



# RGVMPO BPAC

Wednesday  
January 11, 2022  
11:00 A.M.

*JOIN VIRTUALLY*  
[MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING LINK](#)

*JOIN IN-PERSON*

CITY PLAZA- MEZZANINE FLOOR

1034 E. LEVEE STREET BROWNSVILLE, TX 78520

# RGVMPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

## I. CALL TO ORDER

*Meeting was called to order at:  
By:*

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. CITIZENS INPUT/PUBLIC COMMENT
- IV. PRESENTATION, ACTION, AND DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of November 2, 2022.
  - B. Consideration and Action regarding the potential amendment(s) of the RGVMPO BPAC Bylaws
  - C. Presentation and Discussion on the FY2023-2024 RGVMPO Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Call for Projects Application, Scoring Criteria and Timeline of Activities
- V. PROJECT UPDATES
  - A. FY2019-2020 TASA Program Schedule of Activities
  - B. FY2020-2021 TASA Program Schedule of Activities
  - C. Texas Federal Land Access Program Award(s)
- VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- VII. ADJOURNMENT





# I. ROLL CALL – *We will begin tracking attendance per the bylaws.*

Rev. Sep. 2023

|    | Membership           | Term   | Organization/Agency                           | Primary Designee | Alternate Representative | Term                         |
|----|----------------------|--------|---|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1  | Public Agency        | 2 yrs  | City of Weslaco                               | Omar Rodriguez   | Rebekah de la Fuente     | Aug. 2021 - <b>July 2023</b> |
| 2  | Public Agency        | 2 yrs  | Sullivan City                                 | Alma Salinas     | Ana Mercado              | Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2024       |
| 3  | Public Agency        | 2 yrs  | TxDOT   | Craig Wuensche   | Roberto Garza            | Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2024       |
| 4  | Public Agency        | 2 yrs  | Edinburg                                      | Larry Ayala      | Valentin Sanchez Jr.     | Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2024       |
| 5  | Public Agency        | 2 yrs  | Pharr   | Ruben Alfaro     | Maria Rangel             | Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2024       |
| 6  | Public Agency        | 2 yrs  | Brownsville                                   | Octavio Salazar  | Joel Garza               | Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2024       |
| 7  | Public Agency        | 2 yrs  | Valley Metro                                  | George Huerta    | Claudia Olmedo           | Oct. 2022 – Sept. 2024       |
| 8  | Public Agency        | 2 yrs  | LRGVDC  | Horacio Garza    | Nancy Sanchez            | Oct. 2022 – Sept. 2024       |
|    | Economic Dev. Agency | 1 or 2 | <i>Vacant</i>                                 |                  |                          |                              |
| 9  | Bicycle-Oriented     | 2      | Valley Off-Road Bicycling Association (VORBA) | David Hernandez  | <b>x</b>                 | Oct. 2021 – Sept. 2023       |
| 10 | Bicycle-Oriented     | 1 or 2 | Caracara Trails                               | Rose Gowen       | Lisa Neergaard           | Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2024       |
|    | Pedestrian-Oriented  | 1 or 2 | <i>Vacant</i>                                 |                  |                          |                              |
|    | Pedestrian-Oriented  | 1 or 2 | <i>Vacant</i>                                 |                  |                          |                              |
| 11 | Stakeholder Org.     | 2 yrs  | UTRGV   | Rodney Gomez     | Pablo Aguilar            | Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2024       |
| 12 | Stakeholder Org.     | 2 yrs  | TPWD  | Javier De Leon   | Kelly Malkoski           | Oct. 2022 – Sept. 2024       |
|    | Stakeholder Org.     | 2 yrs  | <i>Vacant</i>                                 |                  |                          |                              |
|    | Stakeholder Org.     | 2 yrs  | <i>Vacant</i>                                 |                  |                          |                              |
| 13 | Bike/Ped Citizen     | 1 or 2 | At-Large                                      | Ana Adame        | Tracy Roberts            | Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2024       |
| 14 | Bike/Ped Citizen     | 1 or 2 | At-Large                                      | Nina Torkelson   | Robert Ordez             | Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2024       |
| 15 | Bike/Ped Citizen     | 1 or 2 | At-Large                                      | Michael McNew    | Jon Ray Bocanegra        | Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2024       |
| 16 | Bike/Ped Citizen     | 1 or 2 | At-Large                                      | Richard Cavin    | <b>x</b>                 | Oct. 2022 – Sept. 2024       |



# III. CITIZENS INPUT / PUBLIC COMMENT

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*Members of the public are encouraged to provide input on bike/ped projects or programs.*



## IV.A Discussion & Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of November 7, 2022

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### [RGVMPO BPAC November 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

*Possible Action: Approve*

*Motion By: Rose Gowen*

*Seconded By: David H.*



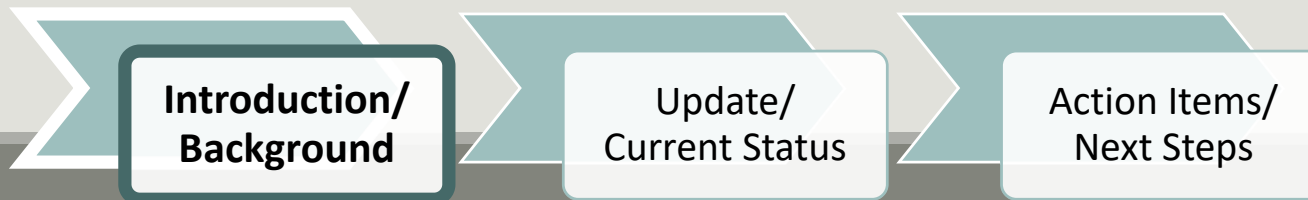
# IV.B Consideration and Action regarding the potential amendment(s) of the RGVMPO BPAC Bylaws

## · RGVMPO BPAC BYLAWS · Considerations for Amendments ·

### I. Purpose

The purpose of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's (RGVMPO) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is to advise the RGVMPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Transportation Policy Board (TPB) on bicycle and pedestrian projects, initiatives, and issues. By involving representatives of the public, including bicyclists, pedestrians, and other interested parties, the RGVMPO helps ensure their needs and positions are considered, implemented, and executed in the development of regional policies, programs, and projects.

The RGVMPO BPAC prioritizes improving connectivity, accessibility, and community health while planning for a comprehensive active transportation system. The Committee will guide the implementation of the key principles, goals, and supporting initiatives outlined in the RGVMPO Active Transportation Plan (ATP), adopted in December 2020.





Introduction/  
Background

**Update/  
Current Status**

Action Items/  
Next Steps

### • RGVMPO BPAC BYLAWS • Considerations for Amendments •

RGVMPO ATP Key Principles and Supporting Goals:

- Increasing mobility across active transportation modes, while *creating an integrated regional transportation network*.
  - Connecting the first and last mile of public transit trips to create a realistic and comprehensive network.
  - Link existing pedestrian routes, increase connectivity, and increase user comfort via a system of safe facilities.
  - Filling sidewalk gaps and improving the quality of the pedestrian network.
- Establishing a comprehensive system of transportation options and allowing *users of all ages and abilities to access resources across the region*.
  - Improving connections to key destinations promotes more frequent participation in active transportation.
  - Enhancing travel choices for underserved people while increasing access to basic needs, services, and employment.
  - Encouraging user participation through education and empowering residents to engage with the community.
- Promoting active transportation modes that *improve public health and support local economies*.
  - Supporting job creation and local spending through active tourism.
  - Integrating activity to lower the effects of obesity, heart disease, mental health issues and other chronic conditions.
  - Reducing speeds and minimizing conflicts with motorized vehicles to increase safety for all users.

