

METRO-MOBILITY TALKS

TxDOT to Start Two New Travel Surveys

WORK PLACE TRAVEL & COMMERCIAL VEHICLE TRAVEL SURVEYS

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct two travel surveys designed to collect information on the amount and characteristics of commercial and workplace traffic in the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) study area.

Data collected from the surveys will serve as input to forecast future traffic levels and patterns on area roads and highways. Both surveys, along with travel models derived from the data, will be used to analyze existing and future levels of traffic to help prioritize and select projects that are most needed.

The Workplace Travel Survey will collect data on the amount of travel attracted by workplaces on a daily basis. The survey data, along with travel demand models, help the CCMPO and MPO-member entities in transportation planning and development of local and regional transportation improvement programs. Surveys will be conducted on average weekdays when public schools are in session.

Data collection includes a survey of the workplace, a travel survey of employees and visitors, and counts of either persons or vehicles traveling to and from the site. Data will be used to develop trip attraction rates by area and employment type.

All area workplaces are eligible for the voluntary survey. Participants will be chosen at random, contacted by telephone, and asked to participate. The workplace survey will be conducted in two phases. The first phase, recruitment, involves a telephone pre-survey used to collect information on workplaces by type and size and to recruit workplaces to participate in on-site travel surveys of employees and visitors.

The second phase involves intercept surveys and vehicular and/or pedestrian counts at the workplace. Two levels of on-site surveys are conducted. A full survey involves the following surveys conducted at the workplace:

- *an establishment survey to obtain general information about the workplace such as total employment and hours of operation;*
- *an employee and visitor survey where individuals at the workplace are asked questions concerning their travel to and from the workplace;*
- *a count of commercial pickup and delivery vehicles, and;*
- *24-hour vehicle classification counts and/or pedestrian counts conducted on the same day that surveys are conducted.*

A partial workplace survey involves less data collection than a full survey and only includes the completion of an establishment survey, 24-hour classification and/or pedestrian counts, and counts of pickup and delivery vehicles to the workplace. Businesses with special characteristics such as airports, universities, and military bases will be surveyed using a full survey, and data collected will be analyzed and reported separately.

The Commercial Vehicle Travel Survey will collect information on the number of trips made and routes used by commercial vehicles over a 24-hour period. It also will collect information on the type of cargo being transported.

Anyone who operates a commercial vehicle will be eligible to participate in this voluntary survey and will be randomly selected. Participants will be asked to have the drivers of their commercial vehicles complete the survey for a specified day. For the most part, the survey is a log of where they traveled and the cargo they carried.

For more information about the Work Place Travel or Commercial Vehicle Travel surveys, please contact TxDOT's Travel Survey Program Manager, Charlie Hall at (512) 486-5120.

If you have any questions regarding this or other Metro-Mobility Talks articles please contact us at ccmpo@cctxmpo.us or visit our website at www.corpuschristi-mpo.org.