

**Meeting Minutes of the  
Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)**

Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 11:00 AM

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The RGVMPPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held in-person at City Hall, 118 E. Tyler., Harlingen, TX and virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by David Hernandez, Chair, at 11:02 A.M.

**II. ROLL CALL**

RGVMPPO BPAC Representatives **PRESENT:**

Organization/Agency	Voting Membership	Alternate
Valley Off-Road Bicycling Association	David Hernandez, Chair	
Caracara Trails	Rose Gowen, Vice-Chair	
City of Weslaco	Omar Rodriguez	Rebekah de la Fuente
City of Sullivan City	Alma Salinas	Ana Mercado
TxDOT Pharr District	Craig Wuensche	Roberto Garza
City of Edinburg	Larry Ayala	Valentin Sanchez Jr.
City of Pharr	Ruben Alfaro	Maria Rangel
City of Brownsville	Christopher Nelson	Juan (Johnny) Pena
Valley Metro	Claudia Olmedo	Stacie Garcia
LRGVDC	Horacio Garza	Nancy Sanchez
UTRGV	Rodney Gomez	Pablo Aguilar
TPWD	Javier De Leon	Kelly Malkoski
Citizen At-Large	Nina Torkelson	Robert Ordez
Citizen At-Large	Richard Cavin	
Citizen At-Large	Ana Adame	Tracy Roberts
Citizen At-Large	Michael McNew	Jon Ray Bocanegra

**Other Attendees:**

- Juan Pena, City of Brownsville
- Javier Mendez, City of Harlingen
- Ben Medina, City of Rio Hondo
- Lisa Mitchell-Bennet, UT School of Public Health
- RGV Cycling

**RGVMPPO Staff:**

- Andrew Canon, Executive Director
- Luis Diaz, Assistant Director
- Melany Rodriguez, GIS Specialist/Planner I
- Javier Dominguez, Planner I
- Christopher Nelson, Planner I
- Rudy Zamora, Planner II
- Eva Garcia, Planner III Bike/Ped Program Coordinator

BPAC Minutes Approved  
August 2, 2023

### III. CITIZENS INPUT

No comments were made.

### IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of April 5th, 2023.

The Minutes of the April 5, 2023, RGVMPPO BPAC Meeting were presented. David Hernandez made the motion to approve the Minutes of April 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Chis Nelson, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

#### B. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of May 3, 2023

The Minutes of the May 3, 2023, 2023 RGVMPPO BPAC Meeting was presented. Chris Nelson made the motion to approve the Minutes of May 3, 2023. The motion was seconded by Omar Rodriguez, and upon a vote the **motion passed unanimously**.

#### C. Discussion and Possible Action on the RGVMPPO Complete Streets Policy

Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO BikePed Program Coordinator, provided a current update and status report on Complete Streets Policy. She highlighted the status and next step for the policy. Public involvement is ongoing, and the next step is to present it to the Transportation Policy Board on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The link for the public involvement was shared and Ms. Garcia asked if there were any questions.

Chris Nelson suggested that the Complete Streets Policy should be posted on the RGVMPPO's website. Ms. Garcia and Andrew Canon agreed to the request and to work on it, so the policy can be available for the remainder of the period.

Jon Ray Bocanegra added that he submitted a comment after reading the Complete Streets Policy. His point was regarding the explicit point stating that if the expenses are too much regarding a complete street, that a cut might be made. He noted that the policy explicitly states the words, "In regards to pedestrian and bicycle facilities". He added that he is a little concerned with the Policy's explicitly and would like to have a grayer area. Many discussions would benefit from the removal of specific breakdown of how to remove bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Ms. Garcia noted that the idea is that the RGVMPPO is doing this regional policy but the recommendation really what's coming out of it is that we want to see more municipal ordinances codes and really have the cities adopt and enforce those codes. It might have been generalized before maybe to give flexibility to the region, but the goal is to recommend those municipal ordinances and policies to take effect. She ended by encouraging everyone to review the policy and comments are still welcomed.

Discussion only, no action required.

#### D. Discussion and Possible Action regarding the FY2023-2024 RGVMPPO Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program Call Evaluation & Scoring Special Meeting Details.

Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO BikePed Program Coordinator, provided details about the Program Call Evaluation & Scoring Special meeting. She reviewed the schedule of activities included in the agenda presentation, highlighting that the meeting would be held in person. Ms. Garcia also reviewed the list of projects and the funding request summary highlighting the total applications received were 12 and a total funding of 9,000,000 and the total requested was about \$15.1 million.

After a process of selecting meeting locations survey via Mentimeter a meeting location was determined and approved. After a process of scheduling availability survey through Mentimeter a date was determined and approved.

