

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

Minutes

May 11, 2023

I) CALL TO ORDER

JP Terrazas, Chairman (City of Mission) 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	JP Terrazas, Chairman
Cameron County	Benjamin Worsham, Vice Chairman
City of Brownsville	Helen Ramirez
City of Edinburg	Tomas D. Reyna
City of Harlingen	Ana Hernandez
City of McAllen	Rene Gonzalez
City of Pharr	Absent
City of San Benito	Johanna Maldonado
Hidalgo County	Armando Garza, Jr.
Starr County	Absent
TxDot Pharr District	Norma Y Garza
Valley Metro	Nancy Sanchez
Cameron County RMA	Eric Davila Pete Sepulveda
Hidalgo County RMA	Ramon Navarro
Brownsville Metro	Simon Ortiz
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:

- **April 13, 2023**

Vice-Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any more corrections to the TAC minutes of April 13, 2023. No corrections or comments were noted to the minutes of April 13, 2023, Hidalgo County Armando Garza Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2023. The motion was seconded by Tomas D. Reyna with City of Edinburg. Motion carried.

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

Luke Albert provided an update and requested stakeholder feedback on freight traffic management assessment in the Rio Grande Valley for the TxDOT Freight Systems Branch. The item was for information only, no action required.

Ramon Navarro made a comment about toll road 365, currently under construction. He does not know if the corridors have been considered proposing the IBTC and the impacts to the region.

Luke Albert confirmed that those corridors have been considered and noted and the impact in separating freight vehicles and other vehicles.

Armando Garza Jr. made a comment about a project on Dicker Rd mostly designated for truck traffic and he wanted to make sure that the project was considered.

Luke Albert thanked Armando Garza.

Eric Davila made a comment about the QR code provided within the presentation listing IH2 US 83 Anzalduas Bridge Expansion under Brownsville area. Mr. Davila suggested that that would be listed under a separate category, either the Pharr Bridge or the McAllen Bridge Area.

Luke Albert informed that it must have been a formatting error, but it would be corrected.

Ana Hernandez asked that Highway 281 was mentioned and if that include the area where the Free trade bridge is located or Los Indios?

Albert Luke stated that 281 covers a lot of territory and TTI's thought is to look at both the east and west part of Military Hwy.

Andrew Canon asked if the Border Master Plan from the Border Trade Advisory Committee is being taken in consideration thru this process.

Albert Luke informed that the Border Master Plan was in the list of documents and everything in there would be considered.

Andrew Canon asked, "What is the end goal here?" Albert Luke responded that the end goal is to identify strategies and ways for TxDOT to implement these strategies on the key freight corridors and then how that would feed into a potential traffic maintenance center for the programming process. This would help feed the potential traffic maintenance center. Mr. Canon responded that he is a little confused because some of this information exists, but it seems like we are putting all of this together way before we have a management center for it to be beneficial for it. Albert Luke stated that there are some strategies that can be rolled out without a management center. Some strategies can be rolled out in the short term, like the smart work zones and information dissemination.

Andrew Canon asked if this item would be something to present at the Policy Board. Albert Luke confirmed that he was planning to refer to the group to see what the next step within the area would be to present this project to others.

Javier Dominguez asked if a concrete definition for Traffic Management Center can be provided and be included in presentation for the Policy board. Albert responded that a Traffic Management Center is a central location used to manage traffic within an area. Usually, the camera fees and signal timing fees are connected to this area, it could be a brick and mortar building or a virtual environment. It essentially helps with communication for incidents and monitoring of traffic, signaling timing and monitoring work zones.

Andrew Canon asked Chairman if item should be included for the Policy Board. Chairman JP Terrazas confirmed that the item needs to be presented to the Policy Board.

Chairman JP Terrazas asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Chairman proceeded to item 3.

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

Klarissa Gonzalez presented a draft of the RGVMPPO Complete Streets Policy, highlighting the background of the policy and the definition. A Complete Streets Policy is a policy that plans for equitable transportation networks that prioritize safety, comfort, and connectivity to destination for people of all ages and abilities. The

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planning activity described in the BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) is the development of a Complete Streets policy, which is what we've provided today. In February of 2022, the Policy Board agreed for the RGB MPO to work on a Complete Streets policy. In May of 2022, the Policy Board adopted the UPWP Amendment #2 which allocated around \$120,000 for its complete Streets planning activities over a two-year budget period.

Over the past year, the RGV MPO staff has been in coordination with planning partners regarding existing and future Complete Streets policies to determine strengths and weaknesses. Staff made an inventory list of existing Complete Streets policies adopted by local governments. Now the staff has produced a regionwide Complete Streets policy, and we're looking to the Technical Advisory Committee and the Transportation Policy Board for feedback this May. We are preparing for public involvement during the next 30 days and on May 17th, we will be presenting the RGV MPO Complete Streets Policy at the Veterans Clinic in Weslaco. After that we will present the updated policy incorporating feedback for approval by the Policy Board in June.

Ms. Gonzalez reviewed the five subsections of the policy; A background mentions how it is federally mandated, a definition as worded in the BIL, a policy Statement with regional vision of safety of safe, multimodal transportation, and a description of requirements, recommendations, design, guidance, and exceptions. The policy states that it can use bike PED counter data as a method of performance measurement. As for implementation, the policy states that the RGV MPO staff will ensure the directives of this policy are reflected in ongoing and programming work by reviewing project applications and monitoring current projects for compliance with the policy.

Ms. Gonzalez ended by providing her contact information and opened the floor for discussion.

Representative from the City of San Benito, Johanna Maldonado asked for confirmation of public involvement dates. Ms. Gonzalez confirmed that public involvement will be May 17th at Weslaco and it will begin after this date and then for the next 30 days at the LRGVDC.

Representative from the City of McAllen Jon Ray Bocanegra made a comment about the importance of safety and the need for citizens to accessibility to safe pads especially within the City of McAllen.

Chairman JP Terrazas asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Chairman confirmed that the item was for information and proceeded to move to Item 4.

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

Rodolfo Zamora started the presentation by providing an update on the FY 2022 Annual project Listing. project listing or APL is currently under review. Public involvement will be conducted in compliance with federal regulations and the documents that are included within this packet will also be linked to our website for our public involvement. Mr. Zamora added that the staff is also reviewing these documents and making notes and adding questions of concern and that a version of this document will also be linked to the RGV MPO's website. During public involvement, staff is kindly asking the advisory committee members and members of the planning partner communities to review these transactions for fiscal year 2022 and share any concerns or questions with RGV MPO staff during the public involvement. An official email will launch public involvement which will last for 30 days, and it will include an in-person location. Any questions or concerns this morning or during the public involvement. Please reach out to MPO staff. The ultimate goal is to send these notes and concerns back up to the Finance Division with the state and ultimately FHWA if needed for this listing of Highway projects, route projects, and bicycle and pedestrian projects. Mr. Zamora also asked the transit providers to please provide the MPO staff with a listing of projects that have let during the fiscal year of 2022, it can be available for public involvement. And ultimately create a finalized packet to send back to the finance division when public involvement is completed, then it will be brought back to the advisory committee and the policy board for final approval.

Nancy Sanchez from Valley Metro asked for confirmation on the dates for Public Involvement. Mr. Zamora responded that the official announcement hasn't gone out yet, but technically it will begin today as of this afternoon, documents would be linked to the website and it does go on for 30 days. So we are now May 11th, so we're looking at conducting it for 30 days. So June 11th technically would be the final day of public involved.

Chairman JP Terrazas asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Chairman confirmed that the item was for information and proceeded to move to Item 5.

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

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Luis Diaz provided an update of the Federal Functional Classification CSJ #0921-02-521 in order to request approval. The last submittal that was received for requesting functional classification coming from the city of Mission for Los Ebanos rd. and the limits for the project are I2 all the way to Military Parkway. The request is a little different than what we usually do. We do the entire span of the roadway, but a portion of it is already functioning classified. So, from I2 down to mile one, is already functionally classified. The full length of the project is 2.2 miles and all that's needing to be functioning classified is from mile one all the way down to Military Parkway, which is a total length of 1.7 miles. They are requesting a major collector, regarding the northern section, that's already a major collector.

Mr. Diaz continued by restating that today we're bringing this as an action item requesting to move forward to the policy board. The policy board will be presented with a resolution which will allow MPO to continue put a packet together for processing through TxDOT Pharr district on the TPMP and then on to federal highways for final approval.

Armando Garza Jr stated that he did not have any questions, but he just wanted to mention that the county thinks this is a very important project and we fully support it and we're glad that you know we're on our way.

Then he asked to confirm if a public meeting was held recently. Chairman advised that it was a different project.

Armando Garza Jr. made a motion to approve, and it was second by the City of Brownsville.

Chairman JP Terrazas asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Chairman proceeded to move to Item 6.

6. Update on Federal Functional Classification Pending Submittals

Luis Diaz presented an update of all pending Federal Functional stating highlighting that the MPO has a total of seven and he added that we're doing an analysis internally where we're doing a comparison of the UTP compared to the projects that are functionally classified to identify what needs to be functionally classified moving forward. But we'll provide that list later when that's been cleaned up. If there are any questions about any of this.

Ramon Navarro from HCRMA asked, about the schedule as far as the schedule or assumed review time with projects that are with the MPO. Mr. Diaz responded that it would be about a two-week turnaround at the longest before it's handed over to TxDOT Pharr District.

Ramon Navarro asked Dora with TxDot about their timeline. Dora with TxDOT informed that once they receive the packages from the MPO staff at the Pharr District tries to review them within a week or two. During that time frame, they may have some back and forth just to make sure they have all the information needed included and then they hand it off to division after that the timeline kind of varies.

Chairman JP Terrazas asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Chairman proceeded to move to Item 7.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on Transportation Alternatives set-Aside

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.

Ms. Garcia gave an overview of the different resources/links available for anyone that wants to get more

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familiar with the local government project procedures.

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

Chairman JP Terrazas asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Chairman proceeded to move to next item.

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.

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C. Hidalgo County RMA

Ramon Navarro (Hidalgo County RMA) provided an updated presentation on projects that are currently within the 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 RGVAC Members, Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Cameron County RMA made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:02am. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County RMA, Ramon Navarro, meeting was adjourned.