

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL MEETING**

Minutes

April 13, 2023

I) CALL TO ORDER

Benjamin Worsham, Vice-Chairman (Cameron County) called the TAC Meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The TAC Meeting was held virtually.

II) ROLL CALL

RGVTAC Representatives in attendance were as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT	
ENTITY	VOTING MEMBERS
City of Mission	Abel Bocanegra
Cameron County	Benjamin Worsham, Vice Chairman
City of Brownsville	Helen Ramirez
City of Edinburg	Tomas D. Reyna
City of Harlingen	Craig Cook
City of McAllen	Rene Gonzalez
City of Pharr	Daniel Chavez
City of San Benito	Mayor Ricardo Guerra
Hidalgo County	Armando Garza, Jr.
Starr County	Absent
TxDot Pharr District	Dora Robles
Valley Metro	Nancy Sanchez
Cameron County RMA	Eric Davila
Hidalgo County RMA	Ramon Navarro
Brownsville Metro	Octavio Salazar
McAllen Metro	Jon Ray Bocanegra
Port of Brownville	Absent
Port of Harlingen	Absent
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	Absent
Cameron County Spaceport Dev Corp.	Absent
RGVMPO Executive Director	Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO Assistant Director	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Staff

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of:

- March 16, 2023

Vice-Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any more corrections to the TAC minutes of March 16, 2023. No corrections or comments were noted to the minutes of March 16, 2023, Hidalgo County RMA Eric Davila made a motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2023. The motion was seconded by Tomas D. Reyna with City of Edinburg. Motion carried.

Approved: Thursday, May 11, 2023

2. Discussion and Action on FY 2023-2026 STIP & 2045 MTP Amendments – May 2023 Quarterly Revision Cycle.

- Rudy Zamora summarized the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) emphasizing preparation for the May 2023 revision cycle underway.
- The amendments to the Amendments to both the short-range (TIP) & long-range (MTP) planning tables were included in the agenda packet for review and possible approval.
- Public involvement is underway, and all revisions will be uploaded by April 28th.
- Final approval by the Policy Board (TPB) is scheduled for April 26, 2023.
- Staff are available to address any concerns.
- Any recommendations will be referred to our TP.

Mr. Zamora reviewed the summary sheet incorporating the Amendments to both the short-range (TIP) & long-range (MTP), which are Amendment 2 and Amendment 8.

Mr. Zamora added that the City of Pharr requested the transfer of 4 million dollars in Rider 11B from the Commercial Vehicle Staging Area (CSJ 0921-02-423) & update the cost. However, a recommendation from TxDOT was received to hold off on revision for this cycle and possibly add CAT 10(CRP) funds listed on the proposed 2024 UTP. Mr. Zamora added that the deadline to incorporate revision is until the end of the public involvement and if the decision is to hold off then it can be proposed for the next revision cycle.

Mr. Zamora summarized the proposal and asked Dora Robles from TxDOT for any additional information or input pertaining to the proposal. Dora Robles agreed with the summary and stated that the only thing she would just reiterate is the importance of proceeding with the TIP revision for phase 1 so the process of the AFA Amendment can be begun.

Mr. Zamora confirmed that the City of Pharr was present at the meeting and that the decision is not necessary now, but continuous contact will be made with the city and TxDOT Pharr District to determine if the revision would be saved for the August cycle.

Andrew Canon informed that he had a phone call with City of Pharr's mayor Hernandez and there are a couple of things that need to be done before moving forward in the transferring of funds to avoid any problems.

Mr. Zamora foresees no problems or concerns or anything that would not be able to be addressed by the MPO specifically because there's the option of submitting now in August and basically the only concern would be the AFA amendment.

Andrew Canon asked Dora Robles, "Where would the 4 million of 11B go to if it come off of the staging area?", Mrs. Robles confirmed that it's what is being requested to be transferred into the Dock PH1.

She added that that is the one that needs to go into the AFA amendment and reiterated that delaying this project is not good because of the long lead time to execute AFA amendments.

