

AGENDA
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, May 11, 2023 – 10:00 AM
RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RGVMPO)
VIRTUAL MEETING
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- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Public Comments** – May be submitted online or may be submitted on a paper form specifying the matter you wish to address.
- IV. **Consent Agenda**

1. **Approval of Minute(s) for: April 13, 2023**

Action **Possible Action** **Information**

Presenter: **JP Terrazas, TAC Chairman**

Item Summary: Approval of the April 13, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes

2. **Presentation on TxDOT Freight Planning Rio Grande Valley Traffic Management Strategies to Support Surface Freight**

Action **Possible Action** **Information**

Presenter: **Luke Albert, TTI Associate Research Engineer**

Item Summary: Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) is providing an update and requesting stakeholder feedback on a freight traffic management assessment in the Rio Grande Valley for the TxDOT Freight Systems Branch.

Background: Complete Streets are streets designed for users of all modes of The TxDOT Rio Grande Valley Freight Trade, and Transportation Plan included a recommendation to establish a binational Traffic Management Center (TMC) in the Rio Grande Valley, which initiated this task to assess freight traffic management needs in this area. The purpose of this task is as follows:

- Determine freight traffic management needs in the Rio Grande Valley.
- Identify traffic management strategies that would benefit freight mobility in the region.
- Identify steps to implement strategies and role of a TMC in the deployment of these strategies.

This effort will not look at reprioritizing any planned or programmed construction projects. TTI is requesting stakeholder feedback on most critical freight mobility needs and potential traffic management strategies to deploy in the region.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on the RGVMPPO Complete Streets Policy

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: **Klarissa Gonzalez, Transportation Planner I**

Item Summary: RGVMPPO Staff attended a Complete Streets workshop hosted by FHWA and Alliance Transportation Group on March 8th, 2023, to learn more about drafting and implementing Complete Streets policies. Using feedback provided during this workshop, RGVMPPO Staff drafted a regional Complete Streets policy. Staff will conduct public involvement to ascertain feedback on this policy, then will implement as necessary and present the final version to the Transportation Policy Board for approval in June. This policy is intended to represent a commitment by Policy Board members to plan, design, and construct Complete Streets throughout the region, as contextually appropriate.

Background: Complete Streets are streets designed for users of all modes of transportation, including users of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets policies are intended to ensure the context-sensitive provision of these designs on streets, such as providing bike lanes, sidewalks, transit stops, and other features on new and existing streets. Since the authorization to begin work on the Regional Complete Streets Policy by the Transportation Policy Board on February 23, 2022, RGVMPPO Staff has conducted a literature review of existing Complete Streets policies in the region, researched Complete Streets policies, attended the Complete Streets workshop, and drafted the first-ever regional policy.

4. Discussion on FY 2022 Annual Project Listing (APL)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Rudy Zamora Jr., Transportation Planner II

Summary: The FY 2022 Annual Project Listing (APL) is currently under review. Public Involvement will be conducted in compliance with federal code and the documents are included within this meeting's packet. MPO staff is kindly requesting Advisory Committee members' comments and/or concerns.

Background: An Annual Listing of transportation projects, including investments in transit, pedestrian walkways, and bicycle facilities, for which federal funds have been obligated in the preceding year shall be published or otherwise made available by the cooperative effort of TXDOT, transit operators, and metropolitan planning organization for public review. The APL will be presented to both TAC & TPB members for approval once public involvement has concluded.

5. Discussion and Action to approve the Federal Functional Classification Los Ebanos Drive in the City of Mission CSJ #0921-02-521.

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: **Luis Diaz, Assistant Director**

Summary: The RGVMPPO is presenting project requesting Federal Functional Classification: Los Ebanos Drive from: Interstate Highway 2 (I-2) To: Military (Resolution 2023-08 to be presented to Policy Committee for Approval on May 31, 2023) Official Federal Functional Classification Packet is being developed by RGVMPPO staff in coordination with the City of Mission and TxDOT.

Background: 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.

6. Update on Federal Functional Classification Pending Submittals

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Luis Diaz, Assistant Director

Summary: The RGVMPPO is presenting an update of all pending Federal Functional Classification Submittals.

Background: 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.

7. Discussion and *Possible Action* on Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA; also known as Category 9) Projects

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO Planner III: Bike Ped Program Coordinator

Summary: RGVMPPO Staff will report the status of FY2019-2020 projects (to obligate funds in FY2023) and FY2021-2022 projects (to obligate funds in FY2024 & FY2025) to ensure transparency with the RGVMPPO's policymakers and transportation officials. Members may take action by acknowledging the update as presented or may choose to make a recommendation on one or more of the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) projects.

Background: RGVMPPO Staff has been regularly communicating with RGVMPPO TAC & Policy Members regarding TASA projects to ensure the timely obligation of programmed funds. Staff continues to work with the Texas Department of Transportation Pharr District (TxDOT) and Local Government (LG) project sponsors to provide these updates to RGVMPPO Members. Thank you to all those involved for their continued communication and coordination.

V. RGVMPPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UPDATES

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Andrew A. Canon, RGVMPPO Executive Director

Item Summary:

VI. STATUS REPORTS

A. TxDOT Project Status Report

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Dora Robles, Pharr District Advanced Project Development Director

B. Cameron County RMA

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Eric Davila

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Ramon Navarro

VII. Other Business (Old or New): This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

VIII. Next Meeting: The next RGVMPPO Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled "IN-PERSON" at **10:00 am on June 8, 2023, at the Ken Jones Boardroom – Weslaco**