

From: CAMPO <campo@campotexas.org>

Subject: News from the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO)

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The CAMPO Connection

Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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The next Transportation Policy Board meeting will start at 6 p.m. Monday, March 17, at the University of Texas Thompson Center, Room 2.102.

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CAMPO Seeking Public Comment on Project Funding and Short-Range Plan Amendments

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) is distributing over \$35 million in transportation project funding to the region for use in 2009 and 2010, and would like to hear from the public on which projects they should fund. The funding is a federal source, called the Surface Transportation Program-Metropolitan Mobility (STP-MM), distributed by CAMPO and other large Metropolitan Planning Organizations around the country. Applications include roadway expansions, safety projects, transit improvements, bicycle and pedestrian projects, and transportation studies.

Also under review are amendments to the region's short-range plan, called the Transportation Improvement Program. These proposals represent changes to the existing TIP, including Safe Routes to School projects, and other roadway and transit projects.

CAMPO is providing several ways to comment on the requested projects: community meetings, an [on-line questionnaire](#) available from www.campotexas.org, calling (512) 974-2275, and e-mail: art.zamorano@campotexas.org.

In addition to these comment methods, CAMPO is hosting two remaining community meetings, and a public hearing:

- **Bluebonnet Trail Elementary - Tuesday, March 4, 6-8 p.m.** - 11316 Farmhaven, Austin
- **San Marcos Activity Center - Wednesday, March 5, 6-8 p.m.** - 501 East Hopkins Street, San Marcos
- **Policy Board Public Hearing - Monday, March 17, 6 p.m.** - University of Texas Thompson Center, Room 2.102, Dean Keeton and Red River, Austin

CAMPO staff will have project maps and handouts available,

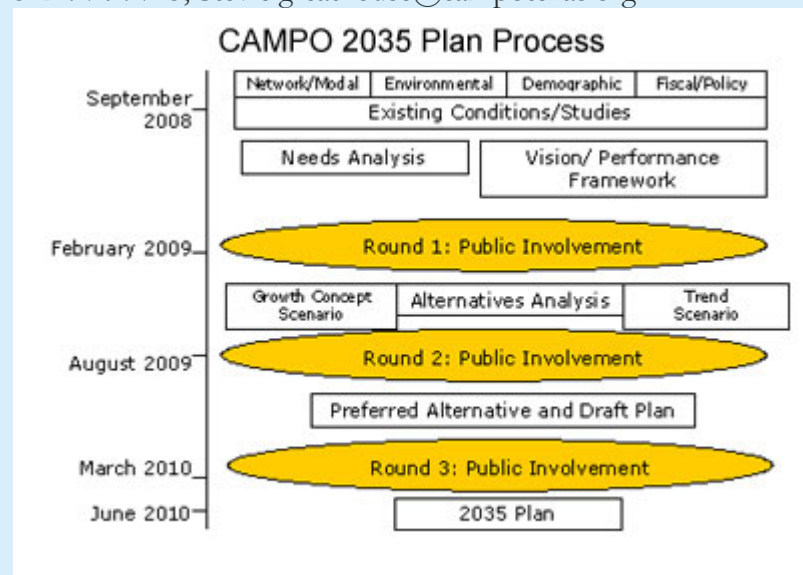
and will have comment cards, questionnaires and speaking opportunities at the meetings. The public comment period is scheduled to close at 5:00 p.m. on March 21, 2008. All of the comments will be given to the Transportation Policy Board in advance of the scheduled project consideration at the April Board meeting.

CAMPO 2035 Plan Process

Over the next 28 months, CAMPO will engage the public and our regional partners in a major update of the region's long range transportation plan. This process will present a unique opportunity to develop a plan for a comprehensive multi-modal transportation system that will efficiently meet our future needs.