Mr. Canon confirmed that City of Pharr's mayor is in favor of doing this because it allows them some greater flexibility with the funding to be able to move that over where they need it, they only had some questions regarding the technical sense of it only.

Mr. Canon asked Ms. Robles to confirm the recommendation, she confirmed that the recommendation is to hold off on the revision for 423(vehicle staging area) and proceed with the revision for Dock PH1.

Mr. Canon, Ms. Robles and City of Pharr's Commissioner Daniel Chavez agreed to move the 4 million of the 11B over to the Dock PH1.

Commissioner Chavez and Andrew Canon agreed to talk after the meeting about the Carbon Reduction Funds and then he would follow up with Anthony Garza.

Mr. Zamora informed everyone that for transparency the documents shared are available on the MPO's website and if any changes are made, they will be uploaded as necessary.

Mr. Zamora continued to review the additional highway projects, 2 more.

- Transit Projects he advised the transit providers to submit any necessary revisions. Nancy Sanchez from Valley Metro informed that she would be submitting revision before the 20th.
- CAT 9 – TASA Projects – Working Administrative Modifications were made to grouped TASA Projects and reflect on the RGVMP MTP Table.
- Approval of these documents is contingent upon anything received by the end of public involvement. Then final drafts would be created and presented at the Policy Board for approval. And upload documents before April 28th.

Vice-Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Vice-Chairman called for a motion to approve. Nancy Sanchez with Valley Metro made a motion to approve, the motion was second by Craig Cook from the City of Harlingen. Motion carried.

Approved: Thursday, May 11, 2023

3. Continued Discussion on Draft 2024 UTP – Category 7 Funding Allocation and Programing of Projects
Rodolfo Zamora reviewed the DRAFT table for CAT 7 programing summary.

<u>Programming Category 7 - Summary</u>	
Draft 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Allocation:	\$329.47 M
Currently Programmed from FY 2024-2033:	\$354.41 M
Pending Functional Classification:	\$51.72 M
Total Approved Funding by TPB, for FY 2024-2033:	\$406.13 M
Balance:	(\$76.66 M)
Unobligated Funds as of 2/28/2023:	\$74.03 M (Federal Amount)

Mr. Zamora highlighted that currently in fiscal year 2023 there is 58 million dollars in CAT 7 programed and proposed for year 2032 there is 39 million programed that was approved by TAC and policy boards.

Eric Davila asked, "On the balance 76.66 M, is part of that what has not been encumbered yet for the 2033 CAT 7 allocation?"

Mr. Zamora went ahead and reviewed the PROGRAMING Category 7 Funding UTP FY 2024-2033 table, highlighting that the new 10-year financial forecast incorporates fiscal years 2024-2033. The newly added fiscal year is 2033, which lists an estimated \$32,752,602 of allocation. The previous UTP fiscal year of 2023 is subtracted from the new set of UTP years, figuring the delta.

Mr. Davila asked for a more concise way to understand where the 76.66 million comes out of.

Mr. Zamora went ahead and reviewed the tables that show the projects with numbers behind the numbers on the table presented.

Eric Davila suggested that it would be a good idea to include all the nuance explained as bullet points under the notes for better informed decisions in advancing projects.

Mr. Zamora provided an overview of the federal apportionment & Transaction Analysis and asked Eric that if the discussion did meet his request that they can probably talk after the meeting to better understand his request and Mr. Davila agreed with him and thank him.

Mr. Zamora ended by advising everyone that the Vice-Chairman Fuentes from the Policy Board mentioned that he would like to see the project scoring process revisited and a re-evaluation of the projects that are currently program and that is part of the agenda for the day.

Vice-Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented Vice-Chairman Benjamin Worsham confirmed that the item was for information only and proceeded to move to Item 4.

