

Meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGV MPO) Policy Board

Wednesday, August 31, 2022, At 1:30 pm

MINUTES

Presiding: Chairman - Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Cameron County)

I. Call to Order

Chairman (Judge) Eddie Trevino, Jr. called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM, a quorum was established. The Rio Grande Valley MPO Policy Board Meeting was held at the Ken Jones Boardroom located at 301 West Railroad, Weslaco, Texas with members present.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and present were representatives from each respective entity:

Members Present:	
Entity	Individual
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Chairman) Com. David Garza (Alternate)
Hidalgo County	Comm. David L. Fuentes (Vice-Chairman) Comm. Ellie Torres (Alternate)
Starr County	Judge Eloy Vera (Designee) Comm. Raul Pena, III (Alternate)
City of Brownsville	Mayor Trey Mendez (Designee) Nurith Galonsky-Pinana (Alternate)
City of Edinburg	Mayor Ramiro Garza (Designee) Comm. Daniel "Dan" Diaz (Alternate)
City of Harlingen	Mayor Chris Boswell (Designee) Gabriel Gonzalez (Alternate)
City of McAllen	Mayor Javier Villalobos (Designee) CM Roy Rodriguez (Alternate)
City of Mission	Mayor Armando O'Caña (Designee) Comm. Jessica Ortega-Ochoa (Alternate)
City of Pharr	Mayor Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez (Designee) Comm. Daniel Chavez (Alternate)
City of San Benito	Mayor Ricardo "Rick" Guerra (Designee) Manuel De La Rosa (Alternate)
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr. (Designee) Arturo A. Nelson (Alternate)
Hidalgo County RMA	S. David Deanda Jr. (Designee) Ramon Navarro, V. (Proxy)
Valley Metro	Maribel Contreras (Designee) Jose Luis Silva (Alternate)
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro "Pete" Alvarez (Designee) Rex A. Costley (Alternate)
EX-OFFICIO	
RGV Partnership	Daniel Silva (Absent)
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
GUEST	
Others Present:	
RGVMPO	Andrew Canon
RGVMPO	Staff

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Chairman (Judge) Eddie Trevino asked Policy Board members present for a moment of silence and prayers for Commissioner Fuentes' mother.

15th Year Award – Chairman (Judge) Eddie Trevino presented and acknowledged Andrew Canon with a 15th Year Appreciation Plaque of Dedicated Service with HCMPO / RGVMPPO.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

**1. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes From:
June 29, 2022**

Chairman (Judge) Eddie Trevino asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of June 29, 2022. No corrections were noted to the minutes of June 29, 2022, Mayor Hernandez (City of Pharr) made a motion to approve the minutes of June 29, 2022, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guerra (Starr County); and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously

2. Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Category #7 Funding Caps – Resolution 2022-15.

Andrew presented for consideration and possible adoption an updated Resolution supporting the long-adhered policy of Category 7 Funding being capped at the amounts approved by the TPB upon adoption.

Category 7 funds are limited and only updated at the Annual Unified Transportation Plan (UTP) adoption. With the adoption of the FY 2023 UTP it seems apparent to update the Resolution 2022-15 for the RGVMPPO stating and identifying that Category 7 funds are capped at the (\$30,000.00) amount approved by the Policy Board and TxDOT. Staff noted that the project is approved as part of the Long-Range Plan which is inclusive of the 4-year TIP and 10-year UTP. Staff concluded its presentation by letting Policy members know that this would be consider on a case by case per project.

Mayor Hernandez noted that this is a positive plan that will be put in place for the Region as a whole.

After some discussion on this item, a motion was made by Mayor Hernandez (City of Pharr) to approve Category #7 Funding Caps – Resolution 2022-15 as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parker (Cameron County RMA), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and Possible Action to approve the Federal Functional Classification of International Drive CSJ: 0921-26-113 and South Parallel Corridor III CSJ: 0921-06-257 (Resolution 2022-16).

Staff presented to Policy Board member present, two projects which are requesting Federal Functional Classification along with Resolution 2022-16 as follows:

- International Drive CSJ: 0921-26-113
- South Parallel Corridor III CSJ: 0921-06-257

Staff noted that Federal legislation continues to use functional classification in determining eligibility for funding under the Federal-aid program. Transportation agencies describe roadway system performance, benchmarks, and targets by functional classification. As agencies continue to move towards a more performance-based management approach, functional classification will be an increasingly important consideration in setting expectations and measuring outcomes for preservation, mobility, and safety (Resolution 2022-16).

Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT) noted that anytime staff is presenting more than one FC, that each FC Project be presented with its individual Resolution.

No further discussion took place on this item, Mayor Hernandez (City of Pharr) made a motion to approve the Federal Functional Classification of International Drive CSJ: 0921-26-113 and South Parallel Corridor III CSJ: 0921-06-257 (Resolution 2022-16-16A) as recommended by TAC and presented by Staff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Villarreal (Hidalgo County), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion on and Possible Action on the Updated CAT 7 Scoring and Evaluation Form

Staff presented to Policy Board member present amendments to the current Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP 25 Year Plan) Off System Project Evaluation Form with a recommendation for replacement by the Unified Transportation Program (UTP 10 Year Plan) CAT 7 Project Evaluation Form. Recommendations received from June RGVMPO committee meetings have been applied. Through an iterative discussion, the RGVMPO staff and TAC refined a scoring for Category 7 projects to both leverage the technical expertise embodied in the TAC and reference performance criteria and regional goals to provide a robust scoring process for vetting and promoting projects geared to contribute towards targets.

This scoring process likewise provides a platform to communicate with project sponsors and decision makers about project implications. The process also investigates what conditions a proposed project is improving and asks the sponsor to reflect on why they are submitting the project being reviewed.

Previous CAT 7 Project Scoring Form

New Proposed CAT 7 Project Scoring Form

For Internal Use (Based on TDM)		Complete Streets Bonus Points:	
ADD Count	Congestion Reduction	Adding Sidewalks	Adding Bike Lane
<input type="radio"/> 0-1000, 0 Pts	<input type="radio"/> 1-10%, 0 Pts	<input type="radio"/> None, 0 Pts	<input type="radio"/> Shoulder, 2 Pts
<input type="radio"/> 1000-5000, 2 Pts	<input type="radio"/> 11-20%, 1 Pts	<input type="radio"/> One Side, 5 Pts	<input type="radio"/> Striped, 4 Pts
<input type="radio"/> 5000-10000, 3 Pts	<input type="radio"/> 21-30%, 2 Pts	<input type="radio"/> Both Sides, 10 Pts	<input type="radio"/> Buffered, 8 Pts
<input type="radio"/> 10000-15000, 4 Pts	<input type="radio"/> 31-40%, 3 Pts	<input type="radio"/> Protected, 10 Pts	
<input type="radio"/> 15000-40000, 5 Pts	<input type="radio"/> 41-50%, 4 Pts		
	<input type="radio"/> 51-100%, 5 Pts		

Staff concluded its presentation by noting that the continuity of this process invariably will refine and improve the process by which projects are submitted for consideration as well as the projects themselves. The latest version of the RGVMPO Off System Project Evaluation Form is reflective of 3 TAC workshops and TPB approval.

After some discussion on this item, Commissioner Guerra (Starr County) made a motion to approve the Updated CAT 7 Scoring and Evaluation Form recommended by TAC and presented by Staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on the RGVMPO Self – Certification Document: An Administrative Modification

Rudy provided a brief update on Self Certification, by noting that TXDOT Planning & Programming reached out to staff requesting modifications to RGVMPO Self-Certification. This recommendation is regarding compliance with Federal Regulations and staff is requesting approval of modifications made. Signatures will be required from both TXDOT District Engineer and RGVMPO Policy Board Chairman.

For all Metropolitan Planning Agencies, concurrent with the submittal of the entire proposed TIP to FHWA and FTA as part of the Statewide TIP approval, the State and the MPO shall certify at least every 4 years that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements. TXDOT TP&P notified all MPO's that revisions within verbiage may need addressing. RGVMPO staff has made the necessary corrections is presenting the document within the Policy packet.

No discussion took place on this item, Mr. Navarro (Hidalgo County RMA) made a motion to approve RGVMPO Self – Certification Document: An Administrative Modification as recommended by TAC and presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mayor Garcia (City of Edinburg); and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion regarding Category 7 Funding Requests for Highway Projects

Rudy, along with Andrew provided a concise prioritized project listing, both by hard copy and PDF files within the members' packets, providing a power point presentation that covered, in detail, the tables combining current programming and proposed requests for Category 7 funding. The proposed programming combines annual allocation from the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) and carryover funds from FY 2022. RGVMPO staff is seeking discussion on proposed priority project funding for the next amendment to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) & Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

RGVMPO staff initially received numerous, ample requests for new & additional Category 7 funding for highway projects. The requests included funding for Construction, Construction Engineering, Right of Way Acquisition, and Preliminary Engineering. Our planning partners prioritized their projects and re-submitted requests for additional Category 7 funding. The tables included within the Policy Board packet list funding requests by fiscal year, current & proposed programming, and a financial comparison of proposed programming to funding availability. The annual allocation for RGVMPO will be added to unobligated, carryover funds from FY 2022. Programmed projects within the ten-year horizon must be fiscally constrained.

Staff reviewed several Category 7 Programming Funding Summaries / attachments that detail how allocation could be disbursed and how the MPO accounts for carryover. (See Attachment).

Programming Category 7 Funding Requests - Summary	
	*Amount in Millions \$
2023 UTP Allocation:	\$328.81
FY 2022 Carryover Funds:	\$75.12
Total Amount Available:	\$403.93
Currently Programmed: FY 2023-2032	\$346.90
Balance:	\$57.03
CAT 7 Proposed Priority Project Totals	
IBTC	\$20.00
East Loop	\$20.00
Cameron County (Brownsville Area)	\$9.39
Hidalgo County	\$28.04
Total	\$77.43
Balance	-\$20.40
Harlingen-San Benito 2023 UTP Total Delta Allocation	\$12.13
Final Balance	-\$32.53

*The Final Balance was calculated by adding Proposed Priority Project Request totals, to the amount of currently programmed projects, and the Delta Allocation for the HSB area.

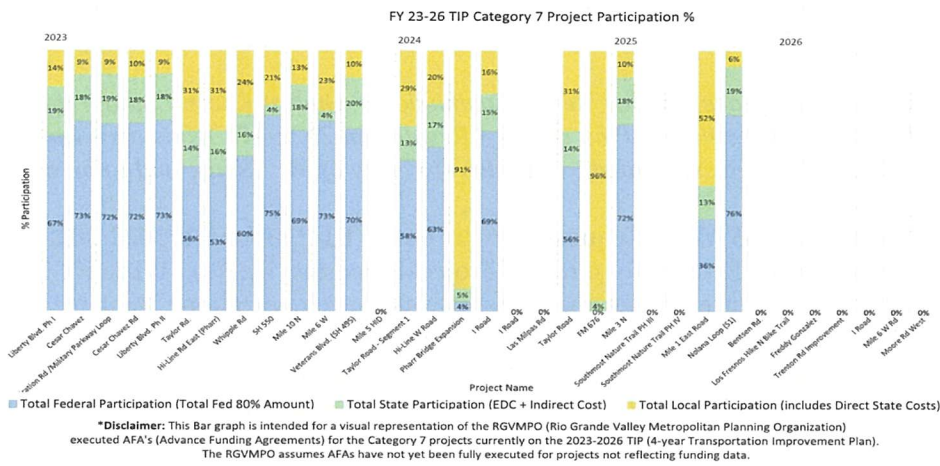
The - \$32.53 Million is where RGVMPO will stand in terms of programming FY's 2023-2032, if the TPB approves proposed priority projects.

The negative balance will not allow for further programming of projects. The 2024 UTP allocation will be the first opportunity to identify additional CAT 7 funding.

This table was presented at the project selection workshop on March 17th as well as IAC on June 9th and Policy June 29th.
 This table was also presented at each individual meeting with Edinburg, Mission, McAllen, Pharr and the County representatives.

FY 2022	RGVMPMO		Delta In \$	Brownville (19.02%) Delta	HSB (15.69%) *Delta	Hidalgo (65.29%) Delta	Total of Delta In \$
	2022 UTP	2023 UTP					
	\$37,101,859						
2023	\$28,191,480	\$32,097,775.00	\$3,906,295	\$742,977.31	\$612,897.69	\$2,550,420.01	\$3,906,295.00
2024	\$27,998,824	\$32,239,773.00	\$4,780,849	\$909,117.48	\$720,115.21	\$3,121,416.31	\$4,780,849.00
2025	\$28,275,109	\$33,094,773.00	\$5,119,664	\$973,760.09	\$803,275.28	\$3,347,628.63	\$5,119,664.00
2026	\$28,556,354	\$34,062,546.00	\$5,506,192	\$1,047,277.72	\$883,921.52	\$3,594,992.76	\$5,506,192.00
2027	\$27,165,023	\$32,752,614.00	\$5,587,591	\$1,062,759.81	\$876,693.03	\$3,648,138.16	\$5,587,591.00
2028	\$27,315,097	\$32,752,614.00	\$5,437,517	\$1,036,215.73	\$853,186.62	\$3,550,154.85	\$5,437,517.00
2029	\$27,614,673	\$32,752,614.00	\$5,137,941	\$977,236.76	\$806,143.20	\$3,354,662.98	\$5,137,941.00
2030	\$27,973,525	\$32,752,614.00	\$4,781,089	\$909,163.11	\$750,152.86	\$3,121,571.01	\$4,781,089.00
2031	\$28,415,493	\$32,752,614.00	\$4,337,121	\$821,116.43	\$677,356.28	\$2,818,648.30	\$4,337,121.00
2032	\$28,585,537	\$32,752,614.00	\$4,167,077	\$629,547.18	\$5,138,885.14	\$2,184,181.68	\$4,167,077.00
Total		\$32,752,614.00	\$40,224,850	\$7,650,766.47	\$6,311,278.97	\$26,262,804.57	\$40,224,850.00

The letter circulated amongst local governments within the Hidalgo County area listed \$50,486,717 as available CAT 7 funding.
 RGVMPMO's UTP years of 2023-2032 are currently over-programmed but carryover funds allow for the total available amount of CAT 7: \$57,027,175 (Regionally)
 RGVMPMO Staff was not consulted prior to the circulation of the above mentioned letter. Staff was unable to fully explain calculations during the August 2022 TAC meeting, but has extended their efforts through the information shared within this packet.
 Staff yields to TPB members' discussion and it is ultimately the Board's decision on how to proceed with requests for additional Category 7 funding.



Staff noted that several workshops were held with LG's, to review Category 7 projects' funding.

Chairman Trevino instructed staff to conduct any additional meetings necessary, to clarify any confusion or misunderstanding on how additional Category 7 funding is proposed for programming. Chairman (Judge) Trevino also reminded Policy Board members of the importance to keep "Shovel Ready" projects moving forward.

Staff asked Policy Board members present, what amount the threshold should be? The TXDOT - Pharr District Engineer strongly recommended a \$20 Million threshold for over-programming.

After much discussion on this item, Mr. Parker (Cameron County RMA) acknowledged discussion regarding Category 7 Funding Request for Highway Projects as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Navarro (Hidalgo County RMA); and upon a vote, the motion passed.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on the Adoption of the RGVMPPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) – Resolution 2022-17)

Chris informed Policy Board Members present that Public Participation Plan was significant updated which included the addition of Starr County, which is now part of the MPO's Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB). The updating of the Title VI Complaint form, in both English and Spanish, and the inclusion of language solidifying the RGVMPPO's commitment to Virtual Public Involvement (VPI) as an additional method to receive public comments. For the public involvement process for the PPP, a link to the document and a comment card were sent out via email to all TAC members and a notice was posted on the RGVMPPO's social media platforms on July 14, 2022. Staff noted that ten homeowner's associations, six apartment complexes, and three manufactured housing parks were contacted on July 15, 2022, for notification.

As per the Public Participation Plan, adopted on September 28, 2022, the plan is to be reviewed and amended, if necessary, every three years. The document itself is also required to undergo a 45-day Public Involvement period. To meet this deadline, Staff has updated the plan and it can be considered for adoption by the Policy Board at the August 31, 2022, Regular Meeting. The Public Participation Plan guides a mandatory public involvement process that the MPO must undergo for the approval of certain documents, including the MTP and TIP and (Resolution 2022-17) to be presented to Policy Committee for Approval.

No discussion took place on this item, Commissioner Guerra (Starr County) made a motion to approve RGVMPPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) – Resolution 2022-17), as recommended by TAC and presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rivera (City of McAllen); and upon a vote, the motion passed.

8. Discussion on the RGVMPPO Requests for Proposal (RFP's) for FY 2022-2023

Chris presented a draft Request for three (3) Project Proposals (RFP's): 1)The FY 2022-2023 Corridor Study of FM509; 2)Performance Management Framework Development and Implementation Study, and; 3) the Comprehensive Sustainability and Resilience Analyses for MPO's. The item for the Corridor Study shall include Traffic Data and Projections, Safety Analysis, Traffic and Operational Analysis and Evaluation of Constraints and Feasibility of Implementation. The Performance Management Study, the consultant will prepare the following tasks: assessment of current scoring process and program policies, review and synthesis report of regional, state, and federal performance goals and targets, assessment of tools, data, and capacity needed for performance target development and reporting, and assessment of eligible funding categories and projects that can be submitted to the RGVMPPO. For the Comprehensive Sustainability and Resilience Analyses for MPO's, the consultant will prepare a resulting report that will outline the methodology used to develop a scalable framework within the MTP update process that allows the MPO to leverage existing processes to analyze sustainability and resilience moving forward.

Staff concluded by letting Policy Board members present know that the release date for these RFP's is scheduled for Sunday, September 4, 2022. The anticipated award date is Thursday, December 15, 2022. The projects are intended to be completed by the end of FY 2023. If a project extends beyond this period, it will require that the obligated funds from the FY 2022-2023 UPWP be carried over into the FY 2024-2025 UPWP.

No discussion took place on this item and no action was required; Chairman (Judge) Trevino moved on to the next item on the agenda.

9. Discussion and Update on the RGV Traffic Safety Initiative Activities

Chris Nelson, Transportation Planner informed Policy Board members that staff continue to engage regionally regarding the that bike lights and helmets, which will be distributed in the communities until September 30, 2022.

Currently RGVMPPO Staff is accepting registrations for:

- RGV Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Trainings
- RGV Project Manager Traffic Safety Trainings

The RGV Traffic Safety Initiative is funded through TxDOT Traffic Safety funds Amanda s part of the grant award, the RGVMPPO shall: 1) distribute 1,505 bike helmets throughout the RGVMPPO jurisdiction; 2) distribute 5,000 BikeTexas bike lights throughout the RGVMPPO jurisdiction; 3) to administer hybrid trainings for 100 law enforcement officers from the RGV on traffic safety problems/goals; and 4) administer hybrid trainings for 50 project managers on safety strategies and project development.

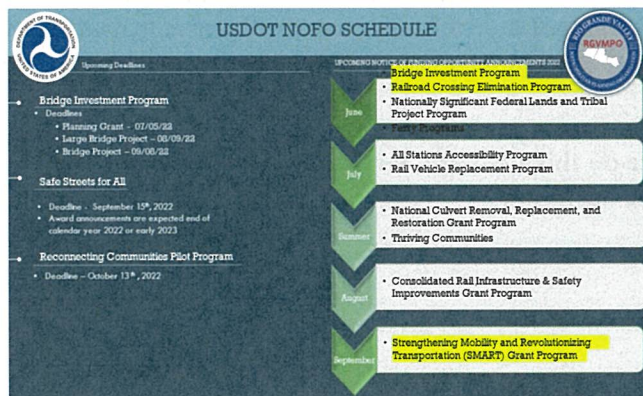


Andrew noted that several workshops are scheduled with law enforcement agencies (See Slide of Presentation).

No further discussion took place on this item and no action was required; Chairman (Judge) Trevino moved on to the next item on the agenda.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on IJA Infrastructure BIL, specifically on the Safe Streets for All Grant Program

Javier provided to Policy Board members present a presentation and updates based on the notice of funding opportunities for the Infrastructure BIL and the upcoming application opportunity for Safe Streets for All Grant that is due on September 15, 2022.



