

**Meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
RGVMPO POLICY BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, June 28, 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., and 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:

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

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

State Representative Terry Canales provided a brief legislative update and talked about a few other issues that he believes are extremely important to the board and the entire region.

CONSENT AGENDA**1. Approval of Minutes**

Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of May 31, 2023

Chairman Judge Trevino (Cameron County) asked if there were any corrections to the Policy minutes of May 31, 2023.

No corrections were noted to the minutes of May 31, 2023. Motion to approve by Mayor Frank Parker from Cameron County RMA and it was seconded by Starr County Reyna Guerra. The item was unanimously approved.

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

Rudy Zamora provided an update on the FY 2022 Annual Project Listing (APL). He highlighted that the review has concluded, and Public Involvement concluded on June 11th. No concerns were expressed by TAC members or the public. Mr. Zamora confirmed that the MPO is requesting the members' approval.

Motion to approve was done by the Mayor of Edinburg, Ramiro Garza and it was seconded by the Mayor of Pharr Ambrosio Hernandez. Item approved unanimously.

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

Rudy Zamora provided an update to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) – August 2023 Revision Cycle. He emphasized that amendments to both short-range (TIP) & and long-range (MTP) planning tables were included within the meeting packet for review & and approval. He added that public involvement began on June 14th and all revisions will require adoption by TPB on June 28th, 2023, and that staff members are available to address concerns and/or recommendations.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked if there were any questions and confirmed if the recommendation was to be approved.

After no more questions were presented, Chairman Judge Trevino asked for a motion to approve the item. The motion was made by Ramon Navarro from Hidalgo County RMA and second by Tom Logan with Valley Metro. Item approved unanimously.

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

Luis Diaz presented preliminary scores for the current Unified Transportation Program (UTP TxDOT 10-