

Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board

Meeting Date: February 25, 2021

Agenda Item: Consideration and Action regarding approval of Resolution 2021-4: Adoption of revised travel time reliability targets for calendar year 2022 for the Waco Metropolitan Area in accordance with requirements identified as part of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

Comments: The Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act requires the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to demonstrate a performance based decision process that ties back to regional performance targets. The FAST Act requires MPOs to establish regional performance standards and to meet subsequent reporting requirements. Travel time reliability targets must be unique to each metropolitan area.

The MPO is required to establish 3 separate targets for ‘unreasonable’ travel time:

1. Percent of ‘reliable’ travel for all traffic on the Interstate System
2. Percent of ‘reliable’ travel for all traffic on other Freeways and Principal Arterials
3. Ratio of unreliable truck travel to average truck travel – Interstate System

Reliability targets are 4-year targets but MPOs may make mid-point corrections if trends are different than anticipated. The Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) analyzes the required data sets from the University of Maryland and provides recommendations to each MPO in Texas.

The table below shows the previous targets adopted by the Policy Board in 2018 and the TTI / MPO Staff recommended adjustments. Data from 2019 suggests that reliability for IH-35 is less than what was identified from the 2017 data. IH-35 construction will also still have significant impacts in downtown Waco in 2022. Additionally, the Mall to Mall project, impacting the other freeway category, will be moving to construction a full year earlier than previously scheduled. As a result, TTI and MPO staff are recommending target adjustments that represent significantly less reliable traffic for CY 2022.

Traffic	System	Adopted 2022 Target	2022 Adjusted Target Recommendation
All	Interstate	95%	80%
All	Other Freeways / Principal Arterials	85%	80%
Interstate Only	Truck Ratio	1.40	1.75

MPO Staff conducted a 10-day public comment period and 1 public information meeting to solicit comment regarding the draft amendment. No formal comments regarding the proposed adjustments have been received.

Action Required:

1. Conduct Staff Presentation
2. Conduct Public Hearing
3. Approve or disapprove or approve with changes proposed Resolution 2021-4

Motion By:

Seconded:

Content of Motion:

Vote: