



# DESTINO 2045

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

VISIONING WORKSHOP

PARTICIPANT WORKBOOK

MAY 1-6, 2017

# WORKSHOP AGENDA

## PRESENTATION: INTRODUCTIONS & PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Exercise 1. Stakeholders Present
- Exercise 2. Current State of the Transportation System

## PRESENTATION: EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Exercise 3. Ranking & Scoring Criteria

## PRESENTATION: GROWTH TRENDS

- Exercise 4. Dialogue on the Growth Trends

## PRESENTATION: THE PUBLIC'S ROLE IN THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) UPDATE PROCESS

- Exercise 5. Envisioning the Future Transportation System

## CLOSING: TABLE SESSIONS END & EVALUATIONS ARE COMPLETED

## LISTENING SESSION

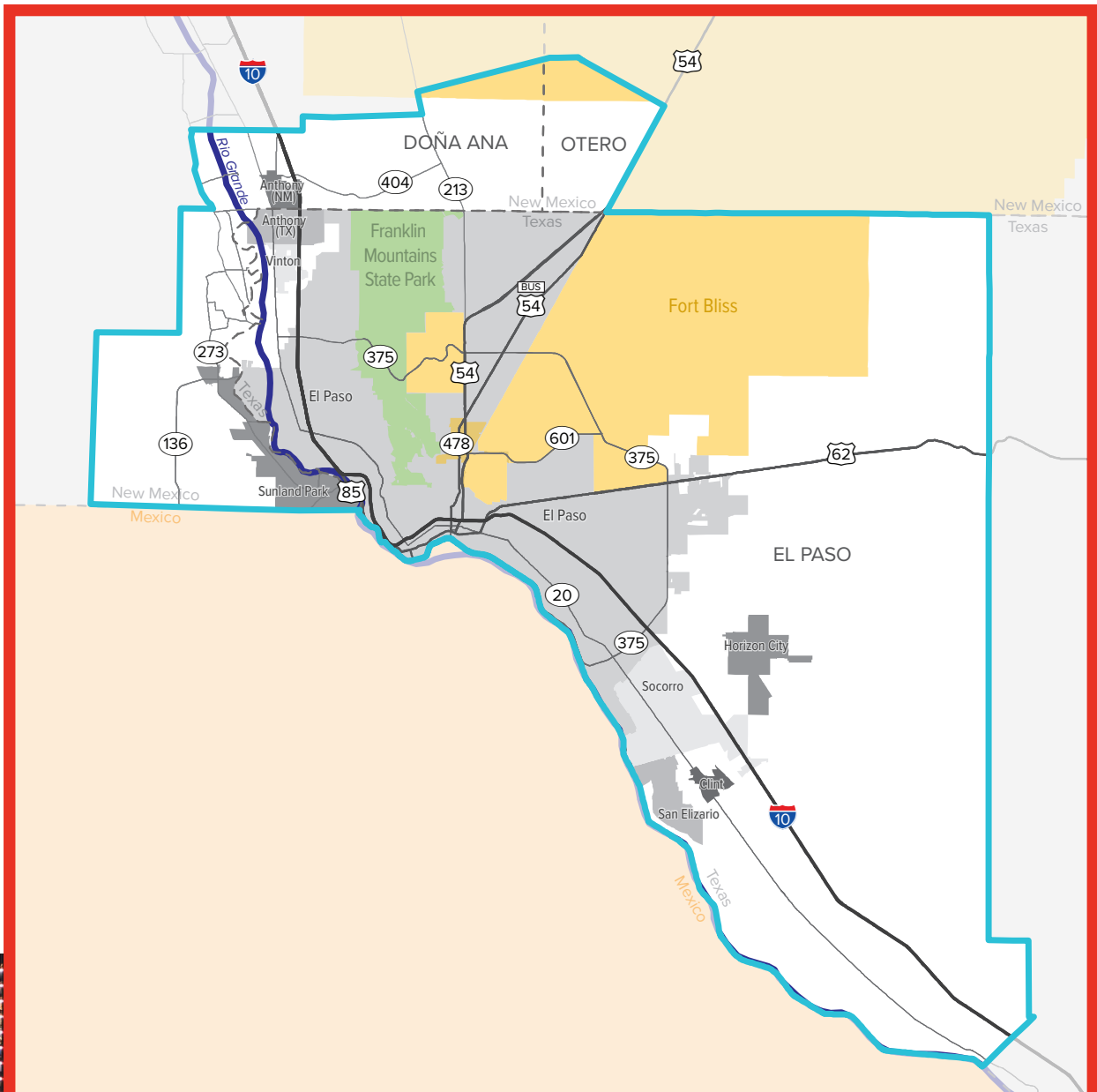


# MTP VISIONING WORKSHOP

The El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is holding this Visioning Workshop regarding the future of the transportation system in the El Paso region in order to solicit your input and incorporate it into the planning process for the 2045 metropolitan transportation plan (MTP). We thank you in advance for your active participation and your willingness to share concerns, ideas, and vision with us as we strive to create the best possible transportation system for our community.

You travel the El Paso region's transportation system almost every day. You are the expert on how the transportation system meets your needs. The exercises in this workshop are designed to help us utilize your expertise in creating the best measures for evaluating future transportation decisions for the study area shown below.