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

Luis Diaz presented amendment to the current Unified Transportation Program (UTP 10 Year Plan) Project Evaluation Form. Mr. Diaz reviewed the changes don to the form, and he informed that changes noticed in the 4/6/23 version of the Project Evaluation Form. The original form was produced on 6/30/22. The new version is still subject to change and in the TAC agenda. The changes reviewed are as follows:

1. Added a drop-down list for Status Percentages on: "Schematic", "Environmental", "ROW", "Utility" phases.
 - a. Percentages are 0%, 30%, 60%, 90%, 100% with the point values being 0pts, 3pts, 6pts, 9pts, 10pts respectively.

Approved: Thursday, May 11, 2023

2. Added Estimated time for completion of project phase for: “Schematic”, “Environmental”, “ROW”, and “Utility”.
 - a. Timelines are 0-3 months, 3-6 months, 6-9 months, 9-12 months, and 12+ months with the point values being 5pts, 4pts, 3pts, 2pts, 1pt respectively.
3. Safety Improvements has an increase in weight for “Continuous left lane” and “Raised Median”
 - a. Continuous left lane went from 3pts to 5pts
 - b. Raised median went from 5pts to 10pts
4. Removed “access to transit facility”, “access to existing pedestrian facility”, “Filling in Road Network Gap”, and “international Trade/ Port connectivity.”
5. “Regionally Significant” changed to “Project Partnership”
 - a. Connects with 1 local government, 2 local governments and 3 local governments are now 0pts, 5pts, and 10pts respectively. This is up from 0pts, 3pts, and 5pts previously.
6. Open ended question asking for an “Explanation of Economic Development Opportunities” is now asking for an “Explanation of why this project is a priority”
7. Open ended question asking for an “Explanation of Flood prone area Improvement” is now asking for an “Explanation of Resiliency improvement”
8. “Complete Streets Bonus Points” changed to “Multi modalism Bonus Points”
 - a. Adding Sidewalks - None, One Side, and Both Sides went down from 0pts, 5pts, and 10pts to 0pts, 3pts, 5pts respectively.
 - b. Added bike lanes – Sharrow, Striped, Buffered, and Protected went down from 2pts, 4pts, 8pts, and 10pts to 2pts, 3pts, 4pts, and 5pts respectively.
9. Added Functional Classification list (after TAC Packet was submitted)

Mr. Diaz added that the total points that can be accumulated is still 100 points and recommendations from the County and CCRMA via email and they are up for consideration.

Andrew Canon confirmed that those recommendations were received and each one of them has valid points that would require a long lengthy conversation. Therefore, he proposed to have a subcommittee meeting on the side to have more time with each individual entity. This would provide more time to review and come up with a recommendation to TAC for consideration.

Armando Garza Jr. with Hidalgo County agreed to have a side subcommittee meeting because there are some good topics that require an in-depth discussion.

Eric Davila agreed with the concept that there are good valid points that require additional discussion and to provide the Policy Board with priority projects.

Andrew Canon provided with an estimated timeline and guideline for the meeting and asked the vice-chairman to table the item with pending the outcome of the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Benjamin Worsham he called for a motion to table item 4 pending subcommittee meeting. Mayor from San Benito Ricardo Guerra made a motion to table item and Armando Garza Jr. from Hidalgo County second the motion. Motion carried.

5. FY2023-2024 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Call for Projects

Eva Garcia provided an overview and summary of the FY2023-2024 TASA Call for Projects that is currently open. Deadline for project proposals/applications is May 31, 2023. The RGVMPPO has \$9 million available to program for planning and construction projects.

Ms. Garcia provided a schedule of activities update, highlighting that April 26, 2023, is the deadline to request technical assistance, May 31, 2023, is the deadline to submit project proposals and applications via email by 5pm. It will be reviewed over the summer and taken to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for evaluation in August. Then in September it will be presented to TAC and Policy Board with recommendations.

Ms. Garcia also detailed the process for reviewing the application, highlighting project eligibility, verifying supportive materials and project funding. She also presented the TASA Call for Projects timeline and process.

Ms. Garcia reviewed the three documents/resources available online for assistance. Call for Projects, Scoring Criteria and the Application, which includes 3 parts (A,B,C).

Ms Garcia reminded everyone of the links for the TxDOT required LGP 101 course and she recommended that is good to have more than one person certified.

