

2016-2021

PROGRESS REPORT



ONE VISION, ONE HARLINGEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

APRIL 2021

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Harlingen City Commission adopted the City of Harlingen’s “One Vision, One Harlingen Comprehensive Plan” on June 24, 2016. The Comprehensive Plan is the City’s core policy document that guides its vision, goals, strategies, and implementation measures for growth and prosperity. It is meant to be used as a roadmap by elected officials and City leaders. City Departments are ultimately responsible for the implementation of the Plan. The adoption of the Comprehensive Plan followed an inclusive public engagement process that required many workshops on different topics, including quality of life, community vitality, and quality of infrastructure. The Harlingen City Commission also met for a workshop that resulted in a list of prioritized projects expected to be completed in the next decade. These projects are referred to as Priorities in this report.

The Comprehensive Plan is a living document and should be updated periodically to assess progress, identify new opportunities, and reevaluate goals and priorities. The adopted Comprehensive Plan recommends evaluating the progress of the implementation actions identified in the Plan every three (3) to five (5) years. Additionally, a 10-year update is recommended to evaluate the goals and vision for Harlingen, which may result in adjusting goals, objectives, and actions.

It has been five (5) years since the Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Harlingen City Commission. With this in mind, the Harlingen City Manager requested a report on the progress made to date for the nine (9) goals, 17 priority projects, and 114 implementation actions included in the Comprehensive Plan. This report presents the results from such an assessment.

First, the report highlights achievements under each goal (a total of 9 goals by element area). Next, the report lists all priorities and provides a synopsis for each salient project that has been either completed or is in progress. The report also includes all 114 implementation actions by element area that were rated to assess progress (refer to Appendix A for more information).

Out of the 114 actions, only 19 actions have not yet started or little progress has been made primarily because these actions are not widely supported by the community or economically feasible at this time. Based on the actions that are either completed or in progress, the City of Harlingen has made remarkable progress, especially in the areas of economic growth, drainage, and the medical district. The City has also made great progress implementing its priority projects. As of 2021, 14 out of the 17 priorities have been either completed or are in progress.



Comprehensive Plan Framework

1

VISION

9

GOALS

31

Objectives

114

Actions

GOALS

The Comprehensive Plan's goals articulate how the Vision expressed by the Plan will be accomplished. The Plan establishes goals for each key plan element.

PLAN ELEMENTS:



ECONOMIC GROWTH



DRAINAGE & UTILITIES



TRANSPORTATION



PARKS



COMMUNITY IDENTITY



HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS



**CIVIC FACILITIES
& BUILDINGS**



EDUCATION



PUBLIC SAFETY

ECONOMIC GROWTH

GOAL STATEMENT

"Harlingen will have a strong, diverse, and sustainable economy that provides quality job opportunities for its residents and that makes the city a great place to live and work."

Objective 1: Continue to pursue economic growth opportunities for the City.

Objective 2: Strengthen the City's economic infrastructure.

Objective 3: Continue to target quality of life features that make Harlingen an attractive place to live.

Objective 4: Ensure that Harlingen remains an attractive investment choice.

HIGHLIGHTS

Incentive Programs



Frankie Flavz

Commercial Recruitment Program

The Commercial Recruitment Program was created by the HEDC to attract new retail development into the City of Harlingen. Under this program, retailers and developers may receive an incentive payment on a portion of the local sales tax revenue generated.

Retailers wishing to participate in the program must meet basic performance criteria such as a minimum number of full-time employees and a minimum of taxable retail sales.

The program assigns more points to retailers wishing to move into Harlingen Corners, Valle Vista Mall, Aerotropolis, Bass Pro Shop area, designated Opportunity Zones (OZs), Downtown District, or the Medical District, which aligns with the Comprehensive Plan goals.

Retail Strategy

The HEDC has worked with consultants such as The Retail Coach, a national retail recruitment and development firm, to grow Harlingen's retail sector. The Retail Coach combines psychographic and psychographic trends with "on the ground" information to conduct targeted retail recruitment efforts.



Chapter 380 Economic Development Agreements ("Chapter 380 Program")

Chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code authorizes cities to offer incentives designed to promote economic development. Incentives come in the form of loans and/or grants of city funds or services at little or no cost to stimulate business and commercial activity.

To qualify for the program, a business must be within the City and must make a minimum of \$100,000 in annual sales tax revenue. The term of the agreement cannot exceed 10 years.



The City and the HEDC agreed to refund a portion of sales tax generated by El Clavo Lumber as part of a Chapter 380 agreement executed in 2016. El Clavo invested an estimated \$390,000 in site improvements and committed to creating 14 new full-time jobs that pay a minimum of \$9 per hour in wages.

HELP for Small Business

In May 2020, HEDC launched the Harlingen Emergency Loan Program (HELP) for Small Business to provide financial support to businesses struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since its launch last year, the program has assisted over 50 local businesses in retaining more than 400 full-time jobs.

Supporting Harlingen's Entrepreneurs

Kauffman FastTrac Business Series:

The HEDC sponsored FastTrac, a course offered by UTRGV's Entrepreneurship and Commercialization Center. FastTrac provides aspiring entrepreneurs or current business owners with the tools to develop a business concept, determine the viability of the business concept, and outline the critical steps to a successful business launch. Ten (10) applicants were selected to participate in the program, free of charge.



Source: HEDC

New Business, 2017-2020

- Arby's
- Cheddar's
- Exceptional Emergency Center
- Harbor Freight
- Planet Fitness
- Sprint
- Tropical Smoothie Cafe
- Vermillion Restaurant
- Johnny Rockets
- Tru Fit Athletic Club
- Urban Air Adventure Park
- Iced Cube
- Don Gollito
- Procured Life + Home
- Girl of All Trades
- Station 1 Bar & Grill
- Massage Envy
- James Avery
- Paris Bakery
- Jubilee Academy
- Wendy's
- Supercuts
- Antojitos Mexicanos
- South Texas Smokehouse
- Frank Flav'z Craft Burger House
- Xtreme Jump Harlingen
- Sir's Martini Lounge
- Harlingen Donut
- Texas Regional Bank Corporate
- Orange Theory Business
- Wing Barn
- Raising Cane's
- Taco Palenque
- Bandera Coffee Shop
- Kohnami Restaurant
- Panda Express
- Vision Works
- Jackson Street Antiques
- TJMaxx

Source: HEDC

Commercial Permits, 2016-2021*

120

New Construction

\$89 million

Permit Valuation

*As of 4/27/21

Source: Planning and Development Department

Sales Tax, FY 2020-2021*

10.29%
Over FY 2019-2020



*As of 3/21

Source: Finance Department

TRANSPORTATION

GOAL STATEMENT

"Harlingen will continue to maintain and create excellent regional and local transportation options that enhance the character of the city and provide for all modes of travel."

Objective 1: Plan for strong regional roadway connectivity.

Objective 2: Plan for greater local connectivity.

Objective 3: As a key community identity effort, improve the appearance of key roadways and streets to serve as gateways and major aesthetic corridors through the City.

Objective 4: In key areas, provide options for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Objective 5: Continue to strengthen Harlingen's other transportation systems, such as Valley International Airport, rail facilities, Los Indios, and the Port of Harlingen.

HIGHLIGHTS



Spur 54 Reconstruction (CSJ#:0039-20-008)

The Spur 54 reconstruction project was completed in 2020. As part of this project, Spur 54 was widened from a 4-lane divided roadway into a 6-lane divided roadway from Chester Park Road to North T Street. The street was fully reconstructed and it now has a new raised median and a new storm drain. Sidewalks and driveways were also improved.

This project was funded with Category 2 funding allocated through the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO) and Proposition 1 and 2 funds. Total project cost = \$7.2 million.

This project was identified as a high-priority project (Priority #13) in 2016. More information about this project can be found on page 45.

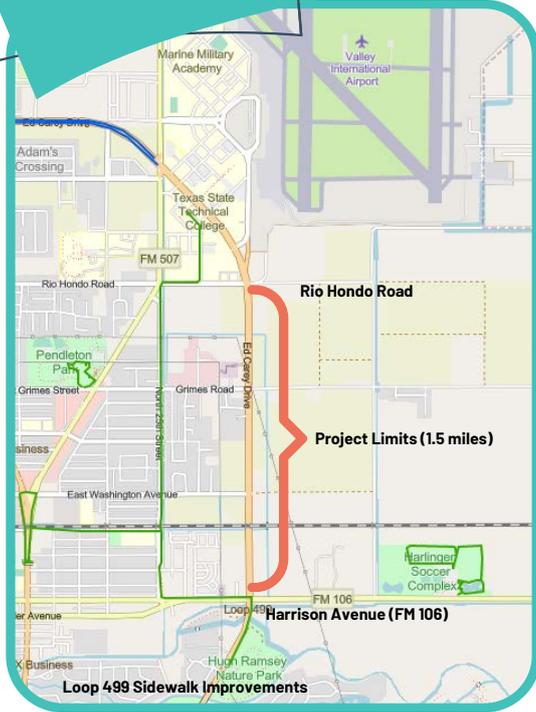
The Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO)

The City of Harlingen played a key leadership role in the merger of the three (3) major metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in the RGV - the Harlingen/San Benito MPO, Hidalgo County MPO, and the Brownsville MPO. A re-designation agreement for MPO consolidation to which Harlingen was a signature city was executed in 2019. The merger of the MPOs resulted in more transportation funding allocated to the area and a more seamless regional transportation planning effort for Cameron and Hidalgo Counties. The new RGVMPO is now the 5th largest MPO in the State of Texas.



Via Office of the Texas Governor

Sidewalk Connectivity



Loop 499/ Ed Carey Sidewalks (CSJ#: 0921-06312)

The City of Harlingen applied for and received Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TASA) funds from the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) during its 2017-18 project call. The City entered into an agreement with TXDOT in July 2018.

The project involves the construction of 6-foot sidewalks along Loop 499, from Harrison Avenue (FM 106) to Rio Hondo Road (1.5 miles). Additional improvements include upgraded pedestrian signals, ADA-compliant curb ramps, crosswalks, and a safe railroad crossing. This project will close a gap in the City's pedestrian network, providing enhanced connectivity to schools, the Harlingen Arts and Heritage Museum, healthcare facilities, and other nearby public institutions. Construction is anticipated to begin in October 2021.

Estimated Project Cost:

\$544,711

FEDERAL: \$415,216 TXDOT: \$94,894 CITY: \$12,975

Harlingen Curb Ramp & Sidewalk Improvements

At-a-Glance

	STATE	CITY
	\$5.39 million	\$85,551
SS 206	\$1.77 million	\$39,002
On Harrison & Tyler Ave. & from Dixieland Rd. to "F" St.		
Business 77	\$1.36 million	\$18,166
On Bus 77-X, from Washington Ave. to Loop 499		
IH-69E	\$2.24 million	\$28,383
Whalen Rd. to FM 2994		



15.11 miles
New Sidewalks

The City of Harlingen received Category 10 funding through TXDOT's Statewide Curb Ramp Program for the construction of concrete sidewalks, ramps, curbs, signage, and striping at SS 206, Business 77, and IH-69E.

The City entered into an agreement with TXDOT in December 2019. TXDOT is responsible for completing the work for this project. Construction is currently underway.



Street Improvements

\$9.6 million

**Street Overlay
Improvements
2016-2021**



**25.26
center miles**

**55
lane miles**



Funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds



I-60/I-2 Interchange Landscaping

The City completed landscaping improvements including adding native plants, trees, walkways and lighting, to the freeway interchange near Tyler and Harrison Avenues. This was a beautification effort to one of the City's main gateways. The project was completed in 2018.