## STUDY AREA



# PRESENTATION

## INTRODUCTIONS & PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

### WHO IS THE EL PASO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION?

The El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) & Transportation Policy Board is the regional planning and programming agency responsible for working with residents, neighborhood groups, and local, state, and federal agencies to coordinate transportation project development and planning within El Paso County, Texas and southern Dona Ana and Otero Counties in New Mexico.

The MPO's goal is to accomplish regional planning and programming under one voice that provides the greatest benefit while at the same time reflecting the concerns of the community within the MPO area.

Metropolitan transportation planning is a cooperative process conducted by the MPO in conjunction with the Texas and New Mexico DOTs, transit operators, stakeholders, and the public to create a vision for the future of the community. The process, which is prescribed by federal regulations, is designed to assist the MPO in prioritizing short- and long-term investments in the regional transportation system over the next 26 years.

### THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIONING WORKSHOP IS:

To tell us what is important to you about transportation, and let us know about your needs and the challenges you face with the transportation system. We also want you to help us understand how to best consider your needs whenever the MPO is comparing choices or making decisions about the transportation system. We will use this information to update the 2045 metropolitan transportation plan for the El Paso region.

### TODAY WE WILL ASK YOU TO DO THREE THINGS:

1. Help us understand the critical transportation issues that you expect to face in the future.
2. Help us evaluate the importance of a new list of criteria, which will be used as an aid to evaluate transportation projects.
3. Share with us your "Vision" of what the future transportation system in the El Paso region should look like to best serve all of the people within the region.



# EXERCISES 1 & 2

## 1. STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT

On your Participant Response Sheet, you will find a list of the stakeholder groups from which El Paso MPO is seeking to have active participation in the Visioning Workshop. It is important that the opinion of as many stakeholders as possible is included in the planning process. **Using the Participant Response Sheet**, please **place an X** next to **all** the stakeholder groups to which you feel you belong. Your responses will help determine what groups are represented here today and will also help us determine whether we need to do additional outreach within the community to obtain more input into the visioning process.



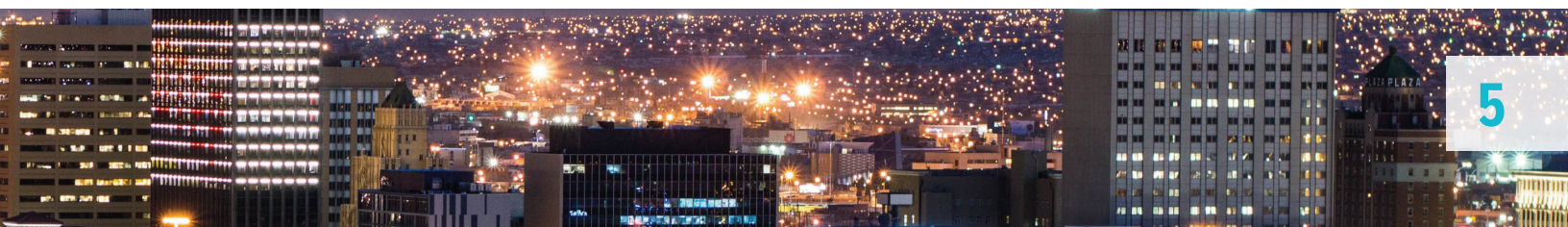
## 2. CURRENT STATE OF THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

**TASK 1:** In coordination with the other members of your table group, please answer the following question:

*Thinking about changes to the region and the nation (environmental changes, trade, aging baby boomers, economic changes, land use changes, etc.), are there any users of the transportation system that will be poorly served if there are no improvements to the system?*

Your table group facilitator will record your answers.

**TASK 2:** If there are any important issues that have not been recorded by your facilitator, please **write** them on your **Participant Response Sheet**.



# PRESENTATION

## VISIONING EVALUATION CRITERIA

Please **listen** as the moderator explains the criteria that have been developed to assist in the visioning evaluation of transportation projects. This process will aid the El Paso MPO in evaluating projects for the 2045 MTP.

For many years, the major evaluation criteria addressed only safety and congestion issues, however, it has become obvious that communities have many other values that should be considered. The following is a more complete list of new visioning evaluation criteria that will help the El Paso MPO establish priorities for transportation improvements and chart a course for meeting the community's vision.

- Improve Safety
- Improve Security
- Protect the Environment
- Reduce Congestion
- Promote Efficiency
- Support Economic Development Goals
- Support Land Use Goals
- Increase Connections
- Improve Access
- Connect Modes of Travel
- Conserve Energy
- Improve Quality of Life
- Increase Multi-modal Options
- Preserve Right-of-Ways

The following page presents a description of each of these criteria.



# EVALUATION CRITERIA

**IMPROVE SAFETY:** Safety is defined as protection against unintentional harm, such as tripping or falling.

**IMPROVE SECURITY:** Security is defined as protection against intentional harm, such as crime or sabotage.

**PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT:** In the urbanized area, important environmental protection issues are maintenance of clean air and flood protection.

**REDUCE CONGESTION:** Congestion is defined as a roadway system operating at speeds below those for which it was designed.

**PROMOTE EFFICIENCY:** Efficiency is characterized by improved system management, the preservation of the existing transportation system, and the reduction in costs.

**SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS:** The economic development goals of the community are defined by the local plans and can be impacted by many factors, one of which is the transportation system. Economic development goals may include enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.

**SUPPORT LAND USE GOALS:** The land use goals of the community are defined by the comprehensive plans, and by local planning and development ordinances, as well as through a public visioning process.

**INCREASE CONNECTIONS:** The connectivity of the street network and circulation system is measured in terms of ease by which people and goods can move to their desired destinations. Connectivity relates not only to the movement of people and goods within the community, but also to external destinations - regional, national, and international.

**IMPROVE ACCESS:** Improving access involves control and management of the entrance and exit points to a transportation facility for people and freight. Improved access is based on a balance between the number of access points and the efficient movement of traffic through the transportation facility.

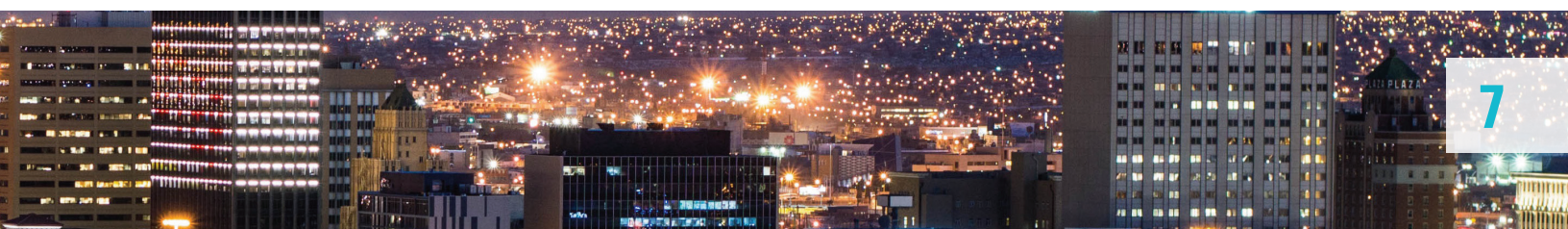
**CONNECT MODES OF TRAVEL:** The various modes of travel within the community function best when people and goods can easily move from one mode of travel to another. This inter-modal connectivity is often accomplished by inter-modal transfer facilities.

**CONSERVE ENERGY:** Energy conservation has become a national priority in recent years and the efficient use of the transportation system can have a dramatic impact on the amount of energy consumed, as well as the corresponding costs - both direct dollar costs and indirect environmental costs - to the community.

**IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE:** The quality of life within a community is a term that the community must define for itself. The transportation system can have both positive and negative impacts on the quality of life.

**INCREASE MULTI-MODAL OPTIONS:** Increasing multi-modal options for the movement of people and goods creates choices. To allow people to choose a more energy efficient or convenient mode of travel, there has to be more than one mode of travel available.

**PRESERVE RIGHT-OF-WAYS:** Preservation of right-of-ways refers to purchasing land before development occurs in anticipation of future expansion of the transportation system.



## EXERCISE 3

### *RANKING & SCORING CRITERIA*

If you have any questions about the list of criteria, please **ask** your facilitator for further clarification.

**TASK 1. GROUP RANKING OF THE CRITERIA:** Using the dots provided by your facilitator, rank the criteria on the large chart located on the easel next to your table.

After everyone has placed their dots on the chart, the total number of dots given to each criterion by the group will be recorded.

**TASK 2. INDIVIDUAL RANKING OF THE CRITERIA:** Please use the **Participant Response Sheet** to score each individual criterion once again based solely on your personal preferences. **Circle** the appropriate number for every criterion.

## PRESENTATION

### *GROWTH TRENDS*

Please **listen** as the moderator discusses recent growth trends.

**POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND LAND USE CHANGES:** You will find several maps on the following pages that may help you visualize some of the population changes that are anticipated to occur. The data represented on the maps have been developed for 2012 - 2045. We are actively seeking any information that you may have that will affect future growth patterns.

**TRAFFIC FLOW CHANGES:** The map showing traffic flow and congestion was produced by the previous transportation modeling effort for the region, and is based on the available projections of population and employment growth.

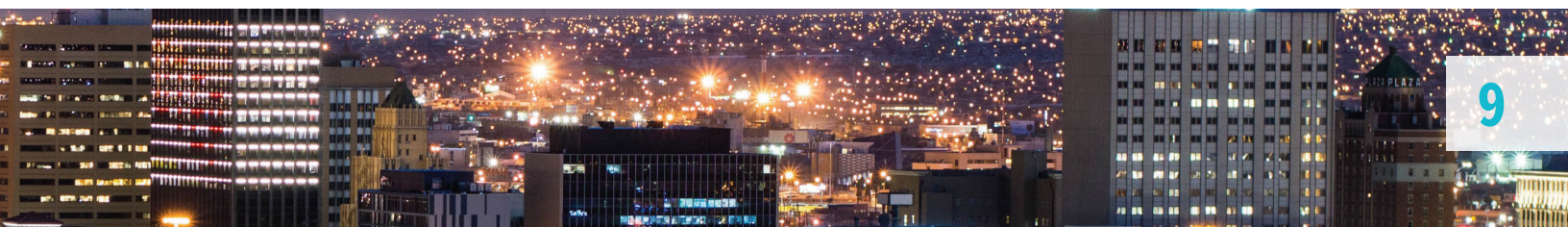
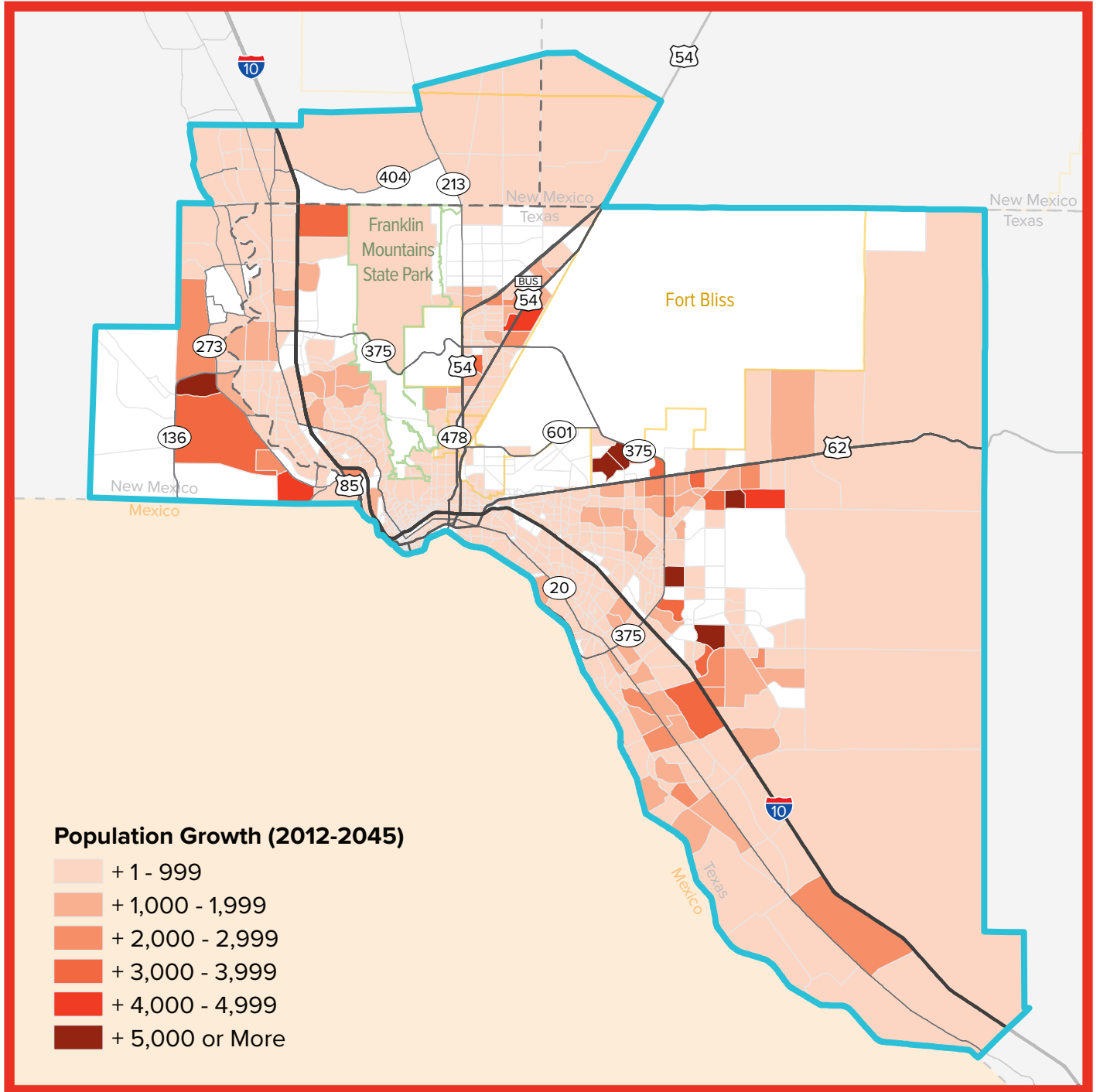
**OTHER MODES:** The maps discussed above include only the highway network. To give a full picture of transportation choices, we included a map of the transit routes currently available in the plan area, operated by Sun Metro. In addition, El Paso County Transit offers paratransit services for people with disabilities who cannot use the fixed-route bus services. We also included a map of planned bicycle, and trail facilities that are available within the region.





