

## Draft Texas MPO Resiliency Workgroup Scope

### I. **Introducing the Texas MPOs Resiliency Workgroup**

Texas MPOs and their stakeholders have been impacted by both man-made and natural disasters and they continue to be at risk. Texas MPO multimodal regional transportation systems serve as the backbone of the transportation network and connects to the local system, bringing together communities that are critical partners in system resilience planning. Texas MPOs require clear and consistent engagement to help determine how best to plan and program improvements for their respective regional transportation system networks, and in coordination with local partners, plan for future disruptions and changing conditions.

### II. **Purpose**

The purposes of the Resiliency Workgroup are:

- Coordinate and collaborate across MPOs to ensure a resilient system is prepared for, and adaptable to, changing conditions and able to withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions.
- Bring recommendations to the TEMPO executive board level for decision making.
- Continuously, collaboratively, and comprehensively engage TxDOT, cities, and counties on their respective resilience plan efforts.
- Engage with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and local governments in order to establish clear connections between resilience planning and asset management activities on a regular basis for resources, actions and decisions related to enhancing and improving our transportation resilience.
- Establish a high value standard for a common, shared process for project selection needs in resilience across partner and stakeholder agencies.

### III. **TEMPO Resilience Working Group Activities and Developments: December 2020 to November 2021**

In November 2020, at the direction of TEMPO a resilience working group was proposed and a scope of the working group was approved by Peggy Thurin to proceed with periodic meetings to occur beginning in December 2020. The inaugural meeting of the resilience working group took place on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and has met since in March, April, June, August, and October of 2021, with a planned meeting in December 2021 underway.

During the course of this first year, TTI team members supported the resilience working group leadership team by having Bill Frawley, Jolanda Prozzi and Matthew Miller attend resilience working group leadership meetings to documents needs. The resilience working group leadership team requested TTI members in February 2021 to survey Texas MPOs on their resilience planning

needs. From the survey, resilience working group leadership requested TTI to consider web page design alternatives and to establish a separate resilience web page within the TEMPO website for posting of resilience-related resources and content generated from the periodic meetings of the resilience working group. This resilience web page was developed in March 2021 by Matthew Miller. In addition, in March 2021 the resilience working group leadership proposed a five-step framework for resilience planning to assist MPOs respond to FAST act requirements integrating resilience as a factor in regional transportation planning. These efforts are consistent with other assistance TTI provides to TEMPO.

Resilience working group leadership decided to organize agendas for each meeting starting in October 2021 to deliver content related to each of these five steps over the course of the next 4 meetings. Meetings are proposed to be held every two months until the last step has been covered, at which point a decision will be made on whether to continue the resilience working group meetings or not.

In November 2021, Jolanda Prozzi stepped down from attending resilience working group leadership meetings, while Matt Miller will continue as an observer, document requests, and facilitate any services as a part of the TPP IAC task 6F.

#### **IV. Reporting and Membership**

The TEMPO resiliency workgroup is led by the resilience working group leadership team consisting of chair Jeff Neal with NCTCOG, Kirk Fauver with FHWA, and Casey Wells with TxDOT. The resilience working group reports to the TEMPO executive board. TEMPO executive board will provide the resilience working group with strategic direction on MPO activities related to resilience planning, especially as they relate coordination needs towards the TxDOT statewide resilience planning efforts.

Through the TPP interagency contract with TTI, the TxDOT Planning and Programming Division is the group's executive sponsor. The workgroup's sponsor, under the lead of Casey Wells, will help revise the scope of the resilience working group as needed and ensure that it remains in alignment with statewide resilience planning efforts to ensure coordination and collaboration with statewide efforts. Communication between the TEMPO resilience working group and the TxDOT statewide resilience planning efforts will take place at the direction of Casey Wells.

##### **i. Resiliency Working Group Leadership Team**

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| a. Workgroup Chair              | Jeffrey Neal, NCTCOG |
| b. Executive Sponsor and Member | Casey Wells, TxDOT   |
| c. Member                       | Kirk Fauver, FHWA    |

##### **ii. Resilience Working Group Meeting Attendees**

- a. TEMPO members and invited speakers and guests.

##### **iii. Resiliency Working Group Voting Members: (*PROPOSED*)**

- a. One designated member from All Texas MPOs
- b. TxDOT-appointed representatives (TBD-likely Casey Wells)
- c. FHWA-appointed representatives (TBD-likely Kirk Fauver)

**iv. Resiliency Subgroups: (PROPOSED)**

- a. MPOs with Active Resilience Plans
- b. Regional MPOs Groups (West Texas, Coastal Texas, Central Texas, North Texas)

**c. Meetings (PROPOSED)**

Resiliency working group meetings will be held as bi-monthly 90 minute-long virtual Microsoft Teams meetings. These meetings support the continuous communication around resiliency and help to keep MPO UPWP-related deliverables on time. Subgroups will customize their meeting schedule to meet their needs. The resilience working group meeting will be prepared to report status at each TEMPO meeting where space is available on the agenda. As the framework-based meetings draw to a close in 2022 and as resiliency considerations becomes part of MPO culture and practice, the frequency of meetings may decrease and the resilience working group may close due to lack of activity and needs.

The working group’s sponsor and chair will liaise as needed with the TxDOT statewide resilience planning group. Members of the working group will be tapped as necessary to attend outreach and coordination activities associated with the TxDOT statewide resilience plan and its development.

**V. Resilience Working Group Leadership Member Roles and Responsibilities (PROPOSED)**

- Provide leadership for communicating and integrating resiliency considerations into respective MPOs;
- Attend and actively participate in working group meetings – sending an alternate when necessary;
- Plan meeting agenda and logistics;
- Maintain good situational awareness around resiliency topics; and

Resilience Working group Leadership Chair (additional responsibilities)

- Provide leadership for the working group;
- Convene and facilitate bi-monthly working group meetings;
- Serve as point of contact for requests originating outside the group; and
- Provide updates from the Resilience Workgroup to TEMPO and to the TxDOT statewide resilience planning committee, and activities associated

**• Voting (PROPOSED)**

Where voting is required, each MPO shall designate one staff and an alternate to hold one vote and must be present to cast his/her vote. Passage of motions shall require the simple majority of those present and voting. Informal polling for consensus shall not be considered voting.

## **VI. Content Posting**

All items from the meetings and from recommend resources vetted by leadership members to include meeting notes will be available on the TEMPO resilience page within the TEMPO website. <https://www.texasmpo.org/resiliency-working-group/>

## **VII. Texas A&M Transportation Institute's (TTI) Role Supporting the TEMPO Resilience Working Group**

TTI provides support to Texas MPOs resilience working group through task 6F.

Through task 6F, TTI has performed the following activities:

- Maintains an active list of TEMPO resilience working group participants and attendees from within Texas MPOs and including TxDOT and FHWA partners
- Facilitates TEMPO resilience working group meetings to include:
  - Invites participants to attend
  - Invites and coordinates with presenters on meeting logistics
  - Sets up virtual and in-person meetings of the resilience working group
  - Gathers presentations, video, and documents meeting events
- Maintains a resilience web page within the TEMPO site for resource sharing and meeting content posting
- Facilitates, and attends leadership meetings with TEMPO resilience working group leadership team consisting of representatives of FHWA, TxDOT, and NCTCOG chair to document next steps
- Assists with on-call requests on resilience planning needs (e.g., survey of Texas MPOs on resilience needs, best practice scan, etc.)
- Establishes, facilitates, and documents findings from smaller meetings of sub-working groups such as coastal, western, northern, and central regional groupings of MPOs, and MPOs with active resilience plan efforts to relay to the resilience working group