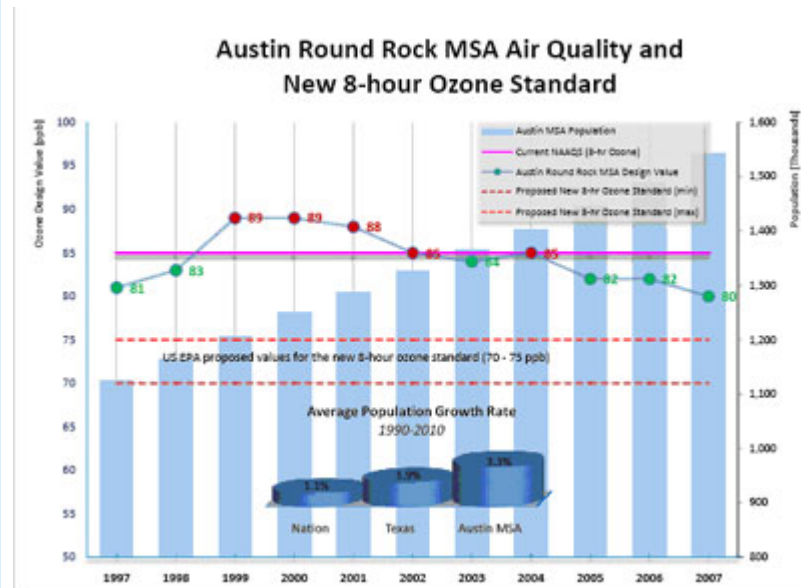
As part of the planning process, we will be analyzing several future alternatives for investing in the transportation system, including exploring the impacts of leveraging transportation investments with land use policy changes through implementation of the draft CAMPO Regional Growth Concept.

The public will be invited to participate throughout the process, beginning with a major round of public workshops in early 2009 and culminating with adoption of a draft CAMPO 2035 Plan in June 2010. If you would like to stay informed and participate in development of the Plan, please contact us to ensure that you are on our mailing list and/or e-mail contact list. For more information, or to make sure your name is on the mailing list, please contact Stevie Greathouse, CAMPO Plan Manager at 512-974-9715, Stevie.greathouse@campotexas.org.



New Ozone Air-Quality Standard

On December 31, 2007, Central Texas celebrated an important air quality milestone: the successful completion of our Early Action Compact (EAC). Our region volunteered to develop and implement an EAC in order to ensure that Central Texas remained in attainment of federal air quality standards for ozone. Thanks to the proactive emission reduction measures taken by the community to reduce air pollution, and to last summer's unusually wet weather, Central Texas met its air quality goals.



However, the region remains a near-nonattainment area and our air quality is vulnerable to increased emissions resulting from growth and from anticipated new power plants. On March 12, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will announce its decision about updating the federal ozone standard. EPA is widely expected to adopt a more stringent standard.

Elected officials, concerned about the public health and economic consequences of a nonattainment designation, have initiated the next generation of air quality plans, the 8-Hour Ozone Flex Program. This voluntary program builds on the success of previous plans and provides policy makers with the tools needed for a nimble response to changes in air quality conditions and regulations.

The local governments have developed and adopted the 8-Hour Ozone Flex Program and anticipate final approval from EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality by May 2008. The 8-Hour Ozone Flex Program provides a framework

for local governments to:

- continue existing programs;
- implement new emission reduction measures; and
- develop and commit to a contingency plan for implementation if air quality deteriorates.

The final draft of the program document is available at www.campotexas.org

Regional Freight Study Progress

CAMPO, TxDOT and the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce have partnered to develop a comprehensive freight study for the Austin - Round Rock metro area to more effectively plan and invest in the transportation network. The study has identified specific roadway improvements that could benefit the freight industry, and could be evaluated further for inclusion in the region's long-range plan.

If the study's recommendations are funded and implemented, the trucking industry may realize improvements in speed and reduced delay, when compared to the existing 2030 plan. Ultimately, these improvements could result in improved economic competitiveness for the region, which will be evaluated in the project's second phase, to be taken up next year. Contact CAMPO staff Greg Griffin, AICP for additional information: greg.griffin@campotexas.org, (512) 974-2084.