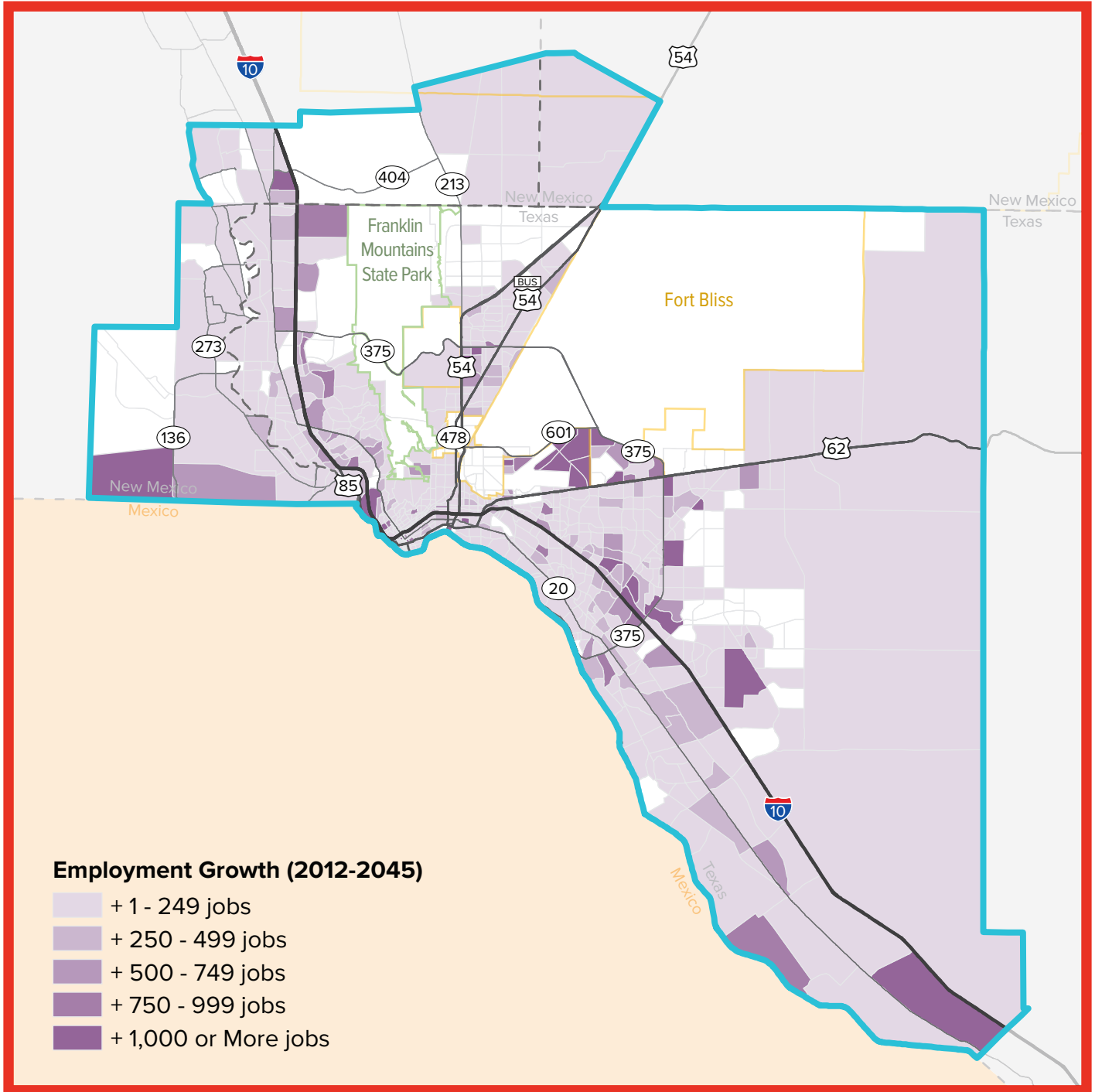
# GROWTH TRENDS

## POPULATION GROWTH



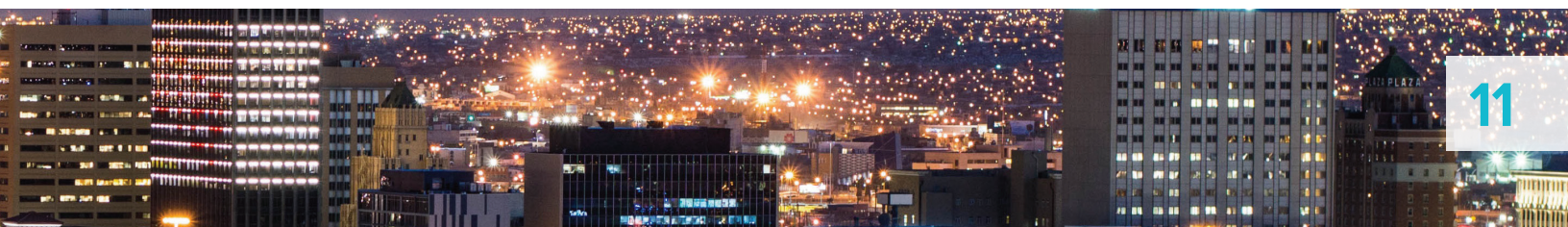
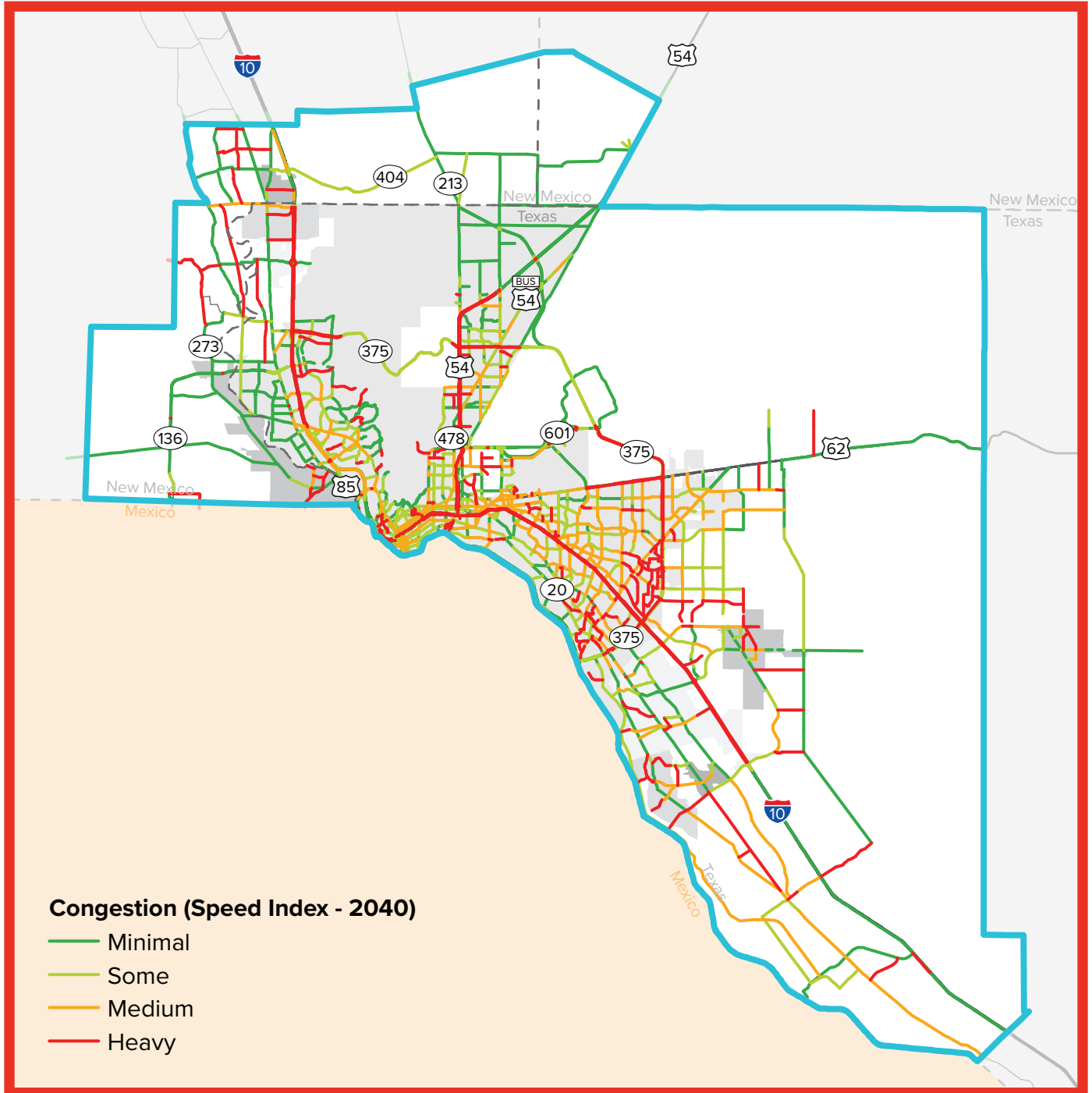
# GROWTH TRENDS

## EMPLOYMENT GROWTH



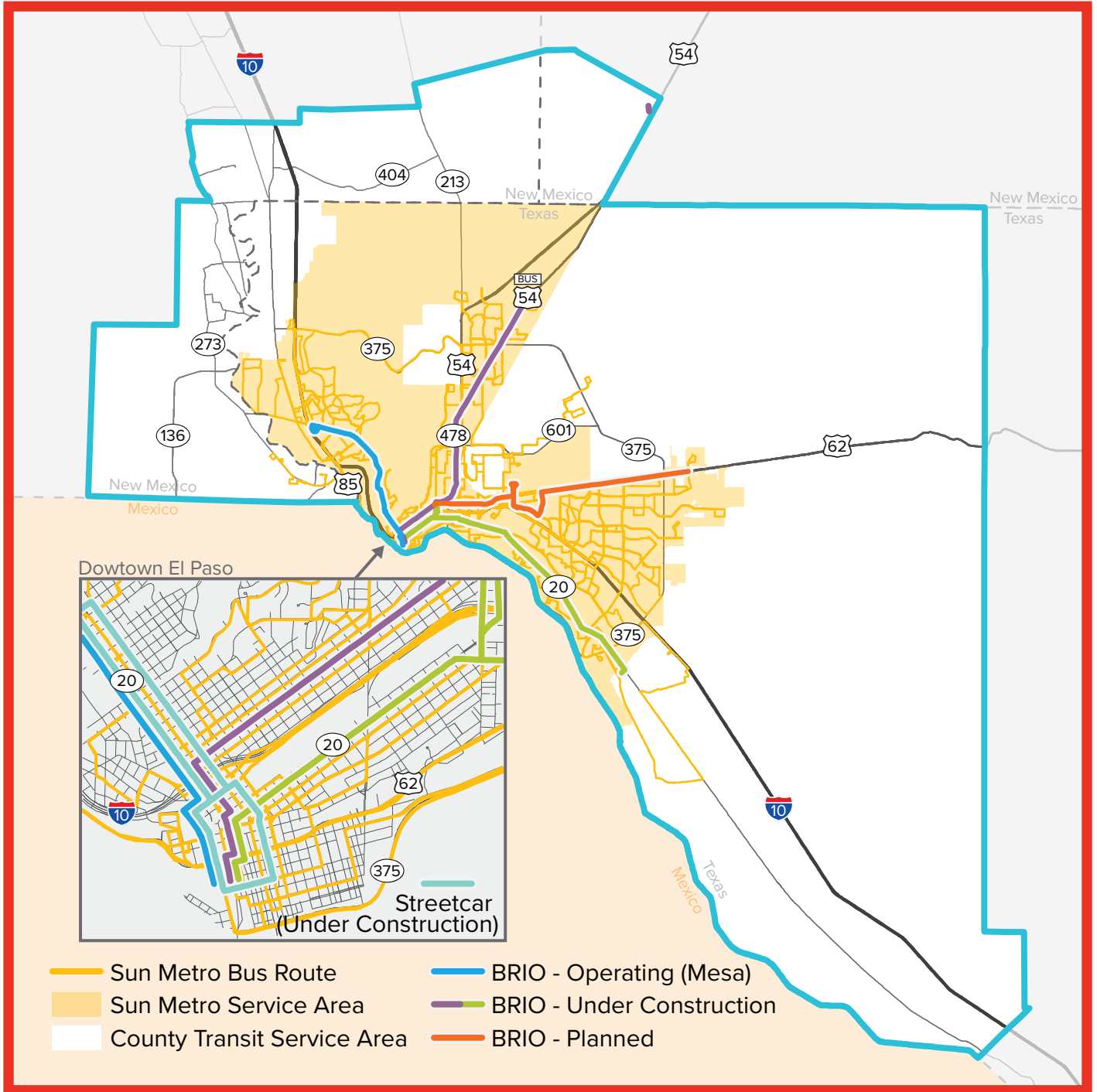
# GROWTH TRENDS

## FUTURE CONGESTION



