

FULL POLICY BOARD AGENDA
POLICY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, August 30, 2023 – 1:30 PM
RIO GRANDE VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RGMPO)

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 RGMPO 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 – May be submitted online or may be submitted on a paper form specifying the matter you wish to address.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minute(s) for: July 21, 2023

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

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

Item Summary: Approval of the July 21, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes

2. Discussion and Action on FY 22-23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

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

Presenter: **Fernando Cantu, RGMPO Transportation Planner III**

Item Summary: The McAllen Metro staff will conduct a comprehensive study to assess current service levels and explore the viability of implementing high-capacity transit to restore and surpass pre-COVID-19 service standards. The project will be funded through 5307-9A - 5307- Urbanized Area Formula - Discr. Planning (ARPA).

Background: A UPWP is a biennial statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within a Rio Grande Valley metropolitan planning area. At a minimum, a UPWP includes a description of the planning work and resulting products, who will perform the work, time frames for completing the work, the cost of the work, and the source(s) of funds.

3. Discussion and Action on RGMPO Bylaws

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

Presenter: **Fernando Cantu, RGMPO Transportation Planner III**

Item Summary: The RGMPO bylaws are currently undergoing an update to reflect the latest 2020 Census population data. As a result, the city of Edinburg will be granted an additional vote for surpassing a population of 100,000. Moreover, the revisions will also include the necessary adjustments to properly incorporate Starr County into the bylaws.

Background: A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the policy board of an organization created and designated to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process. MPOs are required to represent localities in all urbanized areas (UZAs) with populations over 50,000, as determined by the U.S. Census. MPOs are designated by agreement between the governor and local governments that together represent at least 75 percent of the affected population (including the largest incorporated city, based on population) or in accordance with procedures established by applicable state or local law. When submitting a transportation improvement program to the state for inclusion in the statewide program, MPOs self-certify that they have met all federal requirements.

4. Request for Proposal (RFP)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Fernando Cantu, RGVMPPO Transportation Planner III

Item Summary: The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to solicit competitive proposals from qualified vendors to provide:

- Planning study for the proposed Southwest Loop around the City of Weslaco
- Updating the Hidalgo County Commuter Rail Feasibility Study for the Rio Grande Valley MPO Area
- Developing a 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the RGVMPPO. We seek a collaborative partnership with a skilled and experienced vendor to ensure the successful execution of this project.

Background: The RGVMPPO selectively outsources tasks that exceed our in-house capabilities or scope. To maintain compliance with the fiscal guidelines and regulations, we adhere to the procurement process established by the LRGVDC, serving as the fiscal agents of our MPO.

5. Presentation of the Project Videos

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Fernando Cantu, RGVMPPO Transportation Planner III

Item Summary: Today's presentation showcased two captivating videos, offering an immersive visual representation of our latest roadway and trail projects. As part of our commitment to supporting local government initiatives, the MPO gladly offers this exceptional service upon request. These informative videos not only provide valuable insights into the proposed projects but also serve as powerful tools for effective communication and stakeholder engagement.

Background: The RGVMPPO has undertaken the creation of captivating photos and videos showcasing our transportation projects. These visual aids play a crucial role in enabling the public to envision the final outcomes of construction initiatives with remarkable clarity. As opposed to sifting through textual descriptions on tables, these visuals offer a more intuitive and comprehensive understanding of the projects. Moreover, the impact of these visuals extends beyond mere comprehension; they prove invaluable in transcending language barriers during public involvement efforts. By conveying information through visuals, we can effectively engage diverse communities and ensure that everyone can participate meaningfully in the decision-making process.

6. Presentation on New 2022 Crash Data Dashboard

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Alma R. Provencio, GIS Specialist I

Item Summary: RGVMPPO Staff has created an interactive ArcGIS Dashboard illustrating 2022 Crash Data for Starr, Hidalgo, and Cameron counties.