The Program Call Evaluation & Scoring Special meeting will be held in Weslaco on August 17, 2023, at 1:30pm

Andrew Canon, RGVMPPO Executive Director asked for clarification on the specific activities for the special meeting. Ms. Garcia clarified the purpose of the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting would be for applicants to present for staff to start project scoring and she reviewed the projected timeline for the scoring and project selection.

1. July - - - - Receive and review applications.
2. August 2<sup>nd</sup> - - - - Presentations
3. August 17<sup>th</sup> - - - Score and evaluate
4. September ---- regular meeting – action to make recommendation to TAC

Mr. Canon also asked for the timeline to have the item at TAC and Policy for votes and Ms. Garcia confirmed that it would be in September. Omar Rodriguez asked if the applicants would be presenting at this meeting as well and Ms. Garcia confirmed that applicants would only be presenting on August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and scoring and evaluation it would only be MPO staff and the voting membership of BPAC.

Javier De Leon asked if on August 2<sup>nd</sup> since there is going to be presentations and project scoring additional to the regular meeting, should it be assumed that the meeting would be longer than usual. Ms. Garcia asked everyone to confirm it's better to have a longer afternoon or earlier meeting.

Javier De Leon also posed the question about the presentations being 15 minutes instead of 10 to provide enough time to presenters enough time to present their projects. Ms. Garcia informed the members that a survey had been carried out among the committee to agree on a time limit of 10 minutes.

Mr. Canon suggested providing boxed lunch for all attendees in case the meeting is longer than expected.

Richard Carvin made the motion to approve the special meeting to be held on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm in Weslaco. The motion was seconded by Omar Rodriguez, and upon a vote the **motion passed unanimously**.

#### **E. Discussion & Possible Action regarding the RGVMPPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Call for Membership Applications.**

Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO BikePed Program Coordinator reviewed the RGVMPPO BPAC bylaws and highlighted:

- We revised our bylaws in January of this year. And we provided some clarification.
- For 2023 we had the city of Wesco as well as VORBA. David Hernandez was elected as chair. It says here that chairs can be nominated for the existing membership. So, his existing membership is a two-year term and appointed by BPAC.
- There is nothing in our bylaws related to consecutive terms, but we did have an application received in September from the city of McAllen and at that time it was notified to them that there were currently no public agency vacancies and that they would be notified once one became available.

Ms. Garcia emphasized that the item really is more of an item to open a call for membership applications and no action required at this time. Ms. Garcia also provided a timeline for the rolling membership process and added that BPAC members can be appointed at any time.

- June 2023 open call for members
- July 2023 1 public Agency Vacancy opens
- August 2023 Consideration and possible action to appoint new BPAC members.

Mayor Salinas made the motion to approve to pen call for members. The motion was seconded by Jon Ray Bocanegra, and upon a vote the **motion passed unanimously**.

#### **V. PROJECT UPDATES**

##### **A. FY2019-2020 TASA Projects – obligate funds in FY2023 or risk lapsing**

Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO BikePed Program Coordinator started the presentation by reviewing key terms and commonly used acronyms. Ms. Garcia reviewed the table listing projects programmed with the FY2019-2020 federally apportioned funds and the schedule of activities such projects. Ms. Garcia continued by providing project updates.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • LRGVDC Hidalgo Co. Mobility Plan               | II                                      |
| • McAllen Jackson Rd. Hike & Bike Trail Phase II | • Brownsville BRO to LF Connect Phase I |
| • McAllen Jackson Rd. Hike & Bike Trail Phase II | • Los Fresnos North HS Park Connection  |
| • Pharr Tri-City Ped. Safety Improvements        | • Cameron Co.Olmito Sidewalks           |
|  | • Cameron Co. Las Palmas                |
|  | • UTRGV Hike and Bike Trail             |

**B. FY2021-2022 TASA Projects – obligate funds in FY2024-2025**

Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO BikePed Program Coordinator reviewed the FY2021-2022 Program Schedule of Activities highlighting that the fund for projects is about \$2.3 and must be obligated by August of 2025. There is a total of six projects with two of them pending AFA. Ms. Garcia continued by providing project updates.

- Elsa Getting Connected
- Hidalgo Bridge Street BikePed Plan
- Edinburg Freddy Gonzalez Trail
- Harlingen Arroyo Colorado Trail Phase III Study
- Brownsville West Rail Trail Amenities
- Port Isabel Bejarano-McFarland-Gonzalez Trail Ext.

Ms. Garcia closed by providing an update on the United States bicycle route. The TxDOT Pharr District Bike plan was presented in April and moving the plan forward. After some stakeholder feedback is done, they want to do the USBRS workshop in late July either the 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>.

**VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A survey via Mentimeter was completed to determine the time for each presenter for the August 2, 2023, meeting. After all votes were submitted a 10-minute frame per presenter was determined and approved.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Omar Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55AM. The motion was seconded by David Hernandez, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.