Project cost = \$293,349.



In 2020, Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) recognized the City of Harlingen as one of 10 winners of the Governor's Community Achievement Awards (GCAA) for outstanding community improvement. The GCAA Program is one of the most prestigious annual environmental awards in Texas. The City received \$270,000 in grant funds for landscaping improvements at the following locations: Commerce and Business 77, Business 77 and Washington Street, 25th Street and Harrison, and Spur 54 and expressway.

Enhancements to Harlingen's Transportation Systems

Valley International Airport (VIA) Runway Extension

VIA's efforts to extend one of its runways are underway. A draft environmental assessment was released in April 2021. As part of this project, VIA will extend Runway 17R-35L and adjacent taxiways by 1,099 feet to the south. Runway 17R-35L is 8,301 feet long by 150 feet wide and is the primary runway out of the airport's 3 runways. This runway is also the longest in the entire RGV.

The runway extension will benefit the airport because Runway 17R-35L is used for air carrier and cargo aircraft which require a longer runway length when operating at or close to the full payload, especially on days with warmer temperatures (warmer air means less dense air reducing aircraft's performance). The extension will increase cargo payload utilization.

Construction is expected to begin in late 2021. Estimated project cost = \$15 million.

2014 -2018

**64%↑
CARGO**

2019

#71

**Busiest Air
Cargo in the
U.S.**

10K+
Enplaned Passengers
Per Year

VIA Highlights

2018

- Frontier Airlines starts operations at VIA with direct flights to Chicago-O'Hare and Denver International Airport
- American Airlines starts operations at VIA

2019

- American Airlines commences 3 daily flights to Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW)

2021

- American Airlines commences nonstop flights to Chicago/O'Hare Airport
- Viva Aerobus will commence nonstop international flights to Monterrey (May 6)

Passenger Airlines

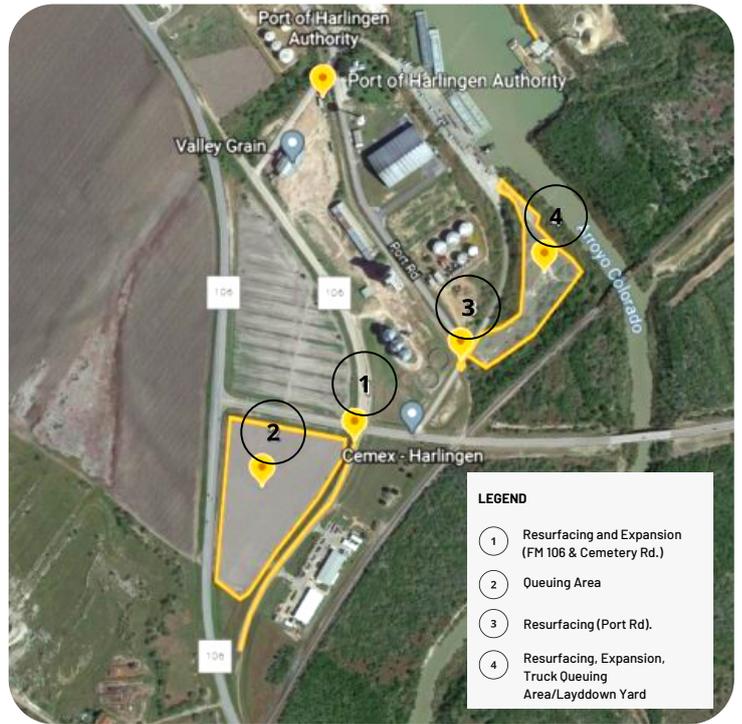
Southwest Airlines Frontier Airlines
United Airlines Delta Airlines
American Airlines Sun Country Airlines



Port of Harlingen's Construction of Queuing Area and Extension of Robles Road

The Port of Harlingen Authority was awarded approximately \$5.3 million via a budget rider (Rider 38) approved by the Texas Legislature for transportation improvements and service expansion at the Port of Harlingen. With this funding, the Port plans to include more truck queuing areas along Port and Cemetery Road and to expand and reformatify Port and Robles Road.

Construction for this project is underway and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2022.





PORT OF HARLINGEN AT A GLANCE

2.3 million

Annual Cargo Tonnage (2020)

15% increase from 2019

2 million

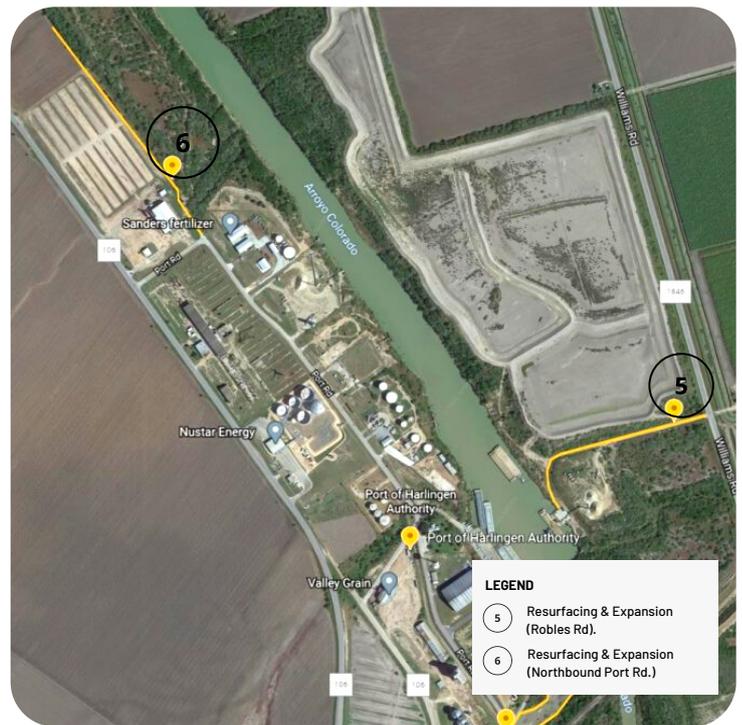
Waterborne Tonnage

5.7 million

Petroleum barrels a year.

90-100 trucks a day transport petroleum into Mexico.

Source: Port of Harlingen 2019 Master Plan



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MARITIME ADMINISTRATION (MARAD) - MARINE HIGHWAY PROGRAM



The Port of Harlingen applied for and received project designation in 2020-21 for its container-on-barge (COB) service, which will expand the Port's current shipping services along the Marine Highways M-69, M-10, and connecting to the M-95 to reach the Port of Wilmington. The project designation will provide the Rio Grande Valley a more cost-effective transportation option for shippers into and out of the area.

DRAINAGE

GOAL STATEMENT

"Harlingen will continue to work towards reducing the impact of flooding on the residents of Harlingen."

Objective 1: Continue to exercise sound management for floodplain areas and stormwater drainage throughout Harlingen.

Objective 2: Coordinate future growth with efficient drainage infrastructure.

Objective 3: Maintain, improve, and efficiently utilize existing drainage and flood protection infrastructure.

HIGHLIGHTS

Flood Regulations

Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

The City updated its Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance in January 2018 to secure its participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to adopt revised flood insurance rate maps. The updated regulations ensure that new developments meet minimum flood regulations to avoid future costly losses.

Subdivision Ordinance and Subdivision Development Guide

The new Subdivision Ordinance (Ord. No. 2020-33) and Subdivision Development Guide were adopted in 2020 to simplify the platting process and to better serve the public. The new ordinance also calls for more stringent standards for stormwater design, discharge, and retention/detention.



Flood Planning



Study Cost
\$6.2 million

City's Share
\$623,700

City of Harlingen HUC-10 Flood Protection Planning Study

The City of Harlingen applied for and received a grant from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to prepare a regional planning flood study of two (2) HUC-10 watersheds that span over 297 miles.

The study will help the City evaluate its existing drainage infrastructure and address the effectiveness of its drainage systems from a regional point of view.

Among its many objectives, the study will:

1. Update inventory and complete field survey of existing drainage structures, confluences, and other drainage appurtenances.
2. Map the 100-year and 500-year floodplains based on the latest data and information.
3. Update drainage criteria for the study area as it relates to new development growth.
4. Identify and develop flood improvement projects.



Arroyo Colorado and North Floodway Improvement Project

The City of Harlingen has petitioned the United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) over the years to update its assessment of the Arroyo Colorado and restore the full flood-conveyance capabilities of the Arroyo. The City's position is that the Arroyo is not able to convey a "design flood" of 21,000 cubic feet per second (cfs).

The USIBWC has agreed to restore the Arroyo Colorado's capacity, which has been greatly reduced due to the accumulation of sediment and increases in vegetation. As part of this project, the USIBWC will conduct a one-time vegetation removal and sediment-dredging operation (3 ft. deep) along a 6.3-mile segment between US 77 Business and Cemetery Road. Project Cost Estimate = \$6 million.



The USIBWC is the agency that oversees the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project (LRGFCP), which conveys floodwater through Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties. It uses a system of levees, diversion dams, and interior floodways to reduce flood impacts on residential, commercial, and agricultural lands. As part of the LRGFCP, the Arroyo Colorado Floodway is relied upon to convey a "design flood" of 21,000 cubic feet second (cfs) while maintaining water surface elevations that do not present undue risk to adjacent properties.

Drainage Improvements

\$3.94 M
Cost of Drainage
Improvements
2019-2021

70% 
Paid with Grants
or Partnership
funds

30% 
Paid with
City Funds



**13th Street Drainage Ditch
Widening**



**Dixieland Drainage Ditch
Improvements**



**Jefferson Drainage Ditch
Reconstruction**



**9th & 13th St. Storm Sewer
Improvements**



In 2019, Harlingen's Public Works Department received the In-House Project of the Year Award by the American Public Works Association Texas Chapter for the Secluded Acres Drainage Improvements.



Beckham Rd. Drainage Improvements



Lake Dr. Storm Drain Improvements



Altas Palmas & Lago Dr.



Secluded Acres/Spanish Acres Drainage Improvements



Halpin Road Roadside Drainage Ditch



Becky Ln. Storm Drain Improvements



OTHER PROJECTS IN THE WORKS:

- Jefferson St. Storm Drain Improvements
- Business 77 & 13th St. Storm Sewer Improvements
- 5th and 7th Storm Sewer Improvements
- 21 St. Storm Drain Improvements
- Treasure Hills/25th Street



Visit the [City of Harlingen's website](#) to see the master project list of drainage improvements completed to date since 2008.



COMMUNITY CHARACTER & IDENTITY

GOAL STATEMENT

"The City of Harlingen, all of its residents and developers will foster a one-of-a-kind image, building on the City's unique assets and constantly seeking to improve the appearance of the City. The image of the City will be considered by both public and private developments in Harlingen."

Objective 1: Project a distinctive, attractive, and consistent image in and along public spaces throughout the City.

Objective 2: Improve the image of buildings throughout the City.

Objective 3: Expand cultural amenities and events.

HIGHLIGHTS



Downtown Murals Program

Harlingen has a long mural tradition, with works dating back to the 1940s-50s. Around the year 2000, a group of individuals including staff and volunteers with the Downtown District, the Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Harlingen Historical Preservation Society, and Harlingen Proud started inventorying the existing murals, promoting them as an attraction, and creating new murals to beautify walls outside and inside businesses, and tell stories of Harlingen and Valley history.



Insta-worthy PHOTO OPS



See the map on page 12 for mural locations.

Source: Downtown Visitors Guide

2020



2016



The main goal of the program is to attract visitors and entice them to spend more time exploring the City and the Downtown area.

The Downtown Mural Program is a top tourist attraction for Harlingen. Mural maps, guides, and walking tours are available to those wishing to take advantage of the tours. Since 2016, the City has added 8 new murals. Today, the Mural Program features 25 murals located inside and outside of Downtown businesses and alleyways.

Preserving Downtown's Image

Downtown Incentive Program

The Downtown Incentive Program was created to help property owners and businesses improve the image and economic vitality of Harlingen's Downtown. Program funds come in the form of matching grants that can be used for signs, storefronts, fire safety, and/or security improvements. All signs and storefront improvements must comply with design standards established by Ordinance, which helps protect the look and feel of Downtown. The maximum combined grant award is \$15,000 per property per fiscal year.



"Girl of All Trades"
Photo Credit: Downtown Improvement District.

Grants

**Awarded
2018-2020:**

Source: Downtown Improvement District

Storefronts



\$5,793

Signs



\$4,400

Security



\$1,068

Downtown Harlingen was designated as a "Great Neighborhood" in 2020 by the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). The Program recognizes great places while celebrating stories of exemplary planning that have resulted in stronger and healthier communities.



Events & Festivals

Blues on The Hill
 Freedom Fest
 RGV Birding Festival
 Jalapeno 100
 Harlingen Marathon

Harlingen's Farmers' Market
 Jackson Street Market Days
 Harlingen Social Bike Ride
 Harlingen Art Night
 Winter Texan Appreciation Day
 Shrimp Festival
 16 De Septiembre
 Taste of Harlingen
 Halloween on Jackson
 Christmas Parade
 Movies in the Park
 Arroyo Lighting Event



Photo Credit: Parks and Recreation Department



Jalapeno 100 (2018)
 Photo Credit: MIS Department

Other Beautification & Promotion Efforts

In 2018, the Harlingen Convention and Visitors Bureau installed between 50 to 60 decals on utility boxes across the City as a marketing effort for the RGV Birding Festival. The RGV Birding Festival draws over 1,000 visitors every year. Visitors were encouraged to report their sightings during their visit or stay in Harlingen.



Photo Credit: Public Works Department

PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE

GOAL STATEMENT

"Harlingen will continue to build on its exceptional system of parks, trails, and indoor recreation facilities to promote the City's reputation as an excellent place to live and visit."

Objective 1: Focus on enhancing and upgrading existing parks throughout the City.

Objective 2: Continue to develop a citywide network of trails for both recreation and transportation.

Objective 3: Continue to expand facilities that create economic development and tourism opportunities.

Objective 4: Pursue park opportunities for growing areas of the City that are currently underserved.

Objective 5: Pursue opportunities for indoor recreation facilities.

Objective 6: Pursue park opportunities on the emerging West side of Harlingen.

HIGHLIGHTS

Park Upgrades



Lon C. Hill Destination Park - Phase I

The Lon C. Hill Park Phase I was completed in February 2021. Phase I included the installation of a large pavilion, water spray feature, small picnic pavilions, pergolas, entryway, family restroom, and sidewalks. According to the National Trust for Public Land's ParkServe®, approximately 3,086 people live within the park's service areas (10-minute walk).

Once all phases are completed, the Lon C. Hill Park will offer recreational amenities for children, including an all-inclusive park and splash pad, and the youth and adults, such as a walking and bicycle trail and basketball courts. This facility will support the City's efforts to promote healthier lifestyles and encourage physical activity.

This project was identified as a high priority project in 2016 (Priority #4) and is highlighted on page 36.

Accessible Playgrounds

6

HARLINGEN IS THE ONLY CITY IN THE RGV TO HAVE 6 ALL-INCLUSIVE ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS.

Source: Parks and Recreation Department



C.B. Wood Park



Amalie L. "Amy" Koppel Memorial Playground



Victor Park



Pendleton Park



Vestal Park



Hunter Park



Lighted Basketball Court at Rangerville Park

Improvements were completed in January 2020. Project was funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

\$62,145

Project Cost



ADA Ramps at Pendleton Park, Victor Park Pools

Funded partly with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

\$85,330

Project Cost



Outdoor Exercise Equipment

Outdoor exercise equipment are available at 4 different locations: Pendleton Park, McKelvey Park, Sports Complex, and at Rangerville Park.

\$25,000

Greenfields Outdoor Fitness Grant



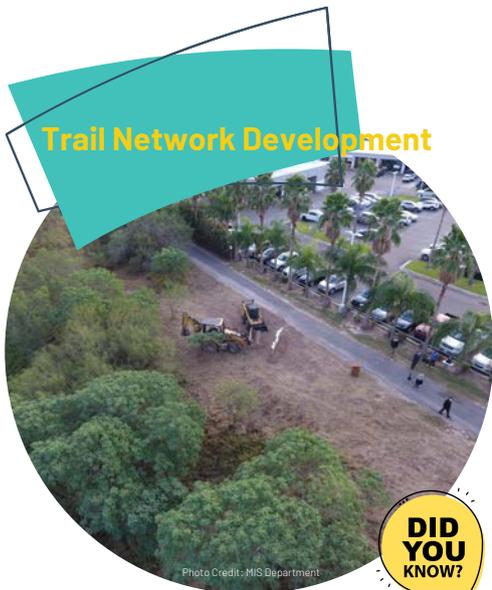
Photo Credits: Parks and Recreation Department

Source: Parks and Recreation Department

Other Park Improvements, 2019-2021

- Liberty Gardens Preventive Maintenance
- Victor Park Tennis Court Lighting Improvements
- Meg Jorn Trail and amenities (trail head, water fountains, shade shelter, benches, and pet waste stations)
- Arroyo Colorado Trail Bridge Repairs
- Harlingen Soccer Complex Playground Turf Replacement
- Rangerville Park's Basketball Court construction and lighting
- Vestal Park Field Lights Installation (Phase I & II)
- Vestal Park All Inclusive Playground and parking lot improvements
- Pendleton Pool Improvements (ADA ramp)
- Victor Park Pool Improvements
- Bark Park Improvements (Rotary Club donation)
- Hunter Park Playground Improvements
- McKelvey Park Lighting Improvements
- Bohnam Park Improvements (new parking lot and playground)
- Ramsey Park Security Cameras Installation and improvements (lighting, wetlands, parking lot)
- Harlingen Hometown Heroes Trail
- Disk gold basket replacement
- Outdoor exercise equipment at 4 locations
- Splash pad's pump equipment repairs
- Constructed and outdoor sand volleyball court

Source: Parks and Recreation Department



Once completed the Arroyo Colorado Hike & Bike Trail network (from Hugh Ramsey Nature Park to Dixieland Park) will put more than 75% of the City's population within a mile from a trail.



Arroyo Colorado Hike & Bike Trail Extension (1.6 mi)

Thanks to a \$1.2 million grant from the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation and to \$500,000 from the Harlingen Community Improvement Board, the City will extend its Arroyo Colorado Hike & Bike trail network from the I-69E overpass toward Dixieland Park for a total of 1.6 new miles. Improvements include a new trailhead, parking lot, and three (3) pedestrian bridges. This section of the trail is identified in Harlingen's 2010 Trail Master Plan as a high-priority corridor.

The Arroyo Colorado Hike & Bike Trail Network is Harlingen's most popular trail. The trail affords visitors the opportunity to engage in physical activity while enjoying scenic views.

Henry Roberts Loop Mountain Bike Trail (2.5 mi)

The Henry Roberts Loop is a 2.5-mile single-track trail that was built off the Arroyo Colorado Hike and Bike Trail in 2017. The City and community partners, such as the Valley Off-Road Bicycling Association (VORBA), continue to make improvements to the trail. Most recently, staff and volunteers cleared the trail and installed new signs and trail markers.

The Henry Roberts Loop is used by mountain bikers, trail runners, hikers, and bird watchers. It has a green and blue difficulty rating based on the IMBA trail rating system. The bike trail sits on approximately 25 acres that were donated to the City by Mr. Ted and Mrs. Maxine Elkins.



Hometown Heroes Trail at Pendleton Park (1-mi)

The City completed a 1-mile walking trail extension at Pendleton Park in July 2016. The trail is a 10-ft-wide decomposed granite trail with concrete curbs on both sides. The 1-mile trail extension connects to the existing 1/2 mile trail located at the Park. The City also installed 57 LED light posts along the trail making it the first illuminated trail in the City.

The Hometown Heroes Trail was made possible by a \$400,000 grant from the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation.



Photo Credit: Parks and Recreation Department



1-mile walking trail extension



Facility Improvements in Support of Economic Development & Tourism

HEB Tennis Center Pro Shop at Pendleton Park

Construction is underway of the HEB Tennis Center Pro Shop at Pendleton park and the spectator area. The new shop will complement the recently renovated 18 lighted tennis courts.

Currently, staff and players have used a portable office that lacks restrooms and rest areas. The new facilities will allow HEB Tennis Center to host tournaments for the entire region.

The facilities were designed by Megamorphosis, a local architecture and interior design firm. The construction bid was awarded to G & G Contractors. This project is anticipated to be completed by July 2021.

This project was funded through certificates of obligation service (2001 series). Total Project Cost: \$738,345



CIVIC FACILITIES & BUILDINGS

GOAL STATEMENT

"Harlingen will provide civic facilities and buildings that provide high levels of customer service, allow for excellent staff performance, and that serve the needs of the community. Civic buildings will inspire community pride, but will also be models for our community in terms of cost effectiveness and energy efficiency."

Objective 1: Assess current and future space needs.

Objective 2: Create a new "one-stop" City Hall for Harlingen.

Objective 3: Address current and future recreation and community center needs.

Objective 4: Continue to consider major civic/convention center needs.

HIGHLIGHTS

City Hall Improvements

Town Hall & Executive Room Remodel

The City's Town Hall room and the offices adjoining Town Hall were remodeled to improve their aesthetics and functionality.

The remodel included the installation of a new dais, podium, lighting, A/C duct installation, new furniture, and refinishing of existing decking.

The project was funded out of the general fund. Total project cost: \$49,724.



City Hall Electrical and Emergency Generator

In 2020, the City removed City Hall's non-operable generator and fuel tank. The generator was 38-years old and in need of replacement. The contractor hired to complete the work poured new concrete pads, installed control panels inside the mechanical room and rewired them into a new single service entrance. The new generator is designed to handle the load of the entire building in the event of power loss. Project cost = \$157,250



Harlingen Convention Center

The Harlingen Convention Center is a 44,000 SF facility. It has 10 meeting rooms, 8 which can be combined to create a large ballroom that can host 1,800 guests, an outdoor patio, event lawn and pavilion areas. The Convention Center is the first attached convention center hotel in the RGV and south of San Antonio.

This project was identified as a high priority project (Priority #1) in 2016. More information about this project can be found on page 32.



HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS

GOAL STATEMENT

"Neighborhoods everywhere in Harlingen, both in the Core Areas of the City and in the fast growing areas, will provide a wide range of housing types. No matter their age, income or family size, anyone will be able to find housing in great neighborhoods that retain and grow in value over time. Harlingen will be known for its excellent housing choices."

Objective 1: Protect and enhance existing neighborhoods throughout Harlingen.

Objective 2: Promote the development of unique housing types and housing locations that stand out in the region.

Objective 3: Focus on revitalizing neighborhoods within the Core Areas of Harlingen.

HIGHLIGHTS

Neighborhood Revitalization



Affordable Housing Programs

The City offers two programs, the Affordable Housing Program and the Housing Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Program for eligible families. Funding for these programs is possible through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investments Partnerships Program.

Before & After Demolition/Reconstruction



PERMIT TRENDS, 2016-2021*



1,086
New Homes

\$138.4 M
Permit Valuation



274
New Apartment Units

\$14.9 M
Permit Valuation

*As of 4/27/2021

Source: Planning and Development Department

Home Value Index*

2016 **\$102,000**

2021 **\$129,000**



Housing Median Price**
\$159,000

*Zillow

**Harlingen Board of Realtors (2021)

Operation Crackdown

The City in partnership with the Texas National Guard has demolished over 89 abandoned homes in the last 5 years. Demolitions are funded by the City with money seized from drug traffickers.

Rundown or abandoned homes that have a high chance of becoming hotspots for violence or are a nuisance are selected by the City after taking into consideration recommendations from Police, Code Enforcement, and property owners in the affected area.

In the past, Habitat for Humanity has built new homes at sites where homes have been demolished through Operation Crackdown.

2016-2018

89
Demolitions

Average #
Demolitions Per
Year: 30

Source: Planning and Development Department

Before & After Demolition



PUBLIC SAFETY

GOAL STATEMENT

"Harlingen will provide first-class police and fire protection, providing the City's residents with a high level of confidence in safety."

Objective 1: Address fire protection needs for the growth areas of the City.

Objective 2: Support and maintain a high quality Police Department.

HIGHLIGHTS

Public Safety



Fire Station No. 2

The Comprehensive Plan identified the need for a new fire station to improve fire safety in the growing western part of the Harlingen. As a result, the City built Fire Station No. 2, located at 902 South Stuart Place, which became operational on March 10, 2017.

The construction of Fire Station No. 2 was paid with certificate of obligation funds (2007 series).

Total Project Cost = \$1.91 million.



New Fire Apparatus and Equipment Purchases, 2016-2021



\$3.2 million
Apparatus

\$822,901
Equipment

Source: Harlingen Fire Department

New Police Vehicles and Equipment Purchases, 2016-2021



\$1.8 million
New Police Vehicles



\$1 million
Equipment



Source: Harlingen Police Department



2020 Chevy Tahoe
Photo Credit: Harlingen Police Department



Polaris Ranger ATV
Photo Credit: Harlingen Police Department



Crimes Against Persons

NIBRS Crimes Against Persons includes murder, rape, and all assault. These crimes will always have an individual as the victim.

29% 

From 2016 to 2020



Crimes Against Property

NIBRS Crimes against property includes robbery, bribery, and burglaries. These crimes involve the taking of money or property.

24% 

From 2016 to 2020



Source: Harlingen Police Department 2020 Annual Report

EDUCATION

GOAL STATEMENT

"Harlingen will work with area educational entities at all levels to provide first-class learning opportunities for all residents. Ranging from early childhood learning to vocational and college degrees and even lifelong learning and continuing education, Harlingen will be known for the quality of education in the City."

Objective 1: Support all area educational entities such as, HCISD, TSSTC, UTRGV, and the Medical School as they pursue opportunities to improve facilities and programs.

HIGHLIGHTS

Expanding Educational Opportunities

UTRGV Early College High School (ECHS)

The City of Harlingen donated 6.3 acres of land worth approximately \$2.5 million to the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District (HCISD) to be the site of the new UTRGV Early College High School (located at 2901 Medical Drive). UTRGV and HCISD will pay \$8 million each for the construction of the campus.

The City, UTRGV, and HCISD broke ground on September 1, 2020. The new campus will be a 64,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility that will allow students to work towards a bachelor's degree with a focus on academic core, engineering, computer science or education. Students will be able to earn up to 60 college hours by the time they graduate from high school.

The campus is expected to open in the fall of 2021.





UTRGV Institute of Neuroscience
Photo Credit: MIS Department

UTRGV School of Medicine's Institute of Neuroscience

The new University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Institute of Neuroscience will be a \$30 million, world-class clinical and research facility within UTRGV's School of Medicine. The facility will sit on 35 acres located on Haine Drive and North Whalen Road that were gifted by the South Texas Medical Foundation. The 35 acres of land were originally purchased by the City of Harlingen and the HEDC and later on donated to the South Texas Medical Foundation for a medical school.

Construction of the 32,570-square-foot facility is funded by the University of Texas Permanent University Fund (PUF). A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Institute was held on November 6, 2019. Construction is underway and upon completion, this facility will house clinicians and scientists where they can complete research and provide clinical care related to neuro-psychiatric and aging disorders. The facility will pave the way for additional subspecialties in the future.

The Institute of Neuroscience was possible due to a \$15 million gift from the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation to the UTRGV School of Medicine in 2017.



Photo Credit: MIS Department

PRIORITIES

- 1 Convention Center
- 2 Baxter Building
- 3 Commerce Street Overlay Improvement
- 4 Lon C. Hill Destination Park
- 5 Encourage Mixed-Use Development in Core Areas
- 6 Address Parking Needs in the Downtown District
Develop Core Areas Plans (Downtown Master Plan)
- 7 Drain Ditch Improvements (Dixieland, 13th Street, Rio Hondo, Lipscomb Ditch)
- 8 Acquire Fire Training LPG Burn Prop Unit
Fire Drill Tower Repairs
- 9 City Hall Renovation
- 10 Fair Park/Victor Park All Inclusive Playgrounds
- 11 Harlingen Arts and Heritage Museum Historical Building
- 12 Soccer Complex Phase II
- 13 Spur 54
Loop 499 Bike Lane Extension
Dixieland Turnaround
FM 509 Extension
HSBMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
Proposed Bike Lanes along Tyler and Harrison Avenue
Harlingen Multimodal Transit Station
- 14 Valley International Airport Aerotropolis
- 15 Upgrade the Children's Library
Upgrade the Public Library's Computer Lab
Create a Teen Library
- 16 Hugh Ramsey Nature Education Center
- 17 Ramsey to McKelvey Trail
25th Street to Downtown Linear Trails

PRIORITY #1: CONVENTION CENTER



PROGRESS: COMPLETE

In just 18 months, the City completed the construction of the Harlingen Convention Center. The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in May 2019. The Harlingen Convention Center is a 44,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility and the first attached convention center hotel south of San Antonio, Texas. The convention center is located in a strategic location that is accessible to many surrounding cities in the RGV.

This project was made possible through a public-private partnership between the City of Harlingen, Provident Resources Group, Inc., Preston Hollow Capital, and BC Lynd Hospitality, and was funded through tax increment funds, bonds, hotel/motel tax, and Section 4B funds through the Harlingen Community Improvement Board.



FINANCING:

TIRF #1,#2, & #3: \$1.9 M
Section 4B Bonds: \$9.2 M
Section 4B Fund Balance: \$2.3 M
HOT Bonds: \$3.4 M
HOT Fund Balance: \$850,000
CVB Fund Balance: \$239,006

TOTAL COST:

\$18 M

PRIORITY #2: BAXTER LOFTS

PROGRESS: COMPLETE

In 2017, MRE Capital leveraged Competitive Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and Historic Tax Credits plus private funds to renovate the 94-year old Baxter Building, which is located on the corner of Historic Jackson Avenue and South A Street. The project cost around \$4.7 million.

Once sitting idle and creating an eyesore in the heart of the Downtown area, the Baxter Building now serves as an example of a successful adaptive reuse project. MRE Capital converted the building from a historic office into a 24 affordable apartment complex.

SUPPORTING ROLE

While the City of Harlingen did not contribute directly towards this project, the environmental and asbestos abatement removal work done in 2015 while the property was still under the City's ownership positioned this project for future success. The environmental and asbestos removal work cost the City \$144,130.



Photo Credit: Downtown Improvement District



**2020 President's Awards
"Best Renovation for Cities over
50,000 population"**



PRIORITY #3: COMMERCE ST. IMPROVEMENTS



Photo Credit: Public Works Department

PROGRESS: COMPLETE



2009	2018	2019
Little Creek to Taft Avenue	Tyler Avenue to Filmore Avenue	Filmore Avenue to Little Creek
0.35 miles	0.27 miles	0.43 miles
\$222,067	\$79,886	\$149,987

Source: Public Works and Engineering Department

IN PROGRESS:



2021	2022	2024
N Bus 77 to Markowsky	Fair Park to Tyler Avenue	Markowsky to Fair Park
0.35 miles	0.82 miles	0.85 miles
\$222,067	\$400,000	\$475,000

Source: Public Works and Engineering Department

PRIORITY #4: LON C. HILL DESTINATION PARK



PROGRESS: COMPLETE

Construction of Phase I of the Lon C. Hill Destination Park began on September 25, 2019. Phase I improvements include three (3) small picnic pavilions, one (1) large pavilion, an entry court, five (5) small pergolas, a large water spray feature, an ADA-compliant restroom with a family restroom, sidewalks, and additional parking spaces. Before any improvements started, City staff assisted with the demolition of small picnic pavilions, electrical service connections, and portions of L Street and all of L ½ Street. The project was substantially complete as of February 11, 2021. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on March 23, 2021.

This project was made possible in large part due to the financial support of the Harlingen Community Improvement Board (4B), which provided \$2.3 million for this project. Another key supporter was State Representative Oscar Longoria (D-35) which sponsored a budget rider that earmarked funding to this project from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (86th Legislative Session).

Total project cost = \$3,374,050 million.



FUNDING PARTNERS:

\$2.3 million
Harlingen improvement
Board

\$1 million
Texas Parks and
Wildlife

Source: Parks and Recreation Department

PRIORITY #6: ADDRESS PARKING NEEDS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA

IN PROGRESS:

A public parking inventory and analysis of the Downtown area were completed by City staff in 2018. The results from the inventory revealed that there are a total of 2,225 parking spaces inside the Downtown Improvement District as well as three (3) blocks away from the District (considered within walking distance), which far exceeds current and future parking demand for a highly walkable urban area. The recent renovation of the Baxter Building has helped minimize public complaints related to parking in the immediate area.

The study also identified certain intersections that should be upgraded to meet ADA accessibility standards such as Harrison Avenue and Commerce Street and Van Buren Avenue and Commerce Street. The study recommends new curb ramps and pedestrian signals.



2,225
Parking Spaces



PRIORITY #7: DRAIN DITCH IMPROVEMENTS

PROGRESS: COMPLETE



13TH STREET DRAINAGE DITCH

The regrading of the drainage ditch along 13th Street was completed in 2019. As part of the project, the cross section of the ditch was widened to convey more storm water and improve its ability to catch greater outfall during rainfall events. The project is anticipated to benefit the residential neighborhoods along 13th Street as well as the overall drainage area which spans over 1,200 acres.

The project was completed in partnership with the Cameron County Drainage District No. 5 and the Harlingen Irrigation District No. 1, which contributed labor and equipment. As a result, the City's cost share was reduced to \$100,550. Total Project Cost = \$157,374.

Pursuing and entering into this partnership saved the City approximately \$100,806, which is the difference between the cost estimate provided by a private contractor and the City's present cost share amount (\$201,356-\$100,550=\$157,374).

LIPSCOMB DRAINAGE DITCH

Improvements to the Lipscomb Drainage Ditch were completed in 2009 by City crews with the support from the Harlingen Irrigation District and the Harlingen Water Works System (HWWS).

The City replaced the existing concrete pipe (36") crossing at Lipscomb Avenue, installed concrete boxes (10'x10') and regraded the drainage ditch (6,240 linear feet).

Total project cost = \$43,200.





Photo Credit: MIS Department

IN PROGRESS:



DIXIELAND ROAD DRAINAGE DITCH

This project entails excavation and widening of the Dixieland Road Drainage Ditch as well as upgrading four (4) existing drainage crossings.

This project is the result of a joint effort between the City of Harlingen, Cameron County Drainage District No. 5 and the Harlingen Irrigation District No. 1. District No. 1 provided the labor as well as the equipment and materials needed to perform the work. The City's cost share is \$341,194, which is the cost of improvements in the area between Lincoln Street and Dixieland Road. The total project cost is \$494,584.

By way of this partnership, the City saved approximately \$550,370, which is the difference between the cost estimate received from a private contractor and the City's present cost share amount ($\$881,564 - \$341,194 = \$550,370$).

The project is expected to improve the drainage of the immediate area from Lincoln Avenue to the Arroyo Colorado and is slated for completion this year.

The City's ongoing partnership with CCDD #5 and Irrigation District #1 led to a combined savings of \$707,744 to the General Fund.



PRIORITY #8: FIRE DRILL TOWER REPAIRS LPG

PROGRESS: COMPLETE

In June 2020, the City engaged Green, Rubiano & Associates (structural engineers) to conduct an assessment and prepare construction details for this project. The repair work was completed by Centennial Construction in October 2020. The engineering services for this project cost \$3,500, while the renovation work cost \$71,300.

Additional repairs to the structure that is attached to the tower were completed this year by the Public Buildings staff. Staff demolished and replaced the roof and painted the structure to match the tower colors. These repairs cost a total of \$2,500.

The fire drill tower is critical to the City's ISO fire suppression rating, which is used by insurers to set homeowners insurance rates in the area. An ISO fire insurance rating, also referred to as Public Protection Classification (PPC), is a score on a scale from 1 to 10 that indicates how well-protected a community is by a fire department. In the ISO rating scale, a lower number is better (1 is the best possible rating), while a 10 means the fire department did not meet the ISO's minimum requirements. The City of Harlingen has an ISO rating of a 3.



Photo Credit: Public Buildings Department Department

LPG Burn Prop Unit (Priority #8)

The City purchased a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Burn Prop Unit in 2016. The unit is used for live training firefighting exercises. Unit cost = \$49,970.

PRIORITY #9: CITY HALL RENOVATION

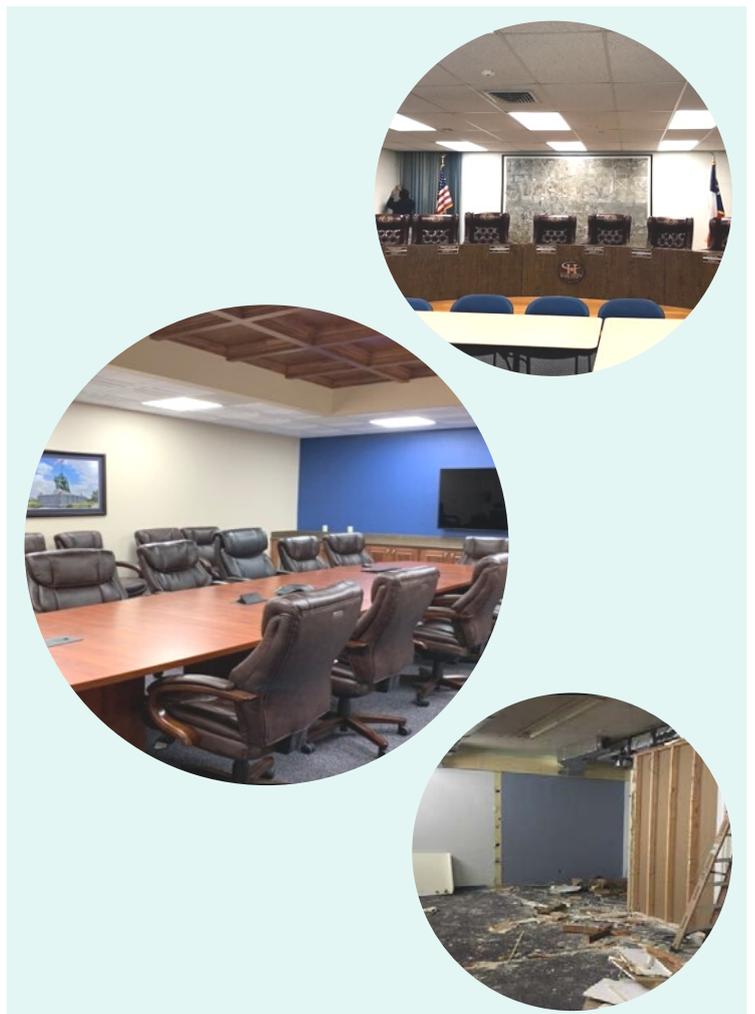


PROGRESS: COMPLETE

After alternatives for relocating and/or consolidating the current City Hall were placed on hold, City staff began the remodel of the Town Hall and the executive room to increase their functionality and aesthetics.

The project included the installation of a new dais, logo and signs, recessed TV monitors, new carpet, and refinished decking, among other work. All work was funded through the City's capital improvement account.

Total project cost = \$49,724



PRIORITY #10: FAIR PARK AND VICTOR PARK ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUNDS



PROGRESS: COMPLETE

In 2017, the City built its first all-inclusive playground at the Lon C. Hill Destination Park thanks to the financial contributions from the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation and a private donation from Mr. Rollins Koppel.

Unlike regular playgrounds, inclusive playgrounds allow children with mobility impairments to access the entire playground structure through wide ramps that are fully capable to accommodate wheelchairs as well as one person standing right next to it. Children with mobility impairments can reach the 8-foot top deck and enjoy all of the various playground components along the way. The playground also has accessible surfacing (synthetic turf) and special swings that can accommodate children in wheelchairs.

Based on the success of the all-inclusive playground at Lon C. Hill Park, the City of Harlingen and the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District (HCISD) partnered to build two (2) additional inclusive playgrounds at Victor Park and Pendleton Park. HCISD contributed \$400,000 for both playgrounds (half the construction cost). The playgrounds have now been built into HCISD's curriculum for special needs students.

As of 2021, Harlingen is home to six (6) inclusive playgrounds and is the only City to offer this many playground facilities in the Rio Grande Valley.

FUNDING PARTNERS:

- **Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation: \$500,000**
- **HCISD: \$400,000**
- **Rollins Koppel Donation: \$150,000**



**TOTAL:
\$1.05 MILLION**



**2017 Texas Municipal Excellence
Award Winner**
(Over 25,000 Population)

PRIORITY #11: HARLINGEN ARTS & HERITAGE MUSEUM HISTORICAL BUILDING

PROGRESS: COMPLETE

Phase I and II: Roof Repairs and Demolition



Improvements were completed in phases by Public Buildings staff. Staff completed the following:

- Roof repairs (Fall 2018)
- A/C installation (Summer 2019)
- Old walkway roof demolition (October 2019)
- Pergola installation
- New roof over area plane exhibit
- Entryway renovation

Project Total Cost = \$20,616



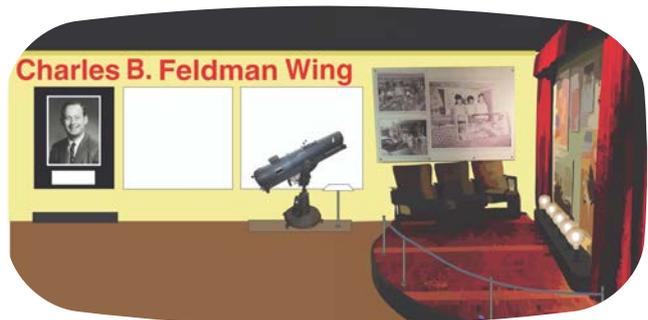


IN PROGRESS:

Phase III: Exhibit Design/Fabrication

The recently renovated HEB Historical Building will serve as an educational resource for Harlingen residents and visitors. The venue will provide visitors with the opportunity to become acquainted with the Rio Grande Valley's culture and historic past. This project is underway and is anticipated that it will be completed in June 2021.

Thanks to a \$25,000 donation from the Sam Feldman Family in December 2020, HAHM will also be able to address ancillary items, including AV components to exhibits, lighting, patron flow, and crowd control during this phase of the renovation.



PRIORITY #13: SPUR 54



PROGRESS: COMPLETE

The Spur 54 Reconstruction Project (CSJ#: 0039-20-008) was completed in 2020. The project involved the reconstruction and widening of Spur 54, a 4-lane divided roadway, into a 6-lane divided roadway, from Chester Park Road to North T Street. The project also entailed the construction of a raised median, a new storm drain, and improvements to sidewalks, driveways, and roadway surface. The total cost of the project is \$7.2 million.

Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority (CCRMA) completed the environmental for this project, while the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) Pharr District served as project sponsor. Texas Cordia Construction, LLC, was the contractor for this project.

The project was included in the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), HSBMPO's long-range regional transportation plan and was fully funded with MPO Category 2 funds and Proposition 1 and 2 funds.

CATEGORY 2 FUNDS (METRO AND URBAN CORRIDORS)

The Spur 54 project was funded with Category 2 funds (Prop. 1 and 2) through the former Harlingen-San Benito Metropolitan Planning Organization (HSBMPPO). Category 2 funds are meant to fund mobility projects inside the MPOs boundaries. Common improvements funded with Category 2 include urban road capacity and interchanges.

THE SPUR 54 ROADWAY EXPANSION IS ANTICIPATED TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW AND CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN I-69E AND I-2.

PRIORITY #13: HSBMPO BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

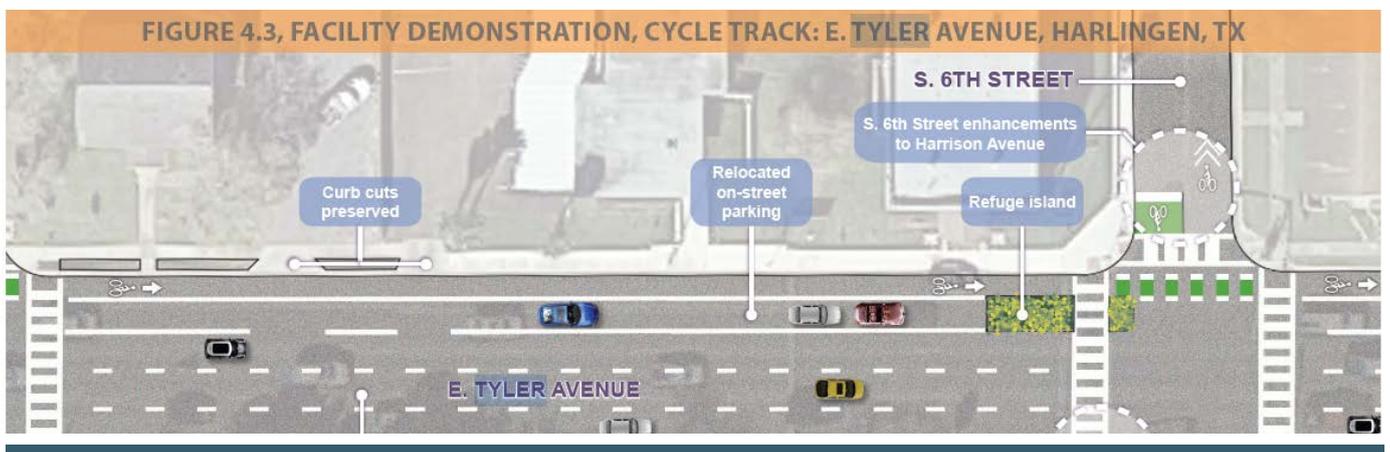
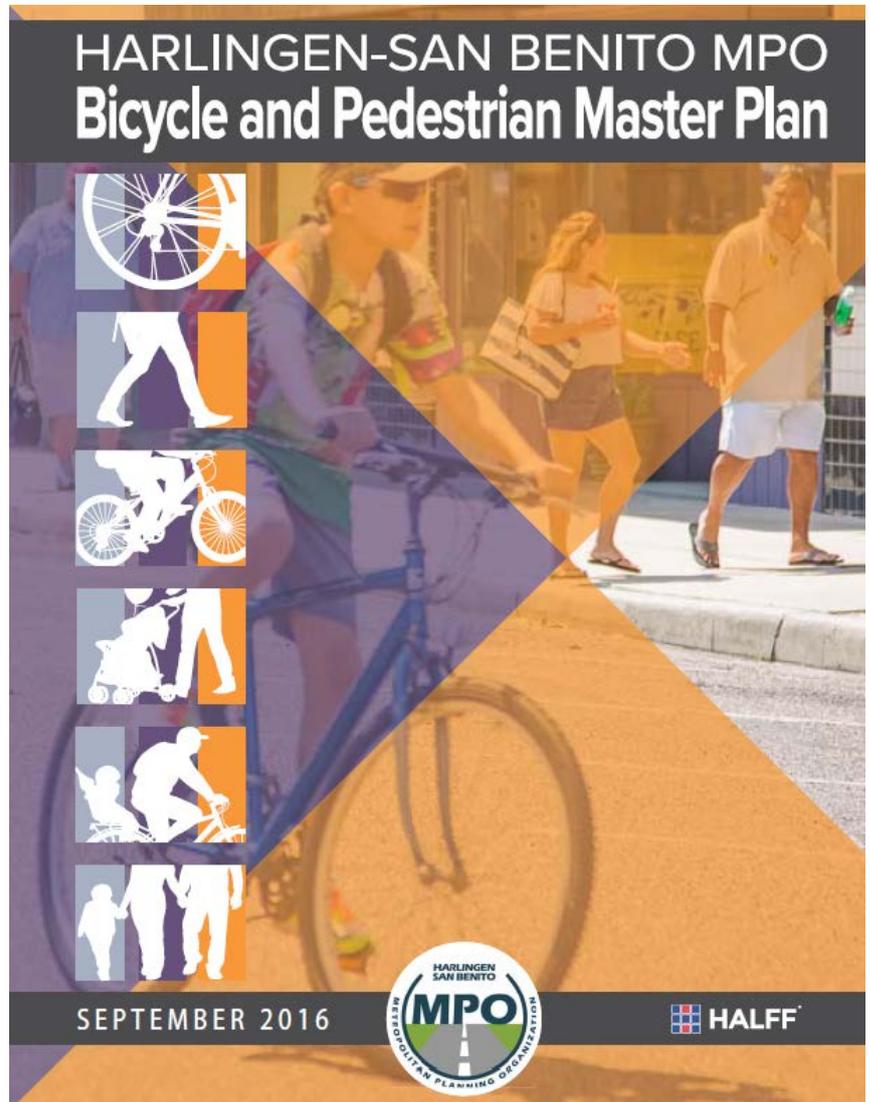
PROGRESS: COMPLETE

The Harlingen-San Benito MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan was adopted on September 14, 2016, by the HSBMPO's Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) following a comprehensive public engagement process.

The Plan identifies a region-wide network of active transportation facilities as well as design standards to enable bicycle and pedestrian travel throughout the Harlingen-San Benito planning area.



Cost
\$79,682



PRIORITY #13: MULTIMODAL TERMINAL FM 509 EXTENSION

IN PROGRESS:



MULTIMODAL TRANSIT CENTER

The Harlingen Multimodal Transit is expected to serve as a centralized transportation hub for various transportation modes, including intercity and intracity buses, taxi operators, and private carriers.

The proposed facility of approximately 12,000-15,000 square feet is envisioned to include a ticketing office, bus bays and staging areas, a bike rental and repair station, and retail and office space for lease, all located in a strategic location close to I-69 E and I-2. Upon completion, it is expected that nine (9) Valley Metro bus routes and at least one (1) bus route operated by the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) will service the new facility.

A request for qualifications to solicit services from qualified architectural and engineering firms has been completed and will be advertised in July 2021.



FM 509 EXTENSION

The FM 509 (CSJ: 0921-06254) extension project would entail the construction of a new four-lane divided highway segment from the FM 508 (Combes Rio Hondo Road) and FM 509 intersection to FM 1599. The project will be approximately 3 miles and efforts are currently being made by the CCRMA to incorporate alignments with the Outer Parkway Corridor, which will provide greater regional connectivity for Harlingen and surrounding cities from Edinburg to South Padre Island.

CCRMA is the project sponsor. The anticipated cost for this project is \$10 million. Presently, CCRMA is conducting negotiations for preliminary engineering and has submitted a request to FHWA for functional classification.

Other improvements to FM 509 are needed such as the widening from the existing two-lane undivided highway to a four-lane divided facility from FM 509 from Business 77 N to FM 106 and from Military Highway to Business 77 N will be pursued by the City through the RGVMPQ.

PRIORITY #14: VALLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (AEROTROPOLIS)

IN PROGRESS:

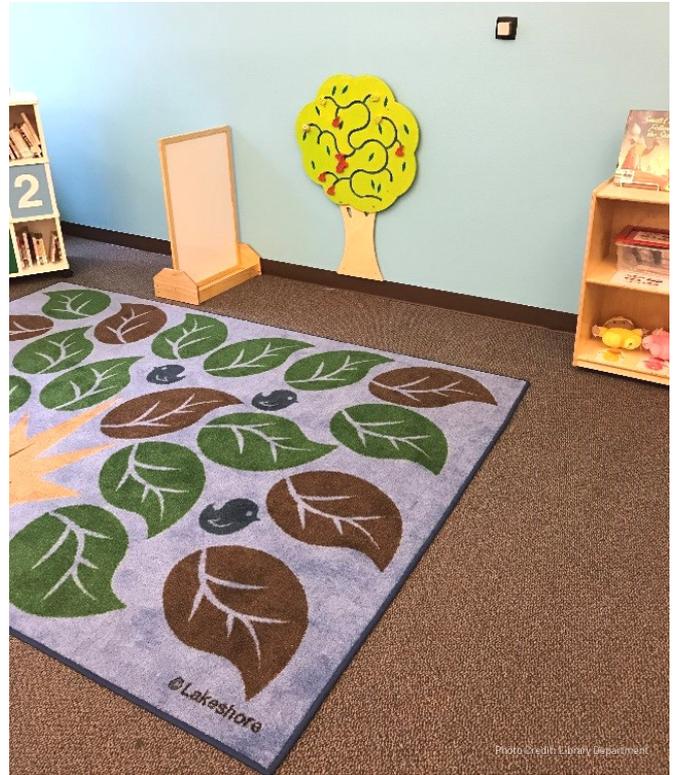
Harlingen’s Aerotropolis is comprised of 479 acres around the Valley International Airport (VIA), the largest airport in the Rio Grande Valley. The term aerotropolis refers to a sub-region whose infrastructure, land-use and economy are centered around an airport. This allows time-sensitive suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, and business people to speedily connect to distant customers, clients, and marketplaces.

Harlingen’s Aerotropolis is a Certified Site by McCallum Sweeney Consultants, one of the world’s leading site selection and economic consulting firms. It incorporates a mixed-use for the property that includes manufacturing, warehouse, office and retail purposes, and aerospace. Its proximity to the Port of Harlingen, the Port of Brownsville, State Highway 550, the Los Indios Free Trade Bridge, and the Valley International Airport makes it the ideal location for both local and global manufacturing companies.

On a typical year, the HEDC heavily markets the Aerotropolis at aerospace trade shows and conferences held throughout the year. Last year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HEDC opted for a combination of digital advertisements and/or placement of ads.



PRIORITY #15: UPGRADE THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



IN PROGRESS:

Through a grant secured in 2018 from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) for family programming, the Harlingen Public Library completed improvements to the Children's section of the Library.

Among the improvements made include the purchase and installation of an interactive learning wall, educational toys, area rugs, and paint for an accent wall.



Cost
\$6,000

PRIORITY #15: UPGRADE THE LIBRARY'S COMPUTER LAB



IN PROGRESS:

In 2020, the Public Library applied for and received funding from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)'s E-Rate Program to replace outdated switches and Wi-Fi access points.

The FCC program funded 85% of the total cost of the upgrades (FCC paid \$24,277, City paid \$4,284).



PRIORITY #15: CREATE A TEEN LIBRARY



PROGRESS: COMPLETE

Construction of the Public Library's teen room was completed in 2019. The room was well-received by the targeted users but access has been limited due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The construction of a teen room was possible due to a donation from the Junior League in 2018 for \$166,000.



APPENDIX A: PLAN ACTIONS

STATUS AND PROGRESS

The *One Vision, One Harlingen Comprehensive Plan* sets out a total of 114 actions in eleven (11) different plan element areas:

- Economic growth
- Transportation
- Drainage and Utilities
- Community Identity and Character
- Parks and Recreation
- Housing and Neighborhoods
- Civic Facilities and Buildings
- Education
- Public Safety
- Downtown
- Medical District

Actions are defined in the Plan as those that include specific strategies or steps to take in order to reach an objective. However, not all actions had clear and finite deliverables or outcomes. Some actions called for a process to be initiated and continue indefinitely, such as a collaboration with community partners, while other actions were aspirational and included multiple challenging efforts.

A rating system was used to evaluate the progress of all 114 actions. The rating system used in this report places actions into four (4) categories:



The action is complete.



The action is in progress and on track for completion.



The action is in progress but may face significant delays to showing achievement.



The action has not yet been started or little progress has been made toward achieving it.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	1-1	Ensure that all area entities and the city are in alignment with the HEDC as it pursues economic growth opportunities for the City	The ongoing partnership between the City, HEDC, HCISD, Chamber of Commerce has resulted in successful projects such as the UTRGV Institute of Neuroscience.
	1-2	Continue to support the HEDC as it pursues economic growth in the City	The City has supported HEDC's efforts through the Chapter 380 Program and other incentive programs.
	1-3	Continue to support and maximize economic development partnerships and opportunities.	Harlingen continues to build on its relationships with various entities in the region and Mexico. The HEDC is very active in regional cross-border organizations such as the Rio South Texas Economic Council.
	1-4	Aggressively explore potential growth in the Mexico energy, oil and gas industry	The Port of Harlingen has become a focal point for the exportation of diesel fuel and refined gasoline into Northern Mexico. Harlingen continues to promote the expansion of companies such as Titan Fuels and NuStar. Harlingen continues to work with others in the alternative energy sector as well.
	1-5	Develop specific strategies to target sales tax generating businesses	The HEDC has worked with consultants such as The Retail Coach to expand Harlingen's retail sector. The HEDC is also working with local developers and others in attracting stores such as TJ Maxx. The HEDC offers many incentive programs, including the "HELP for Small Business Program" that has been tailored for small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The HEDC and the Chamber of Commerce also provide information to numerous small businesses applying for federal aid such as SBA's EIDL and PPP programs.
	2-1	Strengthen the city's economic infrastructure (including Los Indios, Port of Harlingen and Valley International Airport)	The City continues to seek collaborations with TXDOT, CCRMA, and RGVMPD in support of multimodal projects that will benefit the Los Indios International Bridge, the Port, and VIA. Current and past efforts include the FM 509 widening project and the construction of cold storage inspection facilities at the Los Indios Bridge to increase its competitive advantage over other points of entry.
	2-2	Target and sustain the Medical and Health Industry as a key economic initiative	The City has had a very active role in supporting the medical/health industry in projects such as the UTRGV Institute of Neuroscience. The HEDC is also very active in organizations promoting the development of the bioscience sector, such as the Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute and the soon to be created Biomed RGV.

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	2-3	In every way possible, support improvements to the educational system and infrastructure in Harlingen	The City/HEDC donated property to UTRGV for the development of the HCISD's Early College High School. Additionally, HEDC continues to fund the TSTC Foundation's Goal Line Assistance Program. HEDC is also working on expanding the presence of several public and private higher-education institutions in Harlingen.
	3-1	Pursue retail and entertainment opportunities that increase the quality of living in Harlingen	See Action 1-5.
	3-2	Continue to target ecotourism opportunities	The City has strongly supported ecotourism through the CVB's Outdoors 365 Campaign as well as the Arroyo Colorado Trail system and active transportation.
	3-3	Promote and expand city amenities	The CVB has implemented marketing campaigns such as the Outdoors 365 to promote the City's assets and attract tourism. The City is also planning improvements to the Tony Butler Golf Course and the Lon C. Hill Destination Park.
	4-1	Continue to adjust city policies and development standards as necessary to make Harlingen an attractive place in which to invest	In 2020, the City adopted the 2018 International Building Code, revamped its subdivision standards and created a new subdivision development guide to better facilitate projects and improve the platting and permitting process. The City has also adopted new regulations and standards to allow food truck parks in certain areas of the City.

TRANSPORTATION

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	1-1	Support completion of the FM 509 corridor	The extension of FM 509 (FM 508 to FM 1599) is in progress and led by the CCRMA. The City continues to position this corridor for future funding through the RGVMP. Most recently, it was recommend for inclusion in the Texas-Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan.
	1-2	Work with the CCRMA to ensure that the proposed north Tollway addresses Harlingen's needs and benefits the city	This action was placed on hold due to changes at the state level concerning tollways.
	2-1	Adopt and implement a policy of connected developments	Connected developments are meant to reduce the need for short trips on major roadways. The City recently updated its subdivision ordinance which establishes upgraded design requirements for local streets and connectivity.
	2-2	Improve roadway capacity in West Harlingen	This action calls for requiring new developments to connect to more than one area arterial or collector. The recently updated subdivision ordinance should help improve connectivity in the area as more development takes place.
	2-3	Improve connectivity in the core areas of the city	This action calls for the conversion of streets in the Downtown Improvement District and La Placita area from one-way to two-way travel, which has mixed support among the community.
	2-4	Continue to evaluate opportunities to further reduce the impact of rail traffic on traffic in the core areas of the city	The Harlingen North Rail Relocation Study was completed in 2006 through the HSBMPO. The cost of rail line relocation may act as a barrier for completing this action.
	2-5	To facilitate east/west travel, improve East Wilson Road and connect it to N. Business 77 (Sunshine Strip)	Connectivity already exists between Wilson Road and Sunshine Strip through Commerce Strip and Markowsky Avenue. Lack of available right-of-way may act as a barrier for completing this action.
	2-6	Re-evaluate the planned connection of Rio Hondo from Ed Carey to FM 509 along the southern edge of the airport	This action has not been started.
	3-1	Designate the following boulevards, avenues and streets as "great streets"	This action calls for adding landscaping and street furniture along certain arterials, including Spur 54, Loop 499/Ed Carey, and Tyler/Harrison Avenues among others. While no official designation has been made, some of these arterials already feature or will feature this type of enhancements as result of sidewalk improvements and the Governor's Community Achievement Awards (GCAA) for which the City received \$270,000 to add landscaping to some of these streets.
	3-2	Enhance key median intersections into major distinctive citywide segments	Spur 54 is one example listed under this action. The Spur 54 widening/reconstruction was completed in 2020. The Harlingen Interchange landscaping improvements completed in 2018 is another example. See also Action 3-1.

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	3-3	Maintain Tyler and Harrison as a one-way couplet... but enhance the appearance of both avenues...	This action calls for improvements of Tyler and Harrison at I-69 that include bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Addition of sidewalks are currently underway on Harrison and Tyler Avenue, from Dixieland Road to "F" Street.
	4-1	Ensure that all roadway types have optional standard cross-sections that incorporate bicycle lane/facilities and sidewalks	This action calls for wider sidewalks and bicycle facilities and for reducing lane width or number of lanes to slow down traffic. The City has adopted the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and the Active Plan, which provide design guidelines that align with this vision.
	4-2	Identify key nodes and areas with potential for increased bicycle and pedestrian activity	The City adopted the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which identifies key areas. This action also calls for bicycle connections in the areas where TSTC/Marine Military Academy are located and which has been met through the construction of the 25th Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail and the new Loop 499 sidewalks.
	4-3	Improve walking and bicycling lanes/facilities around area primary and secondary schools	Significant improvements to sidewalk infrastructure have been made through the City's Safe Routes to School Program.
	4-4	In the future, put a buffer between sidewalks and the back of curb. Avoid putting sidewalks along the back of curb unless absolutely necessary.	The City's Zoning Ordinance requires for sidewalks to be fully paved and a minimum of 5-feet in width. The lack of available right-of-way in certain areas may act as a barrier towards adopting this standard city-wide.
	5-1	Maintain Valley International Airport as the premier airport in the region	VIA continues to add capacity to flights as well as increasing the number of direct flights. It has also completed improvements such as a new jet bridge. VIA is also planning to expand its runway. Construction is expected to begin at the end of this year.
	5-2	Continue to support and expand area mass transit options	The City has a partnership with Valley Metro, which is the Lower Rio Grande Valley's Transit Department. The City will continue evaluating alternative routes and follow the RGVMPD 2030 Transit Development Plan recommendations.
	5-3	To expand opportunities for transportation outside of vehicle ownership, consider and adopt policies to become a leader in innovative private transportation systems	The City allows ride-sharing services by Lyft and has supported bicycle sharing programs, including the BikeShare Rio Grande Valley along with UTRGV and other cities (managed by Zagster, Inc.), and its most recent bike-sharing program RGV B-Cycle Program, launched in partnership with the LRGVDC.

DRAINAGE & UTILITIES

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	1-1	Guide new developments (or redevelopments) through regulations that minimize the potential for flood damages to existing and future development by requiring proper finished floor elevation designation on final plats and in new construction plans.	The City recently revamped its subdivision requirements and adopted a new development guide that includes updated stormwater standards to minimize flood hazards.
	1-2	Maintain and enforce a floodplain management program in conformance with the regulations and guidelines of FEMA and the NFIP	The City updated its Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance in 2018 to meet updated standards by FEMA and remain in the NFIP Program.
	1-3	Maintain up to date training of the City's Floodplain Administrator as provided by qualified agencies	The City Engineer was recently designated as the City's Floodplain Administrator and is actively pursuing its certification (CFE).
	1-4	Continue to cooperate with CCDD#5 to ensure that federal flood insurance mapping for Harlingen and nearby area is updated based on the most recent drainage studies conducted by the City, Cameron County, State of Texas or Federal agencies.	The CCDD#5 completed a flood protection planning study in 2019, which will provide the City with updated hydrologic and hydraulic modeling to better inform flood reduction alternatives.
	1-5	Continue to coordinate floodplain management and drainage improvement planning with other governmental agencies responsible for stormwater management in adjacent areas	<p>The City is currently leading a new regional planning study funded by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) through the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF). The City will formally work with multiple jurisdictions to complete this effort.</p> <p>The City continues to collaborate with other governmental agencies such as the US Army of Engineers, IBWC, Texas Water Development Board, CCDD#1 and CCDD#5.</p>
	2-1	Continue to implement the recommendations of the Drainage Master Plan	The City continues implementing key projects as recommended by the Master Drainage Plan as well as seeking grant funding and partnerships to share the cost of improvements. Most recently, the City completed the 9th and 13th Street stormwater improvement project and the Dixieland Road drainage improvements.
	2-2	As directed by the Drainage Master Plan, construct remedial improvements to provide adequate storm drainage for known areas of poor drainage within the city.	See action 2-1.

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	2-3	Continue to monitor existing drainage facilities and perform maintenance as necessary to maintain their water carrying capacity.	The IBWC will be removing woody invasive shrubs and trees, and dredging the Arroyo Colorado from Business 77 to Cemetery Road to increase the conveyance capacity of the Arroyo. The City is coordinating with the IBWC on this effort.
	3-1	Acquire additional right-of-way necessary to construct future storm drainage and flood protection improvements through the City's subdivision processes.	Right-of-way and utility or maintenance easement dedication is required as part of the platting/subdivision process, especially for properties abutting ditch canals. Dedication is required to ensure maintenance needs can be met in the future.
	3-2	Require development to incorporate adequately designed drainage improvements, including appropriate use of detention ponds to reduce discharge of stormwater to the rate that can be accommodated by the downstream drainage system.	The recently adopted Subdivision Ordinance and the Subdivision Development Guide establishes minimum requirements for storm water design, including discharge limitations, retention/detention areas, etc.
	3-3	Update the City's storm drainage master plan as appropriate, and implement the recommended improvements in cooperation with other governmental jurisdictions.	The City plans to update the 2008 Drainage Master Plan upon completing the HUD-10 watersheds regional flood protection planning study currently underway. The study will provide the City with updated hydrologic and hydraulic modeling and mapping to be used for flood-risk evaluation and prioritization of projects.
	3-4	Continue to coordinate with TXDOT when constructing new transportation corridors to ensure adequate drainage needs are planned to prevent future costly increases.	The City does this on an ad-hoc basis for any new transportation project. The Spur 54 project, included new storm drains as part of the expansion of this roadway.

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	1-1	Adopt uniform standards for installation and maintenance of landscaping in public spaces, streets and facilities around the city	This action calls for landscaping installation and maintenance in high profile areas. The Downtown Improvement District is a high profile area that already maintains landscaping and flower boxes.
	1-2	Identify and target specific areas for building improvements	This action calls for improvements in highly visible gateway areas, key corridors, or boulevards. Existing pedestrian improvements are underway. See Transportation Action 1-3.
	1-3	Target key streets and boulevards for landscape treatments	This action calls for the installation of islands, light fixtures upgrades, and sign decluttering. In 2018, the City entered into an agreement with AEP Texas to upgrade 376 light fixtures along Harrison, Tyler Avenue, Business 77, Dixieland Road, and Jackson Street.
	1-4	Install "mini medians" at key locations to improve street character	This action has not been started.
	1-5	Enlist civic organizations to "adopt" key landscape areas	Keep Harlingen Beautiful is a partnering organization that supports the City with year-round clean-up, recycling and beautification projects.
	1-6	As a signature element of Harlingen, selectively expand the mural program both in the Core Areas of the city and to other parts of Harlingen.	The City continues supporting art mural installations throughout the City, such as the mural panels at the Convention Center and the Herb Keller Mural in Downtown.
	2-1	Target blighted or dilapidated buildings at key locations for improvement or removal by property owners	This is in progress through the City's demolition program. The building at 209 N. 1st Street is one example of this effort.
	2-2	Tie business incentive grants to building or site improvements	Incentive grants/programs are available to businesses located within the Downtown Improvement District and through the HEDC.
	2-3	Work with new development or redevelopment efforts to add distinctive features to buildings throughout the city	DID and Planning staff provide assistance to business owners throughout the development/permitting process.
	2-4	Upgrade requirements for signage and façade treatments	This action has not been started.

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	2-5	Where feasible, screen existing parking areas, and require landscaping for new developments	<p>City ordinance does not require screening of parking areas. However, Planning staff always recommends to developers to screen proposed parking areas.</p> <p>Landscaping minimum requirements are dictated by Ordinance. A minimum of 10% of landscaping is required for new commercial developments. Ordinance requires that 70% of landscaping be located in the front and sides of the property.</p>
	2-6	Incorporate a strong cultural identity into the next City Hall and other key civic buildings	This action has not been started.
	3-1	Incorporate public art at key civic facilities and parks throughout the city	See Action 1-6.
	3-2	Continued to support and promote unique events such as Blues on the Hill, the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival, Jalapeno 100, and Harlingen Half Marathon	The CVB and the City continues to support and promote these unique events.
	3-3	Promote the city's unique assets, such as nature tourism, unique museums and murals	The CVB through its Outdoors 365 Campaign and year-round marketing does extensive promotion efforts of the City's unique assets.

PARKS

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	1-1	Identify funding sources and priorities for critical existing park improvements	Funding sources have been identified by Parks staff (e.g., TPWD, GLO, and VBLF).
	1-2	Complete the Arroyo Colorado Trail as the premier trail corridor in the Rio Grande Valley (from Dixieland Park to Hugh Ramsey Park)	The trail segment from I-69W to Dixieland Road is in progress. Grant funding is being pursued for other segments such as the McKelvey-Hugh Ramsey Nature segment.
	1-3	Complete other high priority trail segments within 10 years	The trail segment from I-69W to Dixieland which is listed as a high-priority trail by the City of Harlingen Trails Master Plan is in progress. Grant funding through the RGVMPPO Category 9 Funding is being pursued for other segments.
	1-4	Develop a linear park/trail corridor along drainage corridors and new streets in West Harlingen	This action has not been started.
	1-5	Complete development of the Harlingen Soccer Complex	Conceptual render is complete but dedicated funding is needed for the construction of this project.
	2-1	Improve Hugh Ramsey Park as a major birding and wildlife attraction	City staff is planning to pursue grant funding from the GLO (CMP Grant Program). Pre-application is due sometime in June of this year.
	2-2	Develop a nature center facility	City staff is planning to pursue grant funding from the GLO (CMP Grant Program). Pre-application is due sometime in June of this year.
	2-3	Work with Harlingen CISD to create “school parks” in West Harlingen and in North Harlingen	City-CISD’s strong working partnership resulted in the design and construction of two (2) inclusive playgrounds in West and North Harlingen.
	3-1	Identify new developments where dedication of land for future parks may occur	This action has not been started.
	3-2	Conduct an indoor recreation center feasibility review	The City has an existing agreement with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harlingen which offers a dedicated recreation facility for the youth.

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	1-1	Select key neighborhoods within the Core Areas of Harlingen for preservation and protection	This action has not been started.
	1-2	Continue to aggressively pursue code enforcement and removal of dilapidated housing	This action is in progress through the City's demolition program.
	2-1	Pursue and/or facilitate the development of housing in unique areas, such as overlooking the Arroyo Colorado, around bodies of water	Existing Zoning requirements do not prohibit housing in unique areas of the City. Planning staff offers guidance and support throughout the development process to all housing developments.
	2-2	In core areas of the city, encourage the development of unique housing types to increase the heart of the city population	Existing zoning district (General Retail – GR) allows for mixed-used development. Multifamily projects are encouraged.
	3-1	Create simple neighborhood plans for key Core Areas neighborhoods	This action has not been started.
	3-2	Incentivize reinvestment in the Core Areas of the city	There are various incentives available through the HEDC and City for businesses looking to relocate into the core areas such as the HEDC's Retail Incentive Program, which was developed in 2019, and the DID Overlay's Downtown Incentive Program.
	3-3	Review and adjust standards and requirements as necessary to make it much easier and attractive to renovate older buildings and convert them into housing	The City adopted the 2018 International Building Code which offers greater clarity and flexibility for historic buildings. Existing zoning district (General Retail – GR) encourages mixed-use developments and allows for historic buildings located within the GR District to be used for residential use.

CIVIC FACILITIES & BUILDINGS

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	1-1	Conduct a facilities assessment plan	This action has not been started.
	2-1	Select the location for the replacement/consolidated City Hall	This action has not been started.
	2-2	Fund and develop the new City Hall	City staff evaluated cost proposals from an A/E firm but these were put on hold due to budget constraints.
	2-3	Identify uses for the existing City Hall building	This action has not been started.
	3-1	As part of the citywide facilities assessment, consider indoor recreation center needs	The City has an existing agreement with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harlingen which offers a dedicated recreation facility for the youth.
	3-2	Evaluate operational costs of current civic/community center buildings	This action has not been started.
	4-1	Identify a location and develop a new fire station for West Harlingen	Fire Station #2 opened in March 10, 2017 (902 S. Stuart Place). The station was funded with certificates of obligation (2007).
	4-1	Identify strategies for addressing facility needs	This action calls for a major regional convention facility in Harlingen. The Harlingen Convention Center was constructed in 2019. See Priority #1.

EDUCATION

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	1-1	Reestablish a Harlingen Education Task Force Committee	This action has not been started.
	1-2	Support grant and financial pursuits by area educational entities where feasible	The City has strongly supported strategic initiatives by UTRGV, TSC and the Harlingen School District, including recent collaborations such as the new UTRGV/ECHS campus that will significantly improve the availability of baccalaureate programming in Harlingen.
	1-3	Enlist community entities, agencies, key employers, and associations to support local education initiatives and pursuits	See Actions 1-2, 1-4, and 1-5.
	1-4	Support the growth of health care programs and initiatives at all levels	The City and the HEDC have taken several steps in supporting the growth of healthcare programs and initiatives such as the City's land donation for the ECHS campus and UTRGV Institute of Neuroscience.
	1-5	Provide opportunities for joint training and employment with Harlingen CISD and TSTC	The HCISD Firefighters Academy is the result of a partnership between TSCT, HCISD, and the City's Harlingen Fire Department. The fire academy offers high school students with the opportunity to earn hours of credit towards two certifications and gain on-hands experience.
	1-6	Continue to expand opportunities for higher education in Harlingen	The City has taken several steps in support of expanding higher education opportunities in Harlingen, such as donating land for the UTRGV/ECHS campus and UTRGV Institute of Neuroscience.
	1-7	Continue to aggressively pursue bringing innovative employers to the Harlingen area	HEDC has established incentive-based programs for businesses that produce high-quality jobs. Most recently, HEDC supported the expansion of tech-based company TaskUs into Harlingen, which will create over 1,000 jobs.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	1-1	Update assessments on fire station relocations, and determine funding source and improved fire protection in the western areas of the city	This action culminated in the construction of Fire Station #2, which serves the western areas of Harlingen.
	1-2	Address equipment needs to maintain current levels of fire protection	Equipment needs are covered each budget cycle. HFD has aggressively pursued grants to meet high-cost equipment.
	2-1	Continue to promote the use of best practices to target crime reduction throughout the city	HPD continues its use of best practices and data-driven approach to combat crime and increase traffic safety.
	2-2	Promote the use of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) to help create safe environments throughout the city	CPTED certified officers are available to provide reviews for public areas as well as private organizations. CPTED will be incorporated into the design of the new multimodal transit terminal, as recommended by the FTA.

DOWNTOWN

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	1-1	Create Core Areas in the Harlingen District	The Core Areas are identified in the Plan and refer to the Downtown District and the La Placita area (Downtown Overlay).
	2-1	Enhance Tyler and Harrison Avenues through the Core Areas of Harlingen, and create gateways into Downtown Harlingen	Installation of sidewalks are underway along Tyler and Harrison. See also Transportation Action 3-3.
	2-2	Examine the costs and benefits of converting one-way streets back to two-way travel (except for Tyler/Harrison)	This action has not been started.
	2-3	Revitalize the Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe Avenues area	Installation of pole banners and landscaping improvements have been completed on Madison and Monroe Avenues.
	2-4	Create a strong pedestrian link between the Lake Harlingen/Library area and the greater Downtown area	This action calls for creating a strong pedestrian corridor leading to the Core Areas, specifically along 6th Street. A bike lane is recommended along 6th St by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. However, the railroad crossing along the route may act as a barrier for completing this project.
	2-5	Connect the Downtown and the Lake Harlingen to the 25th Street Trail Corridor	The existing railroad crossing may act as barrier for completing this project.
	3-1	Adjust city codes and processes to smooth the redevelopment process	The City adopted the 2018 International Building Code which offers greater clarity and flexibility for historic buildings. The existing zoning district (General Retail - GR) already encourages mixed-use developments and allows for historic buildings located within the GR District to be used for residential use.
	3-2	Adopt a form-based overlay	This action has not been started.
	3-3	Allow and encourage mixed use development in the Core Areas of Harlingen	The existing zoning district (General Retail - GR) already encourages mixed-use developments and allows for historic buildings located within the GR District to be used for residential use.
	3-4	Strengthen incentives for investment in the Core Areas of Harlingen	Incentives are available through the Downtown Improvement District and the HEDC, such as the Downtown Incentive Program and the Harlingen's Emergency Loan Program (HELP) for Small Business.
	3-5	Relocate Harlingen's City Hall into Downtown Harlingen	This action has not been started.

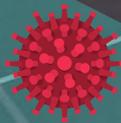
Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	3-6	Pursue redevelopment of the Historic Baxter Building as a key Downtown landmark	This action is complete. See Priority #2 under Priority List.
	3-7	Address parking needs in the vicinity of the Historic Baxter Building and the Reese Building	A public parking inventory and analysis was completed in 2018 showing that there is ample parking in Downtown. With the redevelopment of the Baxter Building, parking concerns have decreased significantly.
	3-8	Encourage revitalization and redevelopment in the La Placita area	The area around the Placita is now part of the Downtown Overlay. There is presently no vacancy in the area.
	3-9	Target key catalyst properties for improvements	This was pursued at the old warehouses located along the eastside of "H" Street between Fair Park and Jefferson streets. City staff also met with the owners of the property at 801 Commerce Avenue to guide them on the redevelopment of their building.
	3-10	Encourage adaptive reuse of existing warehouse/industrial buildings in the new Core Areas of Harlingen	Planning staff always encourages developers to do this and guides them throughout the development process. The Baxter Lofts in the Downtown area is an example of a successful adaptive reuse project.
	4-1	Aggressively encourage the development of renovated inner city housing	Planning staff offers support and guidance to developers wishing to rehabilitate residential housing.
	4-2	Enhance the Core Areas of Harlingen neighborhoods	This has been attempted through demolition of unsafe structures and by encouraging new construction in the core areas.
	5-1	Develop a formal Core Areas of Harlingen plan with individual sub district recommendations	This action has not been started.

MEDICAL DISTRICT

Progress	Action ID	Action	Status
	1-1	Create a "Medical District"	The City has heavily supported the healthcare district, including forging partnerships with UTRGV and other entities to realize projects such as the UTRGV/ECHS campus and the UTRGV Institute of Neuroscience.



**CITY OF HARLINGEN
COVID-19 RESPONSE**



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VACCINATED**

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