Background: Each year, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) releases Traffic Crash Data updates onto their Crash Records Information System (C.R.I.S) portal. Using 2022 Crash Data from the most recent update, RGVMPPO staff has created a user-friendly, interactive Dashboard using ArcGIS. This dashboard displays a Map which outlines the Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB) and within it the crashes that happened in the region. The Dashboard can compute Crash Data statistics such as Total Crashes, Number of Deaths, Number of Crashes per County, and the Vehicle Type of Crash. Users of this Dashboard are also able to filter Crash Data results by City and look up specific places or addresses on the map. The 2022 Crash Data Dashboard is on the [RGVMPO Website](#); TAC and Policy Board members are encouraged to utilize this Dashboard at their leisure and share it with their organizations.

7. Discussion on IJA Infrastructure BIL, specifically on the Safe Streets for All Grant Program

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Javier Dominguez Jr., RGVMPPO Transportation Planner I

Item Summary: The RGVMPPO will be providing an update on the status to the Action Plan Grant that was awarded to develop the MPO's first regional comprehensive safety action plan.

Background: The Federal Highway Administration awarded the RGVMPPO an Action Plan Grant to develop the MPO's first regional comprehensive action plan. After drafting the grant agreement, the RGVMPPO got approval from the Federal Highway Administration to begin work on the Action Plan. The RGVMPPO will invite planning partners to join a sub-committee to help with the development of the plan. The goal is to complete the plan and apply for implementation funds.

8. Discussion and Action of Revision of Federal Functional Classification (FC) request of IBTC CSJ #0921-02-142 HCRMA.

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Luis Diaz, RGVMPPO Executive Assistant Director

Item Summary: The RGVMPPO is presenting a revision for IBTC FC request classification from principal arterial to major collector and amending previous limits From 365 Tollway at FM 493 to IH-2. A portion of IBTC is currently functionally classified on FM 3072 / Dicker Road from the 365 Tollway to FM 907 as a major collector therefore requiring a limit change. (Resolution 2023-15 to be presented to Policy Committee for Approval on August 30, 2023) Official Federal Functional Classification Packet is being developed by RGVMPPO staff in coordination with the HCRMA.

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.

9. Discussion and Action of Revision of Federal Functional Classification (FC) request of Morrison Road CSJ #0921-06-291 CCRMA.

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

Presenter: **Luis Diaz, RGVMPD Executive Assistant Director**

Item Summary: The RGVMPD is presenting a revision of Functional Classification limits Morrison Road from previous limits of FM 1847 to FM 511; to new request limits from FM 1847 To: Dana Avenue (Resolution 2023-16 to be presented to Policy Committee for Approval on August 30, 2023) Official Federal Functional Classification Packet is being developed by RGVMPD staff in coordination with the CCRMA.

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.

10. Discussion and Action on RGVMPD Staff attending the 30th Annual Clean Cities Coalition Stakeholder Summit.

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

Presenter: **Javier Dominguez Jr., RGVMPD Transportation Planner I**

Item Summary: Javier Dominguez Jr. has been invited by the Director of the Dallas Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition, a program of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and the Regional Transportation Council to attend the 30th Annual Clean Cities Coalition Stakeholder Summit on September 6th, 2023. Staff needs approval from the Transportation Policy Board for out-of-state travel.

Background: For 30 years, Clean Cities has built bipartisan support, deep connections within the transportation industry, and active partnerships with more than 20,000 public and private stakeholders. Starting in 1993 with six coalitions in Atlanta, Denver, Philadelphia, Delaware, Las Vegas, and Washington, D.C., the national network now includes more than 75 active coalitions covering more than 84% of the U.S. population and nearly every state. The region's proximity to non-attainment status underscores the pressing need to proactively embrace sustainable transportation solutions. The RGVMPD embracing this exploratory phase, an opportunity emerges to take deliberate steps toward the development of a Clean Cities Coalition tailored to the unique characteristics of our region.

V. RGVMPPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UPDATES

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Andrew A. Canon, RGVMPPO Executive Director

- Budget
- MPO101 Update
- Status Reports for RMA's would be moved to quarterly.
- Better Border Conference
- Annual Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Process Update (Luis Diaz)
- Project Updates

VI. 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

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

VIII. Next Meeting: The next RGVMPPO Policy Board Meeting is scheduled at **1:30 p.m. on September 27, 2023.**