

**Meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**RGVMPO POLICY BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, April 26, 2023 – 1:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Presiding: Chairman Eddie Trevino, Jr. (Cameron County)**

**I) Call to Order**

Chairman Eddie Treviño, Jr. called the Transportation Policy Board meeting to order at 1:30 P.M, a quorum was established. The TPB Meeting was held in person at the Ken Jones Board Room located at 301 West Railroad Weslaco, Texas with members present.

**II) Roll Call**

**RGVMPO TPB Representatives in attendance were as follows:**

<b>Members Present:</b>	
<b>Entity</b>	<b>Individual</b>
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Chairman) - PRESENT Com. David Garza (Alternate)
Hidalgo County	Comm. David L. Fuentes (Vice-Chairman) Comm. Ellie Torres (Alternate) - PRESENT
Starr County	Judge Eloy Vera (Designee) Reyna Guerra Proxy – PRESENT
City of Brownsville	Mayor Trey Mendez (Designee) Helen Ramirez (Proxy) - PRESENT
City of Edinburg	Mayor Ramiro Garza (Designee) - PRESENT Comm. Daniel “Dan” Diaz (Alternate)
City of Harlingen	Mayor Norma Sepulveda (Designee) – PRESENT Gabriel Gonzalez (Alternate)
City of McAllen	Mayor Javier Villalobos (Designee) Roel “Roy” Rodriguez (Alternate) – PRESENT
City of Mission	Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza (Designee) – PRESENT Comm. Jessica Ortega- Ochoa (Alternate)
City of Pharr	Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez (Designee) ABSENT Comm. Daniel Chavez (Alternate) – ABSENT
City of San Benito	Mayor Ricardo “Rick” Guerra (Designee) ABSENT Manuel De La Rosa (Alternate) ABSENT
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr. (Designee) – PRESENT Arturo A. Nelson (Alternate)
Hidalgo County RMA	S. David Deanda Jr. (Designee) – PRESENT Ramon Navarro, V. (Proxy)
Valley Metro	Rick Guerra (Designee) - PRESENT Nancy Sanchez (Alternate)
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro “Pete” Alvarez (Designee) - PRESENT Rex A. Costley (Alternate)
<b>EX-OFFICIO</b>	
RGV Partnership	Daniel Silva
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
<b>GUEST</b>	
<b>Others Present:</b>	
RGVMPO	Andrew Canon
RGVMPO	Staff

**III) PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### IV) CONSENT AGENDA

##### 1. Approval of Minutes

Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of April 5, 2023

Chairman Judge Trevino (Cameron County) asked if there were any corrections to the Policy minutes of April 5, 2023. Andrew Canon informed that there was a correction of word "caring" to "carrying" under discussion of Item two.

**No other corrections were noted to the minutes of April 5, 2023. Motion to approve with correction was made by Starr County Reyna Guerra and was seconded by City of Edinburg's Mayor Ramiro Garza. The item was unanimously approved.**

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

Rudy Zamora Jr. referenced the May 2023 Revision sheet included in agenda packet and the final drafts for amendments to both short-range (TIP) & long-range (MTP) planning tables and short-range plan for transit providers. Revisions are labeled as so, and anything else should be administrative only.

Mr. Zamora informed that during the TAC meeting this item was approved contingent to anything received since then. The only item received were in addition to what was presented at TAC meeting were some projects for McAllen Metro, which have been incorporated as revisions with some administrative.

Mr. Zamora provided an update on the revision schedule; the public involvement period successfully concluded on April 20<sup>th</sup>, including four in person locations.

Deadline to upload resolutions and supporting documentation to the STIP portal by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Chairman Judge Trevino asked if there were any questions, after no questions were presented, he asked for a motion to approve item 2. The motion was made by Starr County and second by City of Mission. The item was unanimously approved.**

##### 3. Continued Discussion on Draft 2024 UTP – Category 7 funding Allocation and Programing of Projects

Rudy Zamora advised that this item has been discussed before in the TAC and Policy meetings and since the previous presentation there has not been a change. Currently programed at 354.41 million, and projects that are pending functional clarification are still accurate as presented, and a total approved amount of 406.13 million and the balance is still negative 76.66 million for the 10-year horizon 2024-2033. If anything changes between now and the adoption of the UTP the RGVMPPO would bring that to the advisory committee and board. At this point the programing is set and the unobligated amount of funds as of April 31<sup>st</sup> is \$74.03 Million.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked if that unobligated amount is as of March 31<sup>st</sup> or the end of April.

Rudy Zamora confirmed that the amount is as of the end of March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Zamora asked if there were any questions before moving on to the next slide.

Andrew Canon made a comment about the unobligated amount wording, the wording 'unobligated funds' does not mean that it is free money, it only means that it is an amount identified with projects it just has not gone to letting yet.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked if the entire fund amount is encumbered with projects and Mr. Canon confirmed. Rudy Zamora also confirmed the information and added that the number might change between now and the end of the fiscal year, and any updates would be presented to the board.

Mr. Zamora continued with the presentation identifying the difference between what's been projected for the 2024 UTP versus what was listed and allocated in the 2023 UTP. Delta's identified percentage differences and the total amount for the ten-year difference between the two. Mr. Zamora confirmed that it's not much difference when looking at the 10-year horizon, but the MPO wanted to provide the information so the board can see the difference between the two and consider what has been programed for the years 2023 to 2032 and pending 2033 pending projects in the long-range plan.

Mr. Zamora also reviewed the listing of everything that is funded with category 7 within UTP years. He pointed out that projects pending functional classification cannot be reflected in the planning documents until they achieve that functional classification. Regardless all the approved amounts are included so the board can know the status.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked, "Where has it does not have pending FC, then those have already met the functional classification"? Mr. Zamora confirmed it as correct and added that those can be listed in the RGVMPPO planning documents.

RGVMPO Category 7 Project List							
Fiscal Year	Project Sponsor	CSJ	Project Name	Project Phase	Total CAT 7 Amount	CAT 7 (CRRSAA Funds)	Project Score
2023	HC 3	0921-02-194	Liberty Blvd	C.E.R	\$ 10,535,477		40
2023	Pharr	0921-02-375	Hi line East	C.E.R	\$ 6,665,273		60
2023	HC 3	0921-02-322	Liberty Blvd Ph II	R	\$ 2,030,000		38
2023	TxDOT	0865-01-108	Veterans (SH 495)	R	\$ 2,699,360		N/A
2023	HC 1	0921-02-286	Mile 6 W	R	\$ 4,396,313		38
2023	HC 3	0921-02-328	Taylor Rd	R	\$ 2,011,852		42
2023	HC 2	0921-02-405	Cesar Chavez	PE, R	\$ 4,570,000		51
2023	HC 2	0921-02-399	Cesar Chavez	R	\$ 1,000,000		45
2023	HC 4	0921-02-493	Mile 5 HID	R	\$ 1,000,000		N/A
2023	CCRMA	0921-06-292	Whipple Rd	PE	\$ 278,677		57
2023	CCRMA	0684-01-068	SH 550 Gap II	C, PE, CE	\$ 20,763,425	\$ 2,161,668	66
2024	Pharr	0921-02-479	Twin Span Bridge - Pharr	C, CE	\$ 2,000,000		55
2024	McAllen/ HC 4	0921-02-362	Russel Rd	C, E, R	\$ 4,950,000		59
2024	Pharr	0921-02-363	I Road (rancho blanco- dicker rd)	C, CE	\$ 8,411,344	\$ 2,413,582	53
2024	Pharr	0921-02-435	I Rd (las milpas-Cage)	R	\$ 455,000		Pending
2024	Pharr	0921-02-434	Las milpas rd (jackson-cage)	R	\$ 792,000		Pending
2024	HC 3	0921-02-328	Taylor Rd	C, CE	\$ 13,487,802		42
2024	HC 3	0921-02-327	Taylor Rd	C, CE	\$ 494,380	\$ 4,500,000	56
2024	Pharr	0921-02-376	Hi Line West	C, E, R	\$ 6,131,860		58
2024	TxDOT/ HC 4	1064-01-043	Taylor Rd	C	\$ 5,000,000		52
2024	Edinburg	0921-02-440	Freddy Gonzalez Dr.	R	\$ 560,000		45
2025	HC 1	0921-02-254	Mile 1 East	C, E, R	\$ 7,052,836	\$ 327,164	34
2025	HC 2	0921-02-361	Nolana Loop (S1)	C, CE	\$ 17,473,719		51
2025	HC 3	0921-02-332	Mile 3 N - Phase II	C, E, R	\$ 7,190,000		27
2025	McAllen	0921-02-512	Bensten Rd	C	\$ 4,060,840		16
2025	CCRMA	0921-06-315	East Loop	C, CE	\$ 20,875,000		74
2025	Brownsville	0921-06-289	Southmost Nature Trail Phase IV	C, CE	\$ 938,130		25
2026	Hidalgo County	0921-02-395	Inspiration Road/Military Parkway Loop	R	\$ 3,500,000		47
2026	HC 4	0921-02-442	Trenton Rd	PE, R	\$ 715,000		44
2026	Pharr	0921-02-499	I Road (dicker-military hwy)	C, CE	\$ 8,621,086		52
2026	HC 1	0921-02-447	Mile 6 W	C, CE	\$ 22,612,489		38
2026	Pharr	0921-02-436	Moore Rd	C, E, R	\$ 6,084,000		57
2026	HC 1	0921-02-360	Mile 10 N	R	\$ 3,200,000		50
2026	Edinburg	0921-02-440	Freddy Gonzalez Dr.	C, CE	\$ 5,524,955		45
2026	HCRMA	0921-02-142	IBTC	C, CE	\$ 20,000,000		69
2026	Los Fresnos	0921-06-334	Los Fresnos Hike & Bike Trail	C	\$ 3,027,100		35
2026	Brownsville	0921-06-360	Southmost Nature Trail Phase III	C	\$ 2,257,768		28
2026	CCRMA	0921-06-257	South Parallel Corridor Phase III	C	\$ 6,765,000		63
2027	San Juan/ Alamo/ HC 1-2	0921-02-399	Cesar Chavez	C, CE	\$ 6,850,000		45
2027	San Juan/ Alamo/ HC 1-2	0921-02-405	Cesar Chavez Rd	C, CE	\$ 21,350,000		51
2027	Mission/ McAllen/ Hidalgo	0921-02-395	Inspiration/Military Pkwy Loop	C, CE	\$ 22,250,000		47
2027	Brownsville	0921-06-361	Southmost Nature Trail Phase V	C, CE	\$ 3,772,102		28
2028	HC 3	0921-02-322	Liberty Blvd -Phase II	C, CE	\$ 11,880,000		38
2028	Pharr/ San Juan/ HC 2	0921-02-403	Eldora rd (Jackson Rd - I Rd)	C, CE	\$ 13,720,000		44
2029	CCRMA	0921-06-292	Whipple Rd	C	\$ 4,541,623		57
2029	Cameron County	0921-06-290	Old Alice Rd (sports prk blvd - SH 100)	C, CE	\$ 20,330,000		72
2029	McAllen	0921-02-396	Nolana Loop n(ware rd - 23rd st)	C, E	\$ 3,420,000		45
2029	HC 1-2	0921-02-169	Nolana Loop (S 2-4)	R	\$ 3,500,000		34
2029	Westlaco/ HC 1	0921-02-360	Mile 10 N	C, CE	\$ 18,920,000		50
2029	HC 1	0921-02-448	Mile 6 W Rd	C, CE	\$ 12,000,000		42
2030	CCRMA	0921-06-330	Dama Ave (FM 3248 - FM 802)	C, CE	\$ 16,180,000		47
2030	Edinburg/ HC 4	0921-02-442	Trenton Rd (I-69/ US 281 - FM 907)	C, CE	\$ 14,440,000		44
2030	Edinburg	0921-02-466	Sprague Ave (Sugar Rd- SH 336)	C	\$ 4,500,000		32
2032	Pharr	0921-02-435	Las Milpas Rd E (Cage - I Rd)	C, CE	\$ 8,460,000		Pending
2032	Pharr	0921-02-437	Moore Rd East (Cage Rd - I Rd)	C, E, R	\$ 7,950,000		Pending
2032	Pharr	0921-02-434	Las Milpas Rd W (Jackson - Cage)	C, CE	\$ 6,240,000		Pending
2032	CCRMA	0921-06-362	Morrison Rd (Seg 2)	C, CE	\$ 16,400,000		Pending

\*Projects scores are subject to change. The RGVMPO CAT 7 Project Evaluation Form is under revision.

Mr. Zamora added that the list above can help in identify what is currently programed within the TIP fiscal years and how projects have moved for the past couple of years and what is pending out there and unobligated and hopefully see obligated with the next fiscal year or move projects and to adjust projects accordingly.

Mr. Zamora provided the board with a snapshot of what can be made available by the MPO to the board and advisory committee; a full timeline of the project starting for when it was first approved and status if necessary; and any other supporting information that would help the board and committee make future decisions in prioritizing projects and funding.

Ramon Navarro asked about the acronym CRSAA, and Mr. Zamora informed that those are the COVID relief funds allocated to the MPO during that time, which are assigned to projects and are 100% federal funds. However, when projects are programmed is considered category 7. The fund is integrated into it, but it just must be identified as those funds.

TxDOT's Pedro "Pete" Alvarez made a comment about functional classification, he suggested to Andrew Canon to send an email to Casey Wells and see the status of it and CC the Pharr District.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked if that was for the pending ones and Mr. Alvarez confirmed and added that it was his understanding that it's taking 6 months to a year or even more. And he re-iterated to initiate the discussion with Casey Wells and CC him so he can use that to help leverage and try to push them forward.

Mr. Canon added that the RGV MPO will follow up also with Raymond Sanchez because one of the projects is an appeal, FM509.

Mr. Alvarez added that he's trying to help along the process and help and show that both the MPO and the district are helping along and show that everyone is doing their part.

Mr. Canon agreed and added that the projects have been funded and technically they all show as local, but the board has approved Category 7. So, the MPO has category 7 on the books just to decide but once functional classification comes along, they would just be swapped out, because we do not want the projects to get closer to letting and still show as local.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked if there were anymore questions before proceeding with the next slide, and no questions were presented.

Rudy Zamora continued with examples of reports received monthly by the MPO. He reviewed the Federal Transaction report shared by the finance and TPMP-Planning and programming division up in Austin. He highlighted that with this report is used to identify and verify the \$74.03 Million of unobligated funds.

Mr. Zamora also reviewed the listing of federal transactions. He informed the board that the MPO received a notice to review the annual project listing for fiscal year 2022 and this report is being used to do so.

Mr. Zamora reiterated that he wanted to show the reports for the board to know where the MPO looks when the federal reports are mentioned.

Mr. Zamora reviewed a listing of CAT 2 projects. He explained that the reason for presenting the listing was because in a previous meeting and in the advisory committee it was mentioned that the MPO needed to look at Category 2 projects and their status. He highlighted that there is about a five-million-dollar difference between what is programmed and what is made available.

Pedro "Pete" Alvarez commented that for CAT 2 projects listed they have been running into some challenges. They are working very closely with local governments when it comes to purchasing right of way and utility adjustments. As an example, there is one utility company that is having to adjust many of the waterlines, therefore the funding is needing to be adjusted. Mr. Alvarez reminded everyone that SIB loans are available. Projects that are on roadway type are projects that qualify for this type of loan, which is a mechanism available through TxDot to help deliver these projects.

Chairman Judge Trevino informed that the slide presented is not included in the package, to please make sure all the board members have it. Mr. Zamora confirmed that the document would be emailed to everyone right after the meeting.

Mr. Zamora ended the presentation by informing the board that the City of Pharr and Hidalgo County agree to swap category 7 funds and COVID relief funds (CRSAA). The project of interest was mile one east which was currently programmed in fiscal year 2025. The MPO asked the two entities to swap those funds to eliminate the possibility of the COVID funds expiring. If those COVID funds were not used by the end of 2024 they would expire. they would expire.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked to repeat the names of the projects getting swapped out. Mile one East project had the COVID relief funds assigned to and is getting swapped out for the "I" road project, which would be accelerated into fiscal year 2024 and be ready to go to letting which qualifies it for the use of COVID relief funds. And therefore, the traditional CAT 7 in the same identical amount would be transferred to Mile one East currently in year 2025 and then they can go ahead and proceed accordingly as programmed. So, there would be no loss or gain to either project but avoid the loss of those COVID funds. Chairman Judge Trevino congratulated both entities for agreeing to do the agreement. Andrew Canon added that it was 327 thousand dollars and MPO staff is working on initiating AFA amendments, which would be about a 6-month timeline. Rudy Zamora added that it is considered an administrative amendment. The process would be started today when the approved documents are published.

Chairman Judge Trevino confirmed that there was nothing else to add to the item, he suggested to provide the tables and printouts in a bigger size that is more legible.

City of Edinburg mayor Ramiro Garza asked for the possibility of having the listing of Category 2 and 7 available online. Andrew Canon confirmed that they are available online. Mr. Garza asked if they are available in a format with a timeline where people can know how much is being spent. Mr. Canon confirmed that it is available even in the MPO's UMap. Mr. Garza asked if they can be provided with the link so they can include it on their website. Mr. Canon agreed to email the link to Tom Reyna. Mayor Ramiro Garza also suggested to call the unobligated funds remaining balance to avoid any confusion.

**Chairman Judge Trevino asked if there were any questions, after no questions were presented, he asked for a motion to acknowledge the discussion. The motion was made by Ramon Navarro and second by Pedro "Pete" Alvarez.**

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

Fernando Cantu presented the new updated scoring form. He highlighted that about a total of 5 suggestions about how to update the form. Mr. Cantu reviewed the before and after forms underlining that in the new form 60% of the 100% score is project readiness and 40% is project priority. Also, some of the weights in the score have been changed to reflect how much it takes for a local government to do. For example, acquisition and utility relocation is a much heavier project to do so in the old form it was 8 points and in the new one is 11 points.