Approved: Thursday, May 11, 2023

Ms. Garcia gave an overview of the different resources/links available for anyone that wants to get more familiar with the local government project procedures.

Ms. Garcia also reviewed the availability of an online request form for technical assistance.

Vice-Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented Vice-Chairman Benjamin Worsham confirmed that the item was for information only and requested a motion to acknowledge the report. Erick Davila made a motion to acknowledge the item and Armando Garza Jr. from Hidalgo County second the motion.

V) RGVMPPO Executive Director's Report and Updates

Andrew Canon provided and updated the RGVMPPO budget report highlighting that the budget is at 51.7% budget spend and it should be at 70, but it should go up as new bills are received more bills from the consultants. Mr. Canon provided a budget update highlighting the mark at 46% and it should be at 66%, but those would come up from expenditures coming in from McAllen Metro and B-Metro on some transit plan.

Mr. Canon also presented the HERO(Highway Emergency Response Operators) Program as part of develop and review as part of the Safety Task Force Program to start working on vision zero.

Mr. Canon presented a video promoting TxDOT's safety campaign, End the Streak Campaign, and suggested the it would be a good model to consider in promoting safety on the roadways, maybe including some of the local sports teams.

Ramon Navarro suggested contacting TxDOT regarding the HERO program. They used to have the program in place, and it would be a good idea to refer to them as per any pros and cons.

Benjamin Worsham commented that he was part of the program when he was with San Antonio, and he supports the effort, and he highly recommends doing something like that locally.

Vice-Chairman Benjamin Worsham he called for a motion to acknowledge the Executive Director's report. Mayor from San Benito Ricardo Guerra made a motion to acknowledge and Eric Davila from Hidalgo County RMA second the motion.

VI) Status Reports

A. TxDOT Project Status Report

Dora Robles provided an update for TxDOT Projects, she noted that the only major update is Liberty Boulevard, which was moved out Liberty Boulevard into fiscal year 2026- pending some coastal overruns being worked on by the local governments.

Ms. Robles also stated that there are also some TA projects showing. The City of McAllen and Brownsville are working with TxDOT to get those projects to letting and once that's complete the letting reports will be updated accordingly.

No questions were posed after the presentation.

B. Cameron County RMA

Eric Davila (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA.

- Veterans POV Expansion CSJ: 0921-06-313
- SH 550 GAP 2 Project CSJ: 0684-01-068
- East Loop CSJ:0921-06-315
- Floor De Mayo Bridge CSJ: TBD
- Free Trade Bridge
- Morrison Road CSJ: 0921-06-291
- Old Alice Rd CSJ: 0921-06-290
- FM 509 CSJ: 0921-06-254
- Dana Road CSJ: 0921-06-330
- FM 1846-Williams Road
- SPI 2nd Access CSJ: TBD
- Harlingen Rail Improvement Project FR-CRS-21-002
- S. Parallel Corridor Phase II CSJ: 0921-06-252
- S. Parallel Corridor Phase III CSJ: 0921-06-257
- West Blvd – Roadway
- Whipple Road CSJ: 0921-06-292
- FM 1847 Sidewalk Project CSJ: 0921-06-325
- Outer Parkway CSJ: 0921-06-283
- U.S. 77 – I69E Plan -Fully funded by TxDOT - 2021 UTP

No questions were posed after the presentation.

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Ramon Navarro (Hidalgo County RMA) provided an updated presentation on projects that are currently within the

Approved: Thursday, May 11, 2023

Hidalgo County RMA. He highlighted that there have not been major updates from the last time the report was provided. There was only an update on the Loop cost that can be found within the report. Other updates include:

- 365 Toll Project
- IBTC Project Over
- Overweight Permit Summary
- Construction Economics Update

No questions were posed after the presentation.

VII) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NONE

VIII) ADJOURNMENT:
There being no further business to come before the RGVTAC Members, Vice-Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Hidalgo County RMA, Ramon Navarro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:02am. The motion was seconded by City of Edinburg; and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Approved: Thursday, May 11, 2023