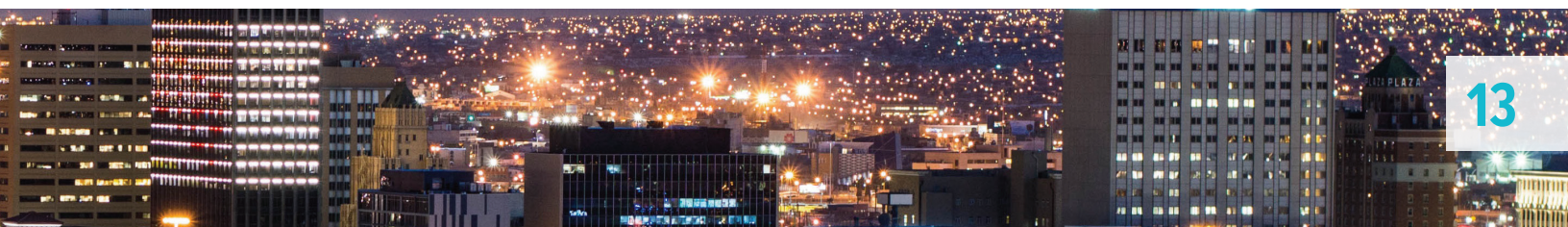
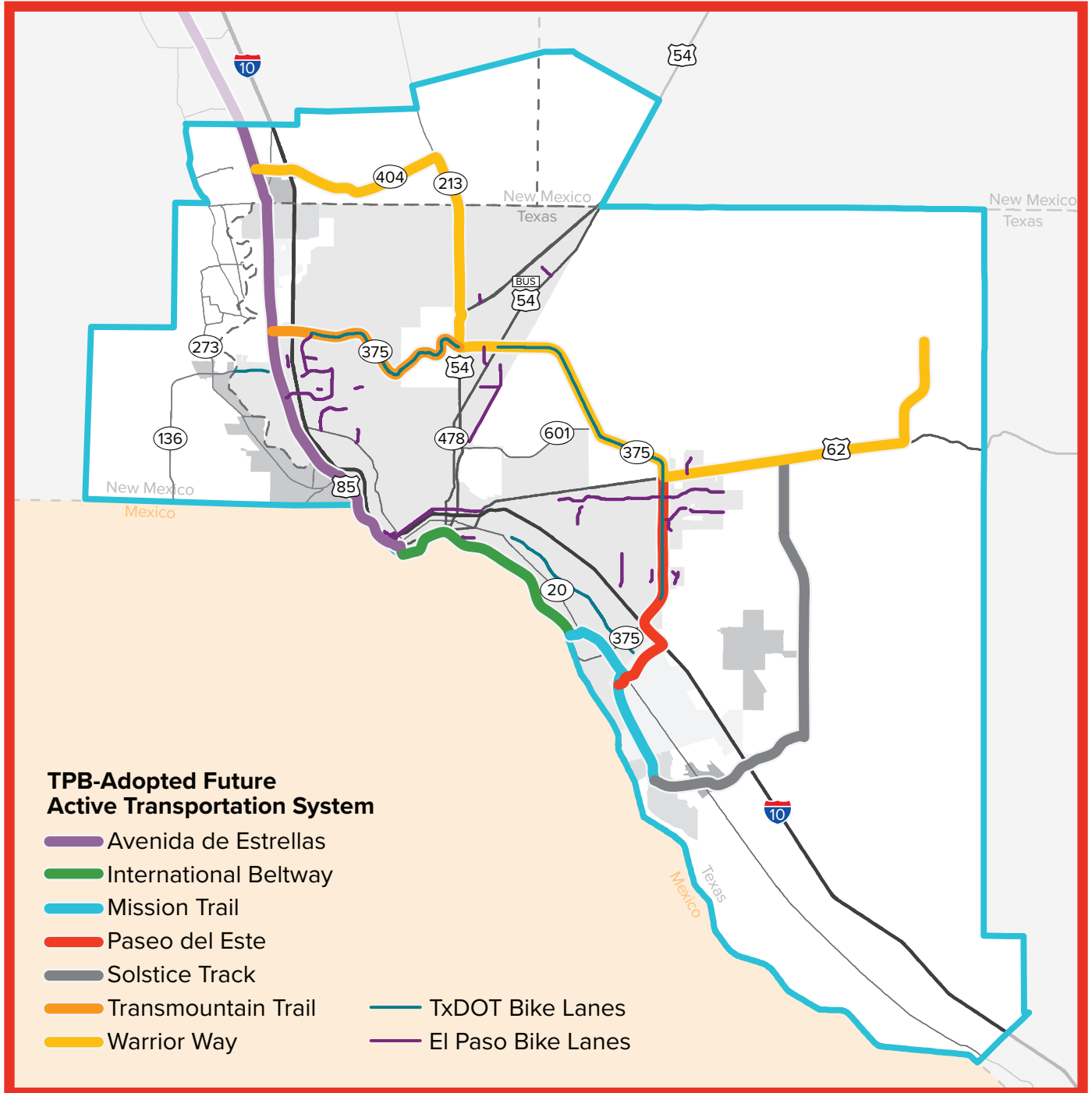
# GROWTH TRENDS

## EXISTING & PLANNED TRANSIT



# GROWTH TRENDS

## EXISTING & PLANNED BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES



# EXERCISE 4

## DIALOGUE ON GROWTH TRENDS

**TASK 1:** After the moderator explains the growth trends, please coordinate with your table group and **answer** the following questions:

*Do you think that these growth trends accurately indicate what will happen in the future?*

*What aspects of the trends do you think are desirable?*

*What aspects of the trends do you think are detrimental to the area?*

Please feel free to mark up the map on your table to record your comments about growth in particular areas.

**TASK 2:** The facilitators will record your comments to the best of their ability, but if there is anything of particular importance that you want to share with us in your own words, please **write** your thoughts on the **Participant Response Sheet**.



# PRESENTATION

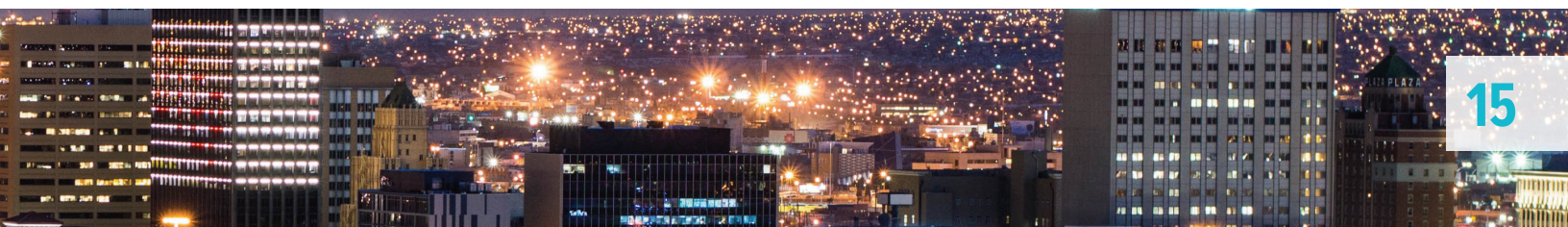
## *THE PUBLIC'S ROLE IN THE MTP UPDATE PROCESS*

Please **listen** as the moderator explains the public's role in the MTP update process. This process must, by federal regulations, be repeated every five years for metropolitan regions within air quality attainment areas and every four years for those in non-attainment areas.

### FAST ACT PLANNING FACTORS

**Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act)**, signed into law in 2015, requires the metropolitan transportation planning process to be continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive, and provide for the consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will address the following planning factors:

1. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness;
2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
4. Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight;
5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
7. Promote efficient system management and operation; and
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
9. Improve resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation.
10. Enhance travel and tourism.



# EXERCISE 5

## ENVISIONING THE FUTURE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

We want to identify the needs that the transportation system should address as it grows over the next 26 years. Please **think about** the criteria, the users, the various modes, and the trip purposes that we discussed earlier.

**TASK 1:** In coordination with the other participants at your table, please **mark on the map** located at your table (using the highlighters provided) any areas of need that you believe should be addressed as the transportation system changes over the next 26 years. *NOTE: There may be some changes that cannot be marked on the map, or which apply to the entire area. These can be noted in the margins of the map.*

The facilitator will assign a number for each area of need identified, and that same number will be used on the flip chart and on any references to each identified need. Please be certain to **use the numbers** consistently.

As you and your fellow participants mark the map, please **share** with the group why you feel that the areas you are marking need to be addressed.

As you are marking the map, please **look back** at the lists of criteria and factors to make certain that all have been considered.

**TASK 2:** If you have any comments that you would like to share with us regarding this exercise or any suggestions that were made by you or others at your table, please **record** them on the **Participant Response Sheet**.





# CLOSING

## *THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!*

Please be certain to **TURN IN YOUR PARTICIPANT RESPONSE SHEET** to your facilitator so that your ideas can be recorded and used to inform future MPO transportation-related decisions.

Please **LEAVE YOUR EVALUATION FORM** face down in the middle of your table or turn it in to the moderator after the closing.

You may **KEEP THIS WORKBOOK** for future reference.

For additional information and periodic updates on the 2045 MTP development process, go to:

[HTTP://WWW.ELPASOFWD.COM/](http://www.elpasofwd.com/)

