Federal regulations require that the Metropolitan Transportation Plan demonstrate that the region is able maintain and operate the transportation system. Chapter 6 examines the details of all costs (federal, state, local, and private) associated with building, maintaining, and operating the transportation system.

Projects included for projection

Interchanges and Grade Separation

These items are grouped together because of the significant justification required to develop a project on federal/state/wa funding. They represent a high level of coordination with the NM DOT and FHWA. New access or modification to existing interchanges on the Interstate Highway system require an eight part Interchange Justification Report (IJR) and must be approved by the FHWA. Several interchange and grade separation projects were mentioned throughout the public input process. Transport 2040 recommends studying these further but does not recommend construction of any interchange prior to the horizon year (2040).

Project list:

- Bridge interchange at I-25 Requires IJR. Bridge grade separation project obtained for future interchange geometry.
- Some interchange alterations at I-10/3-25-5 US considered possible future interchange at Arrowhead. A new IJR will be required for further study of Arrowhead.
- Bridge interchange at I-10. Requires IJR. Initial location identified during 1-10 widening (2015).

Existing Thoroughfare Improvements

In many cases, the public mentioned that existing roadways needed improvements. For example, funding for ITS enhancements was mentioned as an important part of improving overall traffic flow. The projects below are in line with the MPO’s goals to preserve and enhance the existing system.

Project list:

- El Paso Cumbre Street Implementation
- ITS Signal Coordination Plan for City of Las Cruces
- Media Road Link (El Paso to Santa Fe)

New Thoroughfare Connections

The future roadway map shows the roadways connections needed to maintain a well operating transportation system. The MPO does not analyze any separate projects until the maintenance status is improved, many thoroughfares are constructed by private hands and the Major Thoroughfare Plan provides a framework for future alignments.

Project list:

- Mission Road/Iturralde extension to Isleta Ranch
- Sonora Ranch Study area
- Thru-unders at University
- West Mesa Corridor Study

Protection Improvements

A variety of protection safety and connectivity concerns and proposed improvements were brought up during the public input process. These were organized into intersections, signage and striping, and district areas.

Project list:

- Sidewalks assessment in existing bike lanes
- Sidewalks assessment for Transportation asset and Safety Management Plan (TAS)
- Sidewalks improvements leading to RoadRunNER bus stops on East Mesa
- Sidewalks improvements leading to RoadRunNER bus stops
- Pedestrian crossing during University Avenue

Bicycle Improvements

A variety of bicycle safety and connectivity concerns were brought up during the public input process. These were organized into corridors and intersections.

Project list:

- Hadley Bicycle Boulevard
- Locate potential areas for protected bike lanes
- Bike lane area - El Paseo (Azora)
- Remodel State Bicycle Route 27: US 55 T/25

Trail Improvements

The trail improvements are part of a link between the trail system and other multi-use and bike systems. These trail systems connect various important destinations and neighborhoods. The development of a complete network around the city of Las Cruces and into Doña Ana County and Mesilla. A multi-use connection may include a roadway or multi-use path.

Project list:

- Fort Bliss Trail (nearest park to Albuquerque)

Public Transportation Service

A variety of public transportation planning efforts have been completed or are underway including 5 Year Transit Strategic Plan for the City of Las Cruces, a study by Santa Fe, the Service and Financial Plan for the South Central Regional Transit District (SCRTD), and the development of a long range Transit Plan for the City of Las Cruces.

Project list organized by Status:

- Multi-County Multi-Modal Study
- Transportation Service and Financial Plan
- Comprehensive Plan

Transport 2040

Regional Transportation Planning for the Mesilla Valley
Planificación de Transportación Regional para el Valle de Mesilla