

FULL POLICY BOARD AGENDA
POLICY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 – 1:30 PM
RIO GRANDE VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RGVMPO)

Pursuant to Chapter 551, Title 5 of the Texas Government Code, the Texas Open Meeting Act, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the RGVMPO POLICY BOARD will be held In Person at the LRGVDC Main Campus, 301 W. Railroad Street, Building B, Ken Jones Executive Board Room in Weslaco, TX.

- I. Call To Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Public Comments – Maybe submitted online or maybe submitted in paper form specifying the matter you wish to address.
- IV. Consent Agenda

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
April 26, 2023

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: **Judge Eddie Trevino, Jr., Chairman**

Item Summary: Approval of April 26, 2023, Policy 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 Policy Board 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. Policy Board Members may take action to re-program funds for FY2021-2022 projects without executed Advanced Funding Agreements (AFA). See 'FY2021-2022 TASA Program Schedule of Activities' table in packet for more information.

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.

8. Discussion and Possible action on proposed projects to meet TxDot deadline for Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: **Andrew Canon, RGVMPPO Executive Director**

Summary: Staff has held several meetings to identify possible opportunities to fund non-added capacity projects with CRP funds and submit a proposed list of projects to TxDOT by the Deadline of May 31, 2023.

Background: The BIL establishes the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), which provides funds for projects designed to reduce transportation emissions, defined as carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from on-road highway sources.

V. RGVMPPO Executive Director's Report and Updates

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: **Andrew A. Canon, RGVMPPO Executive Director**

VI. Status Reports

TxDOT Project Status Report

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Dora Robles, Pharr District Advanced Project Development Director

Cameron County RMA

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Eric Davila

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 item of interest before the group.

VIII. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the RGVMPPO Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm ON June 28, 2023, at the Ken Jones Boardroom – Weslaco