

FULL POLICY BOARD AGENDA
POLICY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, June 28, 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:

May 31, 2023

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

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

Item Summary: Approval of May 31, 2023, Policy meeting minutes.

2. Discussion and Action on FY 2022 Annual Project Listing (APL)

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

Presenter: **Rudy Zamora Jr., Transportation Planner II**

Item Summary: The FY 2022 Annual Project Listing (APL) has been reviewed and Public Involvement concluded on June 11th. No concerns were expressed by TAC members or the public. MPO staff is kindly requesting TPB members' approval.

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. In compliance with federal requirements, public involvement was conducted for 30 days, and the APL was presented to TAC, and now TPB members for approval.

3. Discussion and Action on FY 2023-2026 STIP & MTP Amendments – August 2023 Quarterly Revision Cycle

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

Presenter: **Rudy Zamora Jr., Transportation Planner**

Item Summary: The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) - August 2023 Revision Cycle is upon us. Amendments to both short-range (TIP) & long-range (MTP) planning tables are included within this meeting packet for review & approval. Public involvement began on June 14th and all revisions will require adoption by TPB on June 28th. Staff members are available to address concerns and/or recommendations.

Background: The Statewide TIP is updated quarterly and MPO staff has prepared draft tables for review and approval. Public involvement is scheduled for June 14th - July 14th both virtually and in-person, at various locations region-wide. Revisions are highlighted on our long) and, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and notated on our short-range TIP.

4. Presentation of Preliminary CAT 7 Unified Transportation Program (UTP TxDOT 10 Year Plan) Off System Project Scores

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

Presenter: **Luis Diaz, RGVMPPO Assistant Director**

Summary: The RGVMPPO is presenting preliminary scores for the current Unified Transportation Program (UTP TxDOT 10 Year Plan) CAT 7 Off System Projects. This process is being brought forth as a collaborative venture with all local governments to produce the most comprehensive scores for approval at our next TPB meeting.

Background: Through an iterative discussion, the RGVMPPO staff and TAC refined a scoring for Category 7 projects to both leverage the technical expertise embodied in the TAC and reference performance criteria and regional goals to provide a robust scoring process for vetting and promoting projects geared to contribute towards targets. This scoring process likewise provides a platform to communicate with project sponsors and decision makers about project implications. The process also investigates what conditions a proposed project is improving and asks the sponsor to reflect on why they are submitting the project being reviewed. The continuity of this process invariably will refine and improve the process by which projects are submitted for consideration as well as the projects themselves. The latest version of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Unified Transportation Program CAT 7 Project Evaluation Form is reflective of 4 TAC workshops and TPB approval April 26, 2023.

5. FY2024 AND FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Fernando Cantu, RGVMPPO Planner III

Summary: Staff is seeking approval from the Transportation Policy Board for the proposed FY2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Background: The Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO), has developed a draft FY2024 and FY2025 UPWP. This Work Program is an essential federal requirement for RGVMPPO, enabling us to secure federal Transportation Planning Funds. It effectively identifies the specific work activities that RGVMPPO staff will undertake between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2025. The UPWP Document contains crucial policies that dictate how these federal Transportation Planning Funds will be allocated.

6. Contract Extension of CoPlan - Congestion Management Process Planning Level Operations Study

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Fernando Cantu, RGVMPPO Planner III

Summary: Staff is requesting approval for a one-month extension and an additional \$10,000 to further enhance the Congestion Management Process Planning Level Operations Study.

Background: The Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a widely recognized and accepted approach for accurately measuring congestion, providing real-time data on multimodal transportation performance, and evaluating various strategies to alleviate congestion that align with state and local requirements. Although a CMP is mandatory in urbanized areas with populations over 200,000, our CMP Analysis Tier 2 has been diligently progressing since January 2023. To comprehensively evaluate the impact of our efforts, CoPlan has conducted a comparison between the "after" travel time runs and those representing the "before" period, which were collected during the Spring 2022 CMP initiative. This analysis has been instrumental in determining the effectiveness of our congestion management strategies. CoPlan measured performance indicators such as travel time, delay, control delay, fuel savings, and driver time savings. These performance measures provide valuable insights into the tangible benefits of our congestion mitigation efforts.

7. Discussion and Action on Adoption of PM2/PM3 (Pavement/Bridge condition and System Reliability) Targets

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: **Miguel Arispe, RGVMPD Planner III**

Summary: RGVMPD Staff RGVMPD staff has been working with Alliance Transportation group to evaluate our current system performance and reliability targets as required by TxDOT and FHWA. MPO's are required to adopt targets for PM2/PM3 (Pavement/Bridge condition and System Reliability) performance measures by August 8, 2023. The presentation will consist of the draft targets and recommendations on moving forward in addressing the above-said requirements.

Background: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) requires the Texas Department of Transportation to establish targets for PM2 and PM3 (Pavement/Bridge condition and System Reliability). The IIJA also requires each MPO to either support the PM2 and PM3 targets established by TxDOT or adopt a separate set of targets no later than 180 days after TxDOT adoption.

8. Action on the RGVMPD Complete Streets Policy

Action Possible Action Information

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

Summary: RGVMPD staff produced a regional Complete Streets policy. Public involvement was conducted from May 11th to June 11th to ascertain feedback on this policy. Feedback was implemented as necessary in this final version being presented to the Transportation Policy Board. 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. Staff is recommending approval for this regionwide Complete Streets Policy.

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, RGVMPD 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.

9. 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: BikePed Program Coordinator**

Summary: RGVMPPO Staff will provide one final status update regarding FY2019-2020 projects (to obligate funds in FY2023) but focus more of this presentation on FY2021-2022 projects (to obligate funds in FY2024 & FY2025). Members may act to re-program funds for FY2021-2022 projects that have not met the deadline to execute Advanced Funding Agreements (AFA). See 'FY2021-2022 TASA Program Schedule of Activities' table in packet for more information.

Background: To ensure transparency with the RGVMPPO's policymakers and transportation officials 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. Executive Session

- A.** Personnel Matters Pursuant to Section 551-074 (1) to Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee

RE: Executive Director

- B.** Reconvene into Open Session to Consider ACTION, if any, on Items Related to in Executive Session as Described above:

VI. RGVMPPO Executive Director's Report and Updates

Action Possible Action Information

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

1. SWOT

On Thursday June 8th, the Technical Advisory Committee voted on cancelling the July 13th TAC meeting at 10:00AM in place of having a Virtual SWOT Analysis Workshop hosted by ATG, the consultants, for the Resiliency & Sustainability Analysis on behalf of the RGVMPPO. An invitation has been sent out to all our committees.

2. RGVMPPO Budget

3. H.B. 3444

VII. Status Reports

A. TxDOT Project Status Report

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: TxDOT Area Office Staff

B. Cameron County RMA

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Eric Davila

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Ramon Navarro

D. Transit Report

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Transit representative

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

IX. Next Meeting: The next RGVMPPO Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for 1:30PM **August 30, 2023, at the Ken Jones Boardroom - Weslaco**