Mr. Cantu added that the new form also includes a guideline identifying each percentage and a timeline example. The new form was mailed out last week for the new workshop taking place May 25<sup>th</sup> and the deadline to submit is May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked to confirm the deadline, May 19, 2023.

Andrew Canon added that after that the MPO would bring the final form to the committee.

Commissioner Ellie Torres asked if the recommendations submitted by her office were considered.

Fernando confirmed that most of their suggestions were applied but the weight submitted.

City of McAllen manager Roy Rodriguez asked for clarification on the forms as per which one is the final one and if the board is the one that is going to approve it. Mr. Cantu confirmed the latest form and Andrew Canon confirmed that the board has final approval. He also reviewed the process for the final form and reminded the board that Alliance group is under contract assisting the MPO. Is only being used a tool to be able to provide the board with an update. He reiterated that is still a work in progress and is only for informational purposes only.

Pedro "Pete" Alvarez asked to be clear on what form to submit to avoid any confusion. Mr. Canon informed that preferably the one with the redline. City of Brownsville Helen Ramirez agreed to use the one with the redline because it shows project readiness. Helen Ramirez added that if the MPO has already gone to the board, taken comments, and staff has given good recommendations then it would be a good idea to just move forward.

Chairman Judge Trevino, City of Edinburg and TxDOT agreed that the latest form should be approved and if any additional changes can be added in the next meeting.

TxDOT's Pedro "Pete" Alvarez recommended to change the item from information to action so that the form is official and any suggestions by the consultant can still be applied but at least the form is official.

Chairman Judge Trevino agreed and asked if there were any more questions.

**After no additional questions or comments were presented, he asked for a motion to approve the item. The motion was made by TxDOT Pedro "Pete" Alvarez and second by Starr County Reyna Guerra.**

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

Eva Garcia started by reminding everyone that there is 9 million dollars in Transportation Alternative Set Aside to program this fiscal year which is the largest amount received by the region and funds lapse after four years.

Eva Garcia reviewed the schedule of activities and reviewed the process to request technical assistance. Also, a review of the schedule of activities in a linear timeline and the online tools available. Eva Garcia reviewed two slides not included in the packet.

TxDOT's schedule of activities - she highlighted that the purpose of the slide is to explain that if an entity submitted a project to the state, that entity is still able to submit for other projects.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked what constitutes same and substantially similar projects. Ms. Garcia explained the difference.

City of Edinburg, Chairman Judge Trevino and Andrew Canon discussed several examples for the scenario. Chairman Trevino informed everyone that it would be best for everyone to seek assistance or ask question whenever in doubt to avoid any issues.

Pedro "Pete" Alvarez reminded everyone that communication is the key, and the sooner projects are obligated the better because the deadlines get here quicker than quick.

The City of Harlingen asked if there is a maximum amount and Eva Garcia confirmed that there is no maximum amount but a 9 million dollar available.

City of Edinburg Ramiro Garza asked if the MPO sets anything aside for administrative support and Ms. Garcia confirmed that there is nothing set aside for administrative support.

Ms. Garcia reminded everyone about the tools available online.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked if there were any questions.

**After no questions or comments were presented, he asked for a motion to approve the presentation. The motion was made by TxDOT Pedro "Pete" Alvarez and second by Starr County Reyna Guerra.**

V) **Executive Session at 2:17**  
**RGVMPO Executive Director's Report and Updates**

Andrew Cano reviewed the MPO'S budget with no major changes and introduced new staff, Alma Provencio and Klarissa Gonzalez.

**Chairman Judge Trevino announced that Alex Meade was appointed to the Texas Transportation Commission.**

**No action required.**

VI) **Status Reports**

**A. TxDOT Project Status Report**

Hector Siller provided an updated presentation on current projects and activities within Hidalgo County.

Rene Davila provided an updated presentation on current projects and activities within Cameron County.

**B. Cameron County RMA**

Cameron County RMA representative not available.

**C. Hidalgo County RMA**

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

VII) **New or Unfinished Business**

Andrew Canon informed the board about the next Border Trade Advisory committee would be taking place at the Brownsville Event Center on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

VIII) **ADJOURNMENT**

***There being no further business to come before the RGVMPO TPB Members, Chairman Judge Trevino called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by TxDOT Pedro "Pete" Alvarez and second by Commissioner Ellie Torres.***

ATTEST:   
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RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE  
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN