two lane roadway into three lanes which is the main access road to the Port of Beaumont, provide direct connection between Martin Luther King Parkway and the Port of Beaumont, furthers utilization/access and promotes growth of Port of Beaumont, etc.





SETEDD - Who We are & What we Do

SETEDD – provides technical assistance to people preparing an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant application. Goals of the District Board are to work closely with area jurisdictions of Jefferson, Hardin and Orange Counties, local business agencies, economic development corporations, **ports**, chambers of commerce, local universities, etc. in furthering commercial and industrial development; to maintain the necessary avenues of communication to properly inform the various agencies, governments, businesses, and the public within southeast Texas about EDA opportunities; and to identify resources to aid in economic development. The SETEDD receives **U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA planning funds.**





The Process - SETEDD

SETEDD

Local projects seeking federal funding are reviewed by the Board to determine whether they fit an efficient and effective development pattern that will create jobs and enhance the local economy while maintaining existing economic growth.





Project Fruition

(EDA Funds)

Port of Beaumont

Amount Requested: \$1,600,000

Amount Funded: \$1,000,000

Project Description: Supply City Water Service, build a Roadway & Railroad Track bed, and construct a Bulkhead along some 650 feet of bank on the Orange County side of the Neches River. Created approximately 200 jobs.





Project Fruition

(EDA Funds)

Port of Port Arthur

Amount Requested: \$1,500,000

Amount Funded: \$1,250,000

Project Description: Reconstruction of Railroad Holding Yard at the Port to improve efficiency and increase capacity. Created approximately 112 jobs.

Jefferson County / City of Port Arthur

Amount Requested: \$450,000

Amount Funded: \$450,000

Project Description: Extend City Water Service on Pleasure Island to serve the Walter Umphrey State Park and various commercial (Port of Port Arthur drydock facilities)/residential sites on the southern half of the Island. Created approximately 58 jobs.





Project Fruition (EDA Funds)

Orange Navigation & Port District

Amount Requested: \$272,000

Amount Funded: \$4000,000

Project Description: Childers Road Rail Spur Extension to serve Gulf Coast Polymers (now Akrotex) and other warehouses in the Port's Industrial Park. Created approximately 85 jobs.





Questions?