Proposed





Introduction/  
Background

**Update/  
Current Status**

Action Items/  
Next Steps

• **RGVMPO BPAC BYLAWS** • Considerations for Amendments •

II. **Membership**

RGVMPO BPAC Membership Applications will be available to download from the RGVMPO website. Individuals interested in serving shall email their application to the RGVMPO and may be appointed, on a rolling-basis, by the existing voting membership. Members shall be selected to serve a one-year or two-year terms. The ‘voting membership’ of the RGVMPO-BPAC shall consist of a maximum of twenty-one (21) members made up of the positions listed.

- Eight (8) public agency positions from any of the following within the RGVMPO MAB:
  - Counties (Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr)
  - Municipalities within Cameron, Hidalgo, and Starr Counties
  - Transit Providers
  - **Public Safety Agencies** ~~Law Enforcement agencies~~
  - Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Pharr District

**Proposed**



Introduction/  
Background

**Update/  
Current Status**

Action Items/  
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### • RGVMPO BPAC BYLAWS • Considerations for Amendments •

- One (1) economic development agency position
- Two (2) bicycle-oriented organization positions
- Two (2) pedestrian-oriented organization positions
- Four (4) stakeholder organization positions from any of the following:
  - **Park & Wildlife Agencies** ~~Texas Parks and Wildlife~~
  - ~~National Park Service~~
  - ~~U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service~~
  - **Educational Institutions** ~~University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley~~
  - ~~School Districts~~
  - **Medical Institutions** ~~Hospital or Medical Clinical Staff~~
  - Advocates for **At-Risk Populations** ~~the low-income, colonia residents, seniors, or individuals with disabilities~~
- Four (4) bicycle/pedestrian citizens at-large

Proposed

Appointed members may nominate an alternate with full voting privileges in their absence. Members shall reside or work within the RGVMPO's Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB) and is entitled to one (1) vote on each item submitted for action/vote of the members. When one or more of the membership positions becomes vacant, the RGVMPO shall open a Call for Membership Applications.



Introduction/  
Background

**Update/  
Current Status**

Action Items/  
Next Steps

## • RGVMPO BPAC BYLAWS • Considerations for Amendments •

### III. Executive Committee

Elections for the Executive Committee shall occur on a bi-annual basis during the first meeting of the fiscal year.

Chair shall preside meetings and be nominated from the existing membership and appointed by the RGVMPO BPAC for a two-year term. In the event of a vacancy, the Vice-Chair shall succeed the Chair for the remainder of their term.

The Vice-Chair shall act on behalf of the Chair during absences and be nominated from the existing membership and appointed by the RGVMPO BPAC for a two-year term. In the event of a vacancy, the RGVMPO will coordinate an election for Vice-Chair.

The Chair and Vice-Chair may serve consecutive terms by recommendation of the Committee.

### IV. Maintaining Membership

Voting members will be in ex-officio status and lose their voting privileges after missing three (3) consecutive monthly/bi-monthly meetings, or two (2) consecutive quarterly meetings. To regain voting privileges, members in ex-officio status must attend three (3) consecutive monthly/bi-monthly meetings, or two (2) consecutive quarterly meetings.

Members who fail to regain voting privileges and continue to miss meetings shall be subject to removal from the Committee. Members wishing to resign their position may be replaced by their alternate for the remainder of their term, or they may vacate their position to allow the existing voting membership to select an applicant after the RGVMPO opens a Call for Membership Applications.

Excused absences may include but are not limited to illness-related absences, significant family events and circumstances, pre-planned events that cannot easily be changed, and employment conflicts that cannot easily be resolved. If an absence is not reported within two (2) days after the start of the meeting, it is automatically unexcused.

### V. Ex-Officio Membership

The RGVMPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee may appoint ex-officio members as appropriate. The ex-officio members are not voting members but will receive all meeting materials and are encouraged to actively participate in all RGVMPO BPAC discussions.

# Proposed



Introduction/  
Background

**Update/  
Current Status**

Action Items/  
Next Steps

• **RGVMPO BPAC BYLAWS • Considerations for Amendments •**

**I. Procedures**

A meeting quorum shall be defined as one-half plus one of the existing voting memberships. Vacancies shall not count against quorum. A quorum shall be present for all actions taken by the RGVMPO BPAC. The quorum shall continue until adjournment regardless of the departure of any members. In the absence of quorum, the Committee may choose to discuss topics informally but may take no action or accept recommendations.

Regular meetings of the RGVMPO BPAC shall be held at least quarterly with written notice and agenda submitted to all members at least (3) business days prior to the meeting date. **RGVMPO BPAC Meeting Schedules will be considered during the first meeting of the calendar year (January to December).** Special meetings may be called more frequently, at the discretion of the Advisory Committee or RGVMPO designated staff member with written notice and agenda submitted to all members at least (3) business days prior to the meeting date. Meetings shall be open to the public.

The RGVMPO, as the lead agency, will be responsible for coordinating the meeting's date, time, and place, and electronically emailing the agenda to all members of the RGVMPO BPAC. Each agenda will include a 'Citizens Input/Public Comment' item as participation by interested citizens in attendance is encouraged. Additionally, each agenda will include a 'Project Updates' item for the continued monitoring and transparency of the region's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funds.

The RGVMPO BPAC bylaws may be expanded or modified as agreed upon when proposed amendments to bylaws are presented for consideration and action at regular or special meetings.

**Proposed**



Introduction/  
Background

Update/  
Current Status

Action Items/  
Next Steps

• Notes from Previous Meeting Discussion •

- ✓ Same number of voting members.
- ✓ Cities in the MAB – Starr County
- ✓ How attendance factors into the membership consideration. (unexcused)
- ✓ Define an excused absence

# IV.B Consideration and Action regarding the potential amendment(s) of the RGVMPPO BPAC Bylaws

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*· Discussion · Ideas · Thoughts ·*



*MOTION: Rodney Gomez*

*SECOND: Alma Salinas*



# IV.C Presentation and Discussion on the FY2023-2024 RGVMPO Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Call for Projects Application, Scoring Criteria and Timeline of Activities

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• [TASA Working Group Meeting #1 \[12.19.22\]](#)•

## **Agenda**

- *TxDOT - TA program guide review*
- *RGVMPO - draft TASA program guide review and feedback*
- *TxDOT - TASA Application review*
- *RGVMPO - draft Application review and feedback*
- *TxDOT - scoring criteria & timeline of activities review*
- *RGVMPO - draft scoring criteria & timeline of activities review and feedback*



# IV.C Presentation and Discussion on the FY2023-2024 RGVMPO Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Call for Projects Application, Scoring Criteria and Timeline of Activities

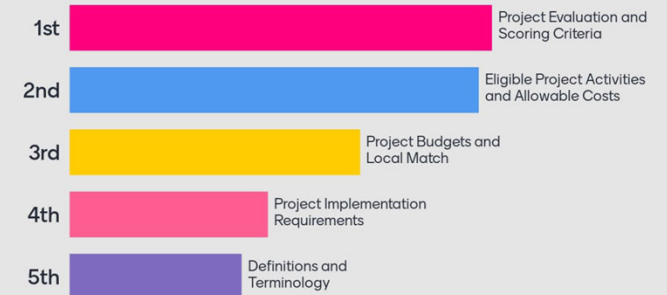
## • Working Group Feedback results •

What did you find was helpful from the TxDOT TASA Program Guide?

was very helpful and the program important dates  
 process detail on p 7 start to finish map  
 easy to read scoring criteria  
 criteria measures guided criteria  
 informative cities would benefit  
 terminology flow charts  
 possible program issues use visuals  
 the sidewalk information

refined  
 educative

Most useful in the RGVMPO TASA Program Guide?



What would you change/add to the Draft RGVMPO TASA Program Guide?

Helpful websites for information or documents

Area to upload documentation/references attached to scoring

Visual with explanation of evaluation and scoring criteria





# IV.C Presentation and Discussion on the FY2023-2024 RGVMPO Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Call for Projects Application, Scoring Criteria and Timeline of Activities

## • Working Group Feedback results •

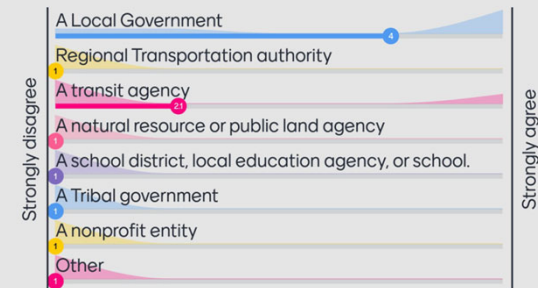
What did you find was helpful from the TxDOT TASA Application?

budget breakdown  
detailed and easy to fill  
fillable pdf

What did you find was helpful from the TxDOT TASA Scoring Criteria & Timeline of Activities?

criteria definitions  
scoring community support  
how to prove connectivity  
how to score geo equity  
gis analysis eval

Please select your entity.



What would you like to change/add to the Draft RGVMPO TASA scoring criteria & timeline of activities?

Please consider changing how project information is shared with members.

Eva is amazing. I trust her.

extended technical assistance for cities with populations less than 10/20K?

It's a lot of info to process, but well described.

Guided scoring criteria with examples and flow timeline

Timeline is doable. The scoring criteria will help us identify the best project to submit, so once that is finalized, we'll dissect it on our end as applications.



# IV.C Presentation and Discussion on the FY2023-2024 RGVMPO Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Call for Projects Application, Scoring Criteria and Timeline of Activities

## • Draft RGVMPO TASA Timeline of Activities•

| Mo./Yr.   | Activity   | Additional Details   |
|-----------|--|--|
| Dec. 2022 | TASA Working Group Mtg. #1                             | Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup> at 2pm                               |
| Jan. 2023 | TASA Working Group Mtg. #2                             | TBD  |
| Feb. 2023 | TASA Working Group Mtg. #3                             | TBD  |
| Mar. 2023 | Open FY2023-2024 Call for Projects                     | March 1 <sup>st</sup> at BPAC                              |
| Apr. 2023 | Deadline to <i>Request</i> Technical Assistance        | April 26 <sup>th</sup> at 5pm                              |
| May 2023  | Application Deadline = Call Closes                     | May 31 <sup>st</sup> at 5pm                                |
| Jun. 2023 | RGVMPO + TXDOT Application Review                      | <i>Staff may need to contact applicants for info.</i>      |
| Jul. 2023 | Applicants provide requested info.                     | <i>Clarification on project scope, budget, info., etc.</i> |
| Aug. 2023 | Project Presentations at RGVMPO BPAC                   | Special Meeting for Evaluation & Scoring                   |
| Sep. 2023 | Action at BPAC & TAC to recommend projects for funding | Resolution to Program TA funds at Policy Mtg.              |

➤ RGVMPO TASA Working Group Meeting # 2 date TBD, email will be sent out.

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> or January 24<sup>th</sup>**



# IV.C Presentation and Discussion on the FY2023-2024 RGVMPO Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Call for Projects Application, Scoring Criteria and Timeline of Activities

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*· Discussion · Ideas · Thoughts ·*



*Possible Action:*

*Motion By: Rose*

*Seconded By: Craig*

# V. PROJECT UPDATES

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*Members are encouraged to share updates on bike/ped projects or programs.*



| CSJ #                        | PROJECT NAME                                      | PROJECT SPONSOR             | FEDERAL AWARD              |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0921-02-430                  | Hidalgo County Mobility Plan                      | LRGVDC                      | \$ 264,000                 |
| <a href="#">0921-02-431</a>  | <a href="#">Jackson Rd. Hike &amp; Bike Trail</a> | <a href="#">McAllen</a>     | <a href="#">\$ 808,232</a> |
| 0921-02-432*                 | PSJA Tri-City Ped. Safety, Phase II               | Pharr                       | \$ 1,296,136               |
| 0921-06-322                  | Brownsville to Los Fresnos Connect                | Brownsville                 | \$ 512,000                 |
| 0921-06-324                  | Brownsville to LF Connect, Phase II               | Brownsville                 | \$ 512,000                 |
| <a href="#">0921-06-325*</a> | <a href="#">North High School Park Connection</a> | <a href="#">Los Fresnos</a> | <a href="#">\$ 308,810</a> |
| 0921-06-326                  | Olmito Sidewalks                                  | Cameron Co.                 | \$ 318,965                 |
| 0921-06-327                  | Las Palmas Sidewalks                              | Cameron Co.                 | \$ 240,934                 |
| 0921-02-480                  | Hike & Bike Trail + Bike Racks                    | UTRGV                       | \$ 285,300                 |

All projects have existing Advanced Funding Agreements (AFA) that may be amended for funding/project changes with TPB Approval.

[Projects \*pending the execution of AFA Amendments for approved project changes.\*](#)

- = project received Economically Disadvantaged Counties (EDC) funds

This Table reflects the list of RGV MPO Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA; also known as Category 9) Projects **programmed** with the FY2019-2020 federally **apportioned** funds. The TASA/Category 9 funds awarded to this list of projects will lapse/expire September 2023. This means the federal awards must be **obligated** by August 2023.

The RGV MPO has developed a schedule of activities Project Sponsors must meet to prevent the lapsing of funds.

# FY2019-2020 TASA Projects = \$4,546,377

All projects must obligate federal funds **by August 2023**

## FY2019-2020 TASA Program Schedule of Activities

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| December 2022       | Report to Transportation Policy Board for consideration(s) of funding/project changes           |
| <b>January 2023</b> | <b>Deadline</b> for final consideration(s) of funding/project changes                           |
| <b>April 2023</b>   | <b>Deadline</b> to fully execute AFA Amendment(s) for final approved funding/project changes.   |
| June 2023           | Final Project Certifications = Ready-To-Let (RTL)   |
| July 2023           | Federal Participation Authorization Agreement (FPAA) + State Letter Of Authority (SLOA) Request |
| August 2023         | Funds obligated by receipt of FPAA + SLOA   |

The obligation of funds occurs through the receipt of a State Letter of Authority (SLOA; TxDOT's approval of project/funds) and Federal Participation Agreement Authorization (FPAA; FHWA's approval of project/funds). Prior to submitting a request for an FPAA/SLOA, the Final Project Certifications must be completed to signal the project's Ready-to-Let (RTL) status. Due to the time it takes to reach RTL status, the deadline for funding/project changes will be December 2022 in order to accommodate the time to develop and fully execute AFA Amendments with TxDOT Pharr District. Projects currently pending an AFA Amendment must fully execute by November 2022.

# 0921-02-430 LRGVDC Hidalgo Co. Mobility Plan

1

Responsible Person In Charge (RPIC) & Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA)



2

Kick-Off Meeting with TxDOT



3

Procurement Plan Approval

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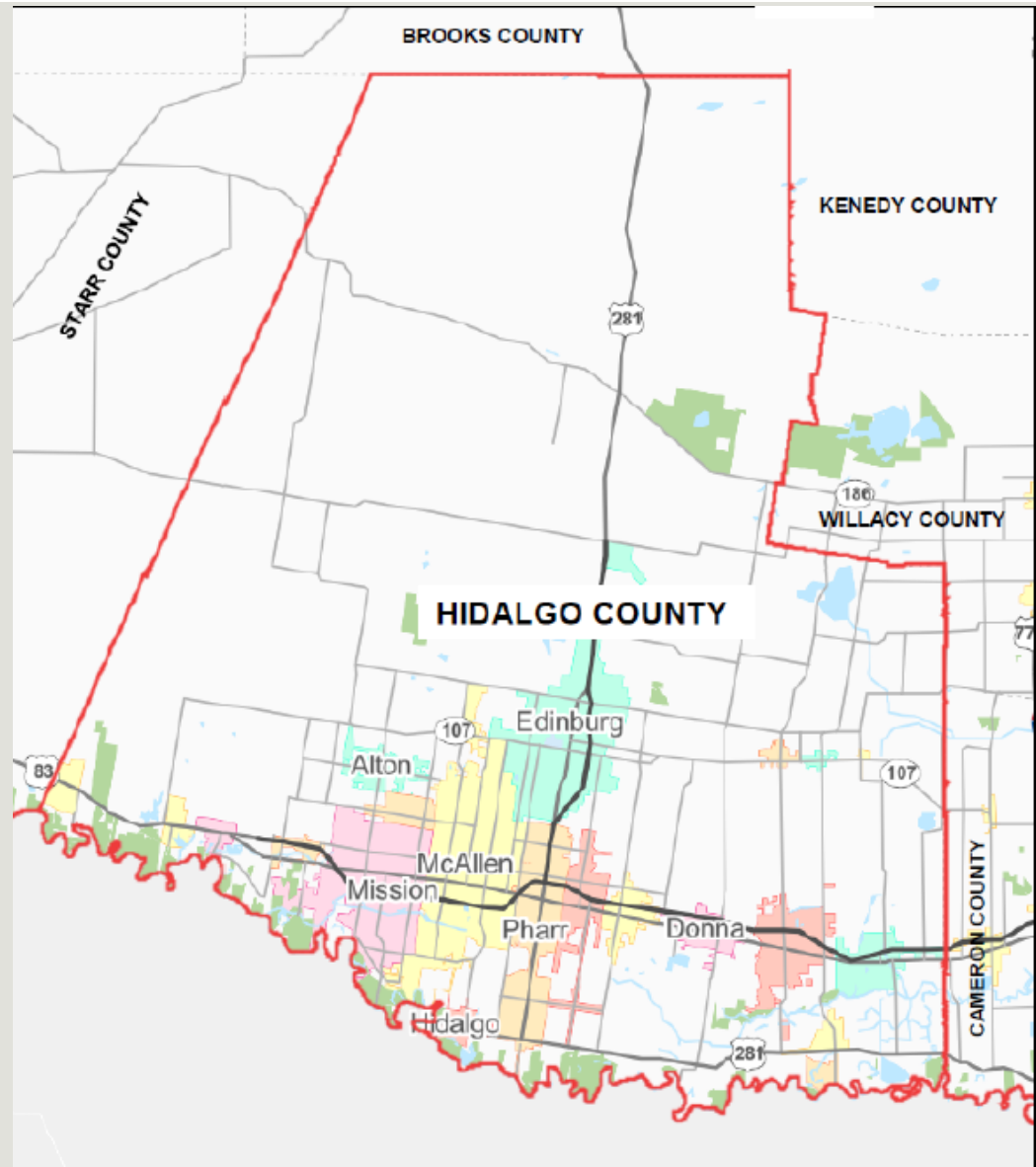
Development of BID Documents

5

SLOA Request

6

Procurement of Services



# 0921-02-431 McAllen Jackson Rd. H&B Trail Phase II

1

Responsible Person In Charge (RPIC) & Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA)

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2

Preliminary Engineering



3

RR – ROW – Utilities

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Environmental

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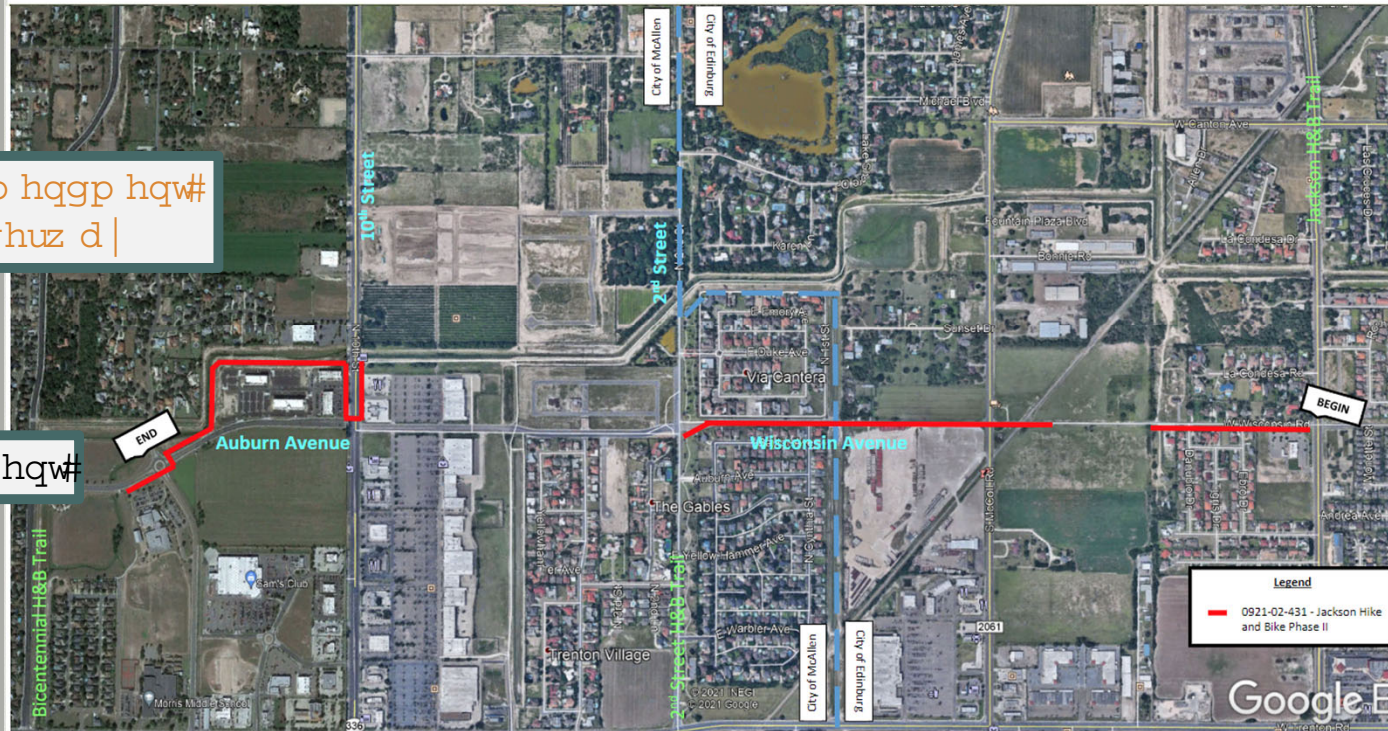
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Design

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Final Project Certifications (RTL) & FPA/SLOA Request

## Proposed Jackson Hike & Bike Trail- Phase II



*Additional funding and changes to scope of work approved by Policy 10/2021.*



# 0921-02-432 Pharr Tri-City Ped. Safety Improvements II

1

Responsible Person In Charge (RPIC) & Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA)



2

Preliminary Engineering



3

RR – ROW – Utilities



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Environmental

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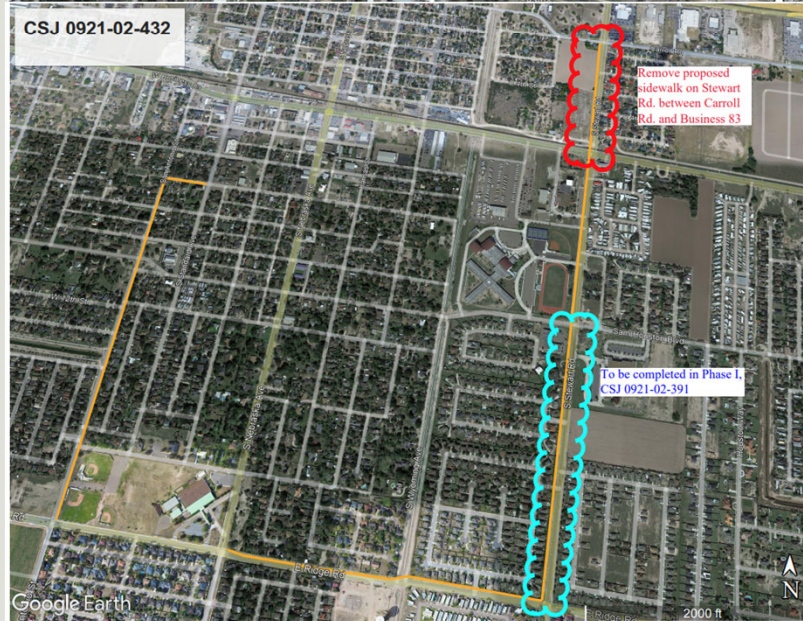
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Design

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Final Project Certifications (RTL) & FPA/SLOA Request



*Changes approved by Policy 2/2022.*

# 0921-06-322/324 Brownsville BRO to LF Connect Phase I & II

*Resolution to be presented for  
consideration & action in January.*

1

Responsible Person In  
Charge (RPIC) & Advanced  
Funding Agreement (AFA)



2

Preliminary Engineering

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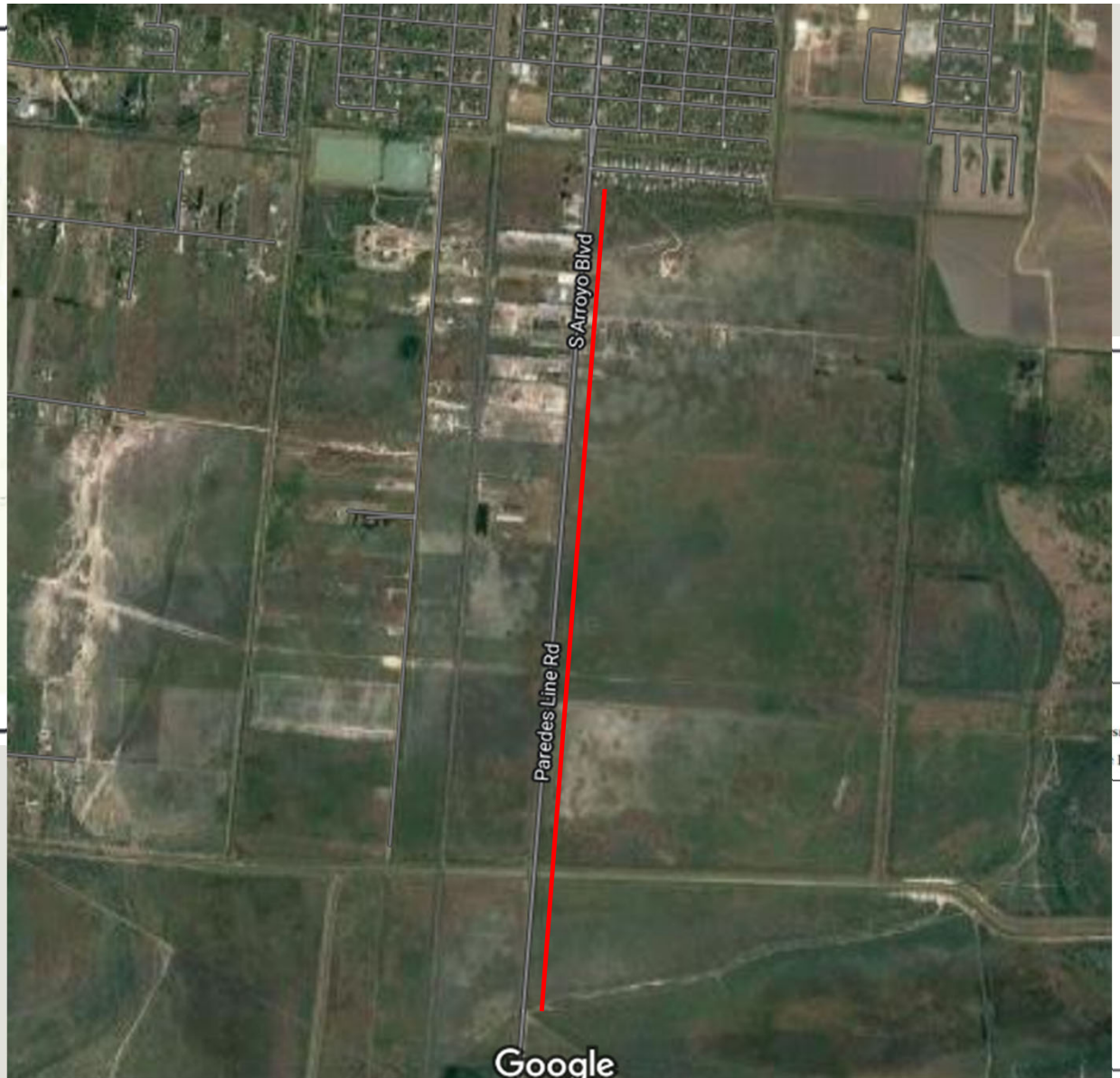
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Design

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Final Project Certifications  
(RTL) & FPAA/SLOA  
Request



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II

# 0921-06-325 Los Fresnos North HS Park Connection

1

Responsible Person In Charge (RPIC) & Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA)

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Preliminary Engineering



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RR – ROW – Utilities



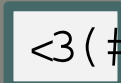
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Environmental



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Design



6

Final Project Certifications (RTL) & FPAA/SLOA Request



*Changes to project limit approved by Policy 5/2022.*

# 0921-06-326 Cameron Co. Olmito Sidewalks

*Resolution to be presented for  
consideration & action in January.*

1

Responsible Person In  
Charge (RPIC) & Advanced  
Funding Agreement (AFA)



2

Preliminary Engineering



3

RR – ROW – Utilities

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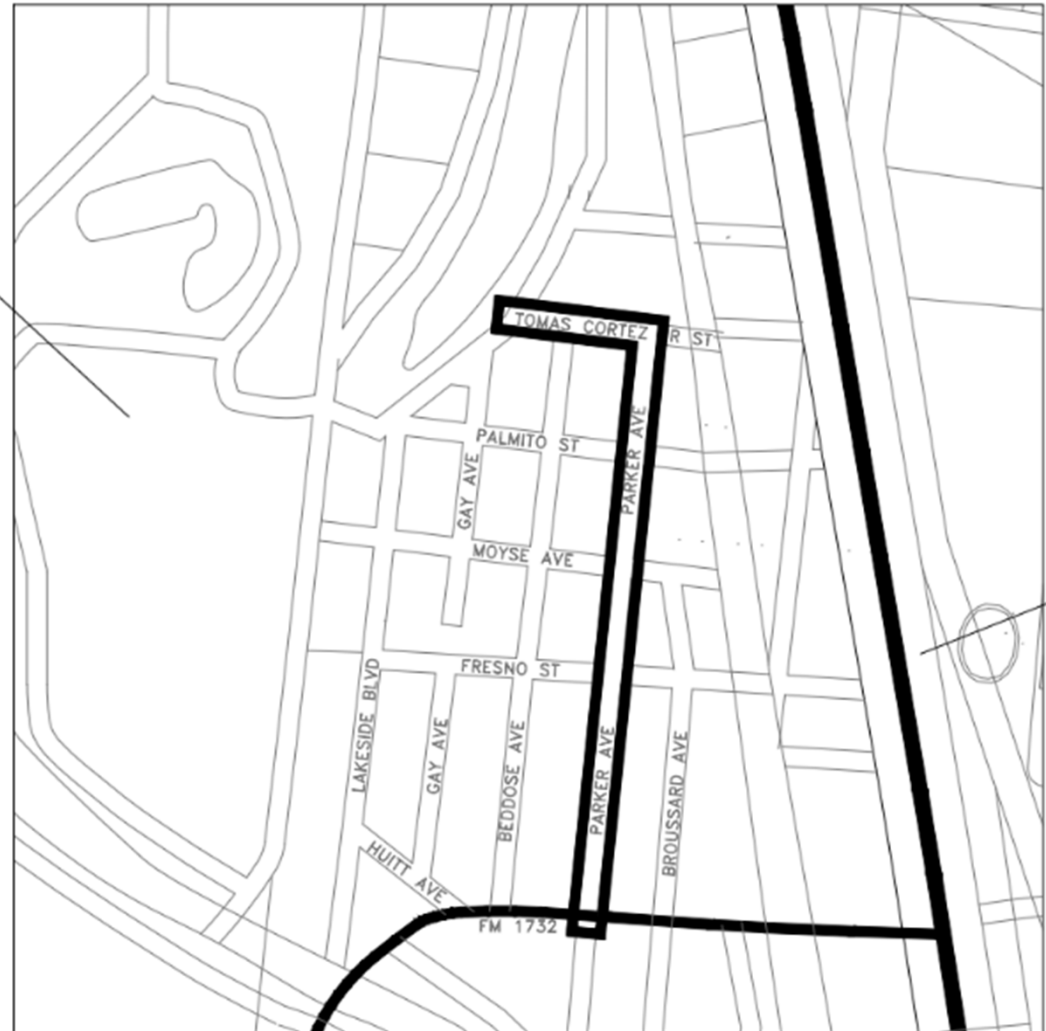
Design

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6

Final Project Certifications  
(RTL) & FPA/SLOA  
Request

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE  
CONSISTING OF GRADING, COMPACTING, DRAINAGE STRUCTURE,  
SIDEWALK INSTALLATION, SIGNING, AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS.



# 0921-06-327 Cameron Co. Las Palmas Sidewalks

Resolution to be presented for consideration & action in January.

1 Responsible Person In Charge (RPIC) & Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) ✓

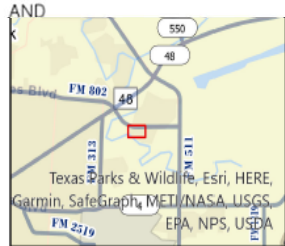
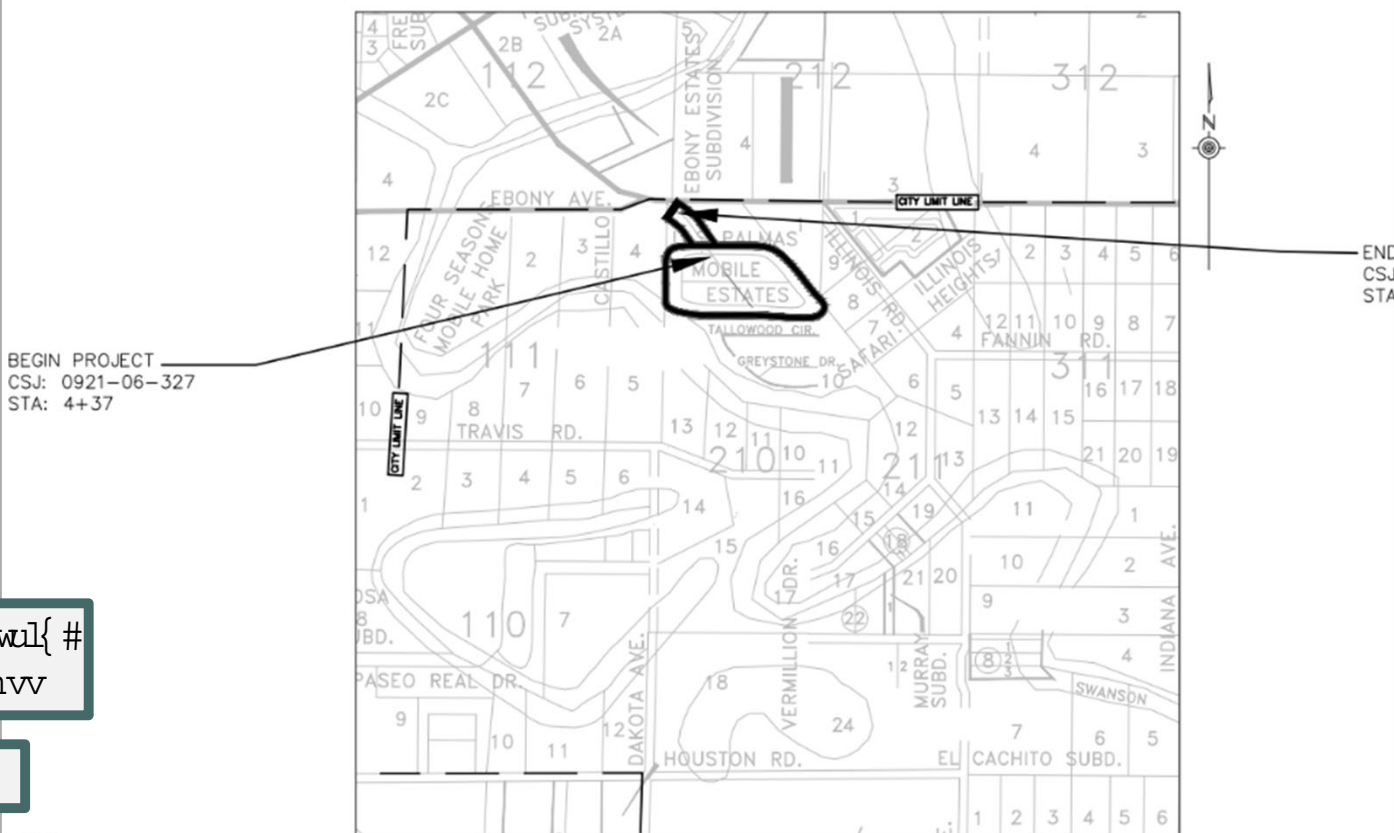
2 Preliminary Engineering ✓

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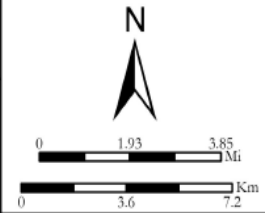
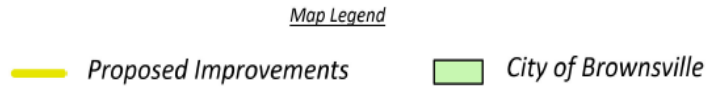
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6 Final Project Certifications (RTL) & FPA/SLOA Request



## Las Palmas Mobile Estates Sidewalk Improvements Map



# 0921-02-480 UTRGV Hike & Bike Trail + Bike Racks

1

Responsible Person In Charge (RPIC) & Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA)



2

Preliminary Engineering



3

RR – ROW – Utilities



4

Environmental



5

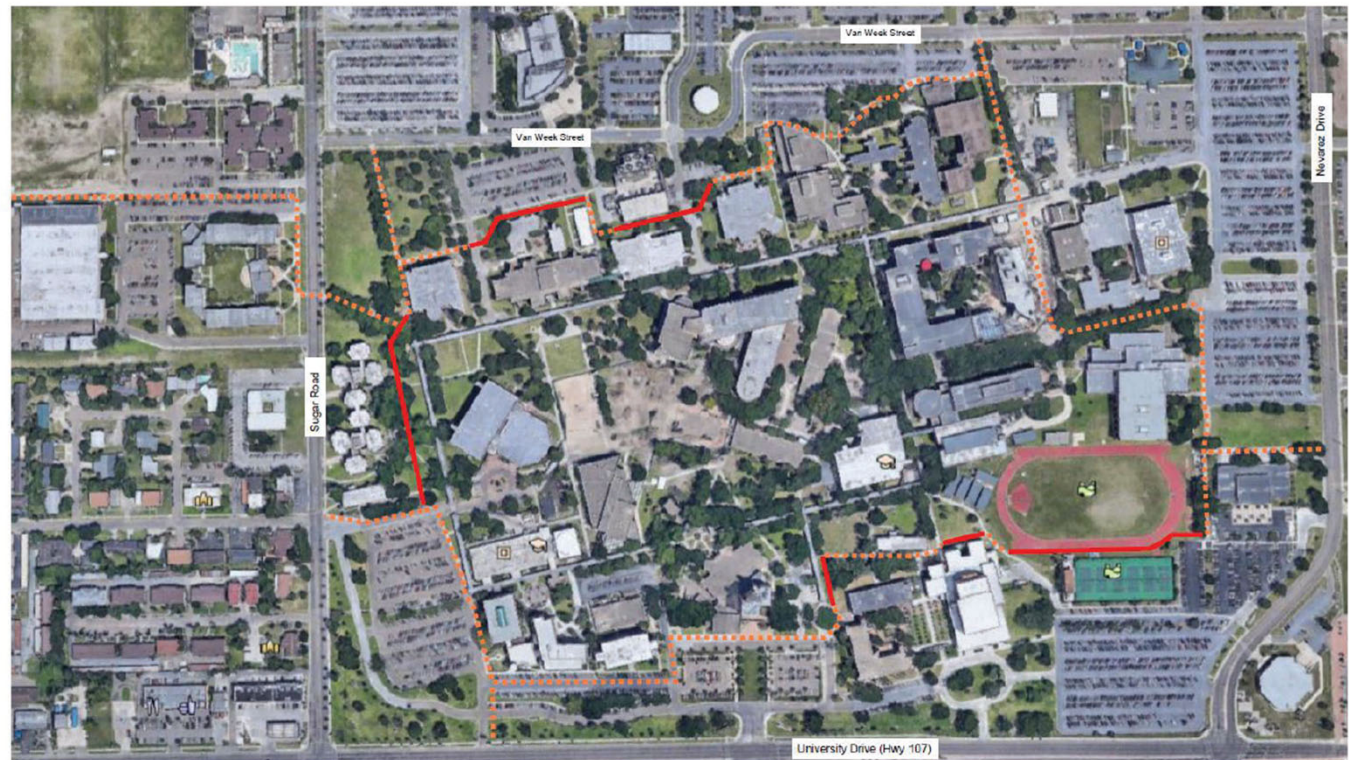
Design

3

6

Final Project Certifications (RTL) & FPAA/SLOA Request

'5;8/633



UTRGV Edinburg Campus - Proposed Bicycle Trail


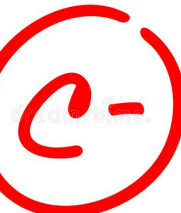
----- Existing Sidewalk  
----- Proposed Sidewalk

| <b>CSJ #</b>                 | <b>PROJECT NAME</b>                    | <b>PROJECT SPONSOR</b> | <b>FEDERAL AWARD</b> |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| 0921-02-495                  | Elsa Getting Connected                 | Elsa                   | \$ 46,920            |
| <a href="#">0921-02-496</a>  | Bridge Street BikePed Plan             | Hidalgo                | \$ 70,000            |
| <a href="#">0921-02-497*</a> | Freddy Gonzalez Trail                  | Edinburg               | \$ 699,996           |
| <a href="#">0921-06-349</a>  | Arroyo Colorado Phase III Study        | Harlingen              | \$ 141,568           |
| 0921-06-350                  | West Rail Trail - Amenities            | Brownsville            | \$ 900,000           |
| 0921-06-351*                 | Bejarano-McFarland-Gonzalez Trail Ext. | Port Isabel            | \$ 435,300           |

Projects with a **fully executed** an Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) for awarded TASA funds.

\* = project received Economically Disadvantaged Counties (EDC) funds

## FY2021-2022 TASA Program Schedule of Activities

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| April 2023  | <b>Deadline</b> to fully execute Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) for programmed projects.     |   |
| <i>May-July 2023</i>  | Potential re-programming of funds for projects without executed AFAs. Reports to TAC + Policy. |   |
| <i>July-Sept. 2023</i>  | <b>Deadline</b> for final consideration(s) of funding/project changes                          |   |
| <b>January 2024</b>   | <b>Deadline</b> to fully execute AFA Amendment(s) for final approved funding/project changes.  |   |
|   | June 2024  | Final Project Certifications = Ready-To-Let (RTL)   |
|   | July 2024  | Federal Participation Authorization Agreement (FPAA) + State Letter Of Authority (SLOA) Request |
|   | August 2024  | Funds obligated by receipt of FPAA + SLOA   |
|  | June 2025  | Final Project Certifications = Ready-To-Let (RTL)   |
|   | July 2025  | Federal Participation Authorization Agreement (FPAA) + State Letter Of Authority (SLOA) Request |
|   | August 2025  | FINAL OPPORTUNITY to have funds obligated by receipt of FPAA + SLOA                             |
| September 2025  | FY2021-2022 FUNDS EXPIRE!!!  |   |



FY2021-2022 TASA Projects = \$2,293,784

DRAFT





**Central Federal Lands Highway Division** 12300 West Dakota Avenue  
Suite 380B  
Lakewood, CO 80228-2583  
Office: 720-963-3342  
Jill.Locken@dot.gov

January 4, 2023

In Reply Refer To:  
HFPP-16

Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Eva L. Garcia  
Rio Grande Valley MPO Planner  
[egarcia@rgvmpo.org](mailto:egarcia@rgvmpo.org)

Re: TX FLAP BAHIA TR(2) BAHIA GRANDE TRAIL  
Texas Federal Lands Access Program Project Application

Ms. Garcia:

Congratulations. The Texas Program Decisions Committee (PDC) has short-listed your application for the above referenced project as a part of the 2023 TX FLAP Call for Projects. Your application is no longer competing against other applications. The project's scope of work, costs, and schedule will be further evaluated for the PDC's final decision, anticipated in the fall of 2023. The scope, funding, and preliminary schedule are proposed as follows:

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to increase and improve non-vehicular access to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bahia Grande Unit of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and the National Park Service Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

**Scope:** The scope of this project includes full design and environmental compliance of all six segments of the estimated 20-mile multi-use trail. The application also requested construction of Segments 4 & 5 (approximately 4.5 miles), but in order to prioritize FLAP funding, the PDC only approved funding for the design and NEPA of the trail at this time. See "Additional PDC Considerations" below for additional information.

**Preliminary Schedule:** This project will be scoped in spring of 2023 and project costs and scope will be refined for consideration for final PDC approval. The project is preliminarily proposed to complete design and preliminary engineering activities in fiscal year 2026 based on availability of funding.

**Funding:** The application estimated the total project cost at \$11,310,000. Based on the reduced scope of work (design and NEPA only), the PDC desktop-level estimated the total project cost is up to \$2,500,000. The MPO proposed a \$1,500,000 match from the USFWS FLTP program, or 13.26%. With the reduced scope, the match would be approximately \$332,000. The Federal Lands Access Program will provide \$2,168,000 in cash funds.

**Right of Way and Utilities:** ROW will likely be required, however, as the project is design-only, ROW acquisition is not anticipated at this stage. The application did not anticipate

2

**Additional PDC Considerations:** The PDC supports this project, but given the limitation of FLAP funding, didn't feel that construction of Segments 4 & 5 is feasible at this time. Providing design and NEPA for the full length of the project provides an opportunity for the MPO to leverage other funds. If other funding means are not successful, the MPO may also reapply in future calls for projects

**Project Delivery:** The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD) will lead the project delivery and contract administration of the preliminary engineering for this project.

Prior to final selection by the PDC, CFLHD will conduct a scoping effort. This effort will yield a Project Delivery Plan (PDP) detailing the proposed scope, schedule, and budget anticipated for the project to allow the PDC to finalize the program of projects. The CFLHD Project Manager will be Julia Dietsch, who can be reached at [Julia.Dietsch@dot.gov](mailto:Julia.Dietsch@dot.gov) or (720) 963-3415. Ms. Dietsch will be contacting you and other project stakeholders shortly to kick off the project and schedule a scoping trip.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) establishing the project scope, roles, and responsibilities will be executed prior to scoping. A draft of this agreement is attached to this letter. Please fill in the appropriate information for your agency and email a scanned PDF of the executed version to the CFL PM and me no later than 45 calendar days of this notification letter, which is February 18, 2023. Note that since the Federal Lands Transportation Program is providing match for the project, a financial agreement between FHWA-CFLHD and Rio Grande Valley MPO will not be required.

The total project cost and associated match may be updated during scoping. The PDC will make the final determination of the total program amount and required match. If the PDC and your agency agree with the project scope and cost estimate once scoping is complete, the PDC will place the project in the final program of projects and a new MOA will be developed and signed by the project partners. The PDC determines the final program year for funding based on total available funding and other needs in the program.

We appreciate your interest in the Texas Federal Lands Access Program and look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

**JILL N LOCKEN**  
Digitally signed by JILL N LOCKEN  
Date: 2023.01.04 16:08:25 -0700

Jill Locken, P.E., PMP  
Federal Lands Access Program Manager &  
Federal PDC Representative

# Texas Federal Lands Access Program

# VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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*Members are encouraged to bring up ideas and considerations for future meetings, or to inquire about past items/ideas.*

- *TxDOT District bicycle plan survey link*
- *BPAC meeting schedule*



# VII. ADJOURNMENT

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*Motion to adjourn:*

*Second:*

*Adjournment Time:*

*Eva Lizette Garcia · Planner III: BikePed Program Coordinator · [egarcia@rgvmpo.org](mailto:egarcia@rgvmpo.org)*