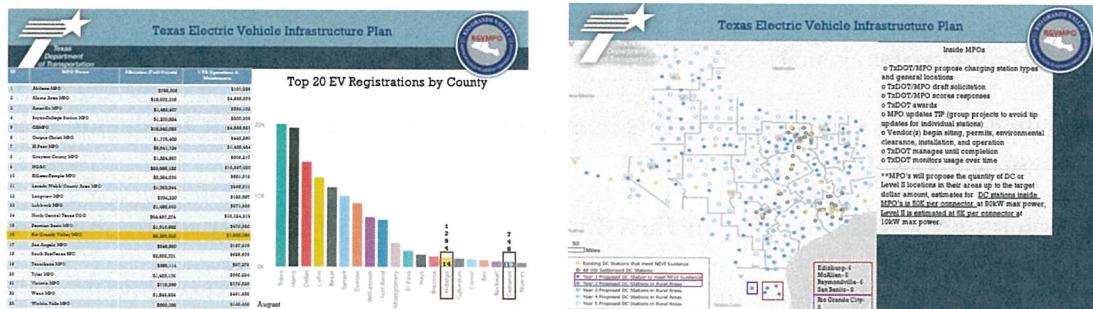
Staff noted that the US Department of Transportation has released a schedule of when the Notice of Funding Opportunities can be expected to be opened for the various program grants under the IJA Infrastructure BIL. The RGVMPPO Staff went over updates on these programs and discuss the Safe Street for All Grant application and reminded TAC members that these applications have a deadline of September 15, 2022.



After some discussion on this item, Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT) made a motion to go with Option #1 as recommended by Staff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guerra (Starr County); and upon a vote, the motion passed.

11. Discussion on the Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan

Javier provided a brief presentation to TAC Members regarding the TxDOT Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan that is going through its approval process with the Federal Highway Administration (See Attachments).



Staff concluded by stating that in partnership with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the State Energy Conservation Office, TxDOT is developing an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan which lays out the next several years of EV charging station infrastructure deployment that will provide charging stations across the state. The RGVMPO will present on a preliminary plan that includes a partnership with TxDOT and the MPO's across the state.

No further discussion took place on this item and no action was required; Chairman (Judge) Trevino moved on to the next item on the agenda.

V. RGVMPPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UPDATES

Andrew provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a positive trend. Report filed with the August 31, 2022, Policy Packet.

The following updates were part of the Policy Packet for informational purposes only:

- Item Summary:** **Policy Meetings November and December 2022 -**
Staff is recommending to the Policy Board to combine the Policy meetings for (November and December) and that it be held on December 14, 2022.

Policy Board members present acknowledge and approved combining the Policy Meetings for (November and December) and that the Policy meeting be held on December 14, 2022, as presented by staff.
- Item Summary:** **2023 TxDOT UTP Public Comment –** Letter was mail out on behalf of Chairman – Judge Trevino to Mr. Bugg, Chairman of Tx Department of Transportation on July 25, 2022, regarding the Development of the 2023 TxDOT UTP (See Attachment). **No discussion took lace o this item.**
- Item Summary:** **Donna Project - TASA Update:** The RGVMPPO and TxDOT have been formally notified of the City of Donna's decision to terminate their TASA Project, the Donna Sidewalks - South International Boulevard Project (See Attachment). **No discussion took place on this item.**
- Item Summary:** **2022 Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Process -** Staff will be updating the 2022 Annual Throughfare Plan Amendment. Staff will be requesting from LG's to submit any updated Throughfare/ROW Amendments by December 21, 2022. Kick-off meeting was held virtually on August 25, 2022. **No discussion took place on this item.**

VI. STATUS REPORT

A. TxDOT Project Status Report (Action Taken as Required)

Representative from Hidalgo / Cameron Counties with (TxDOT) provided an updated presentation on current projects and activities within the Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. All projects are continuing to move forward as scheduled. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

B. Cameron County RMA

Mr. Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Mr. Navarro provided an updated presentation on projects that are currently within the Hidalgo County RMA. All projects are continuing to move forward. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

D. Regional Transit (Metro)

Maribel provided an updated report for all (3) Three Transit Providers that are currently within the Hidalgo/Cameron Regions. Ridership's continue to increase throughout the valley. Details values on ridership could be found within the RGVTPB Packet. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

VII. OTHER BUSINESS (OLD OR NEW)
NONE

VIII. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the RGVMPPO Transportation Policy Board Meeting is scheduled "In Person" for September 28, 2022, at 1:30 pm at the Ken Jones Boardroom.

No further discussion took place, Chairman (Judge) Trevino ask for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT) made a motion to adjourn the Policy Meeting at 3:09 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guerra (Starr County); and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST: _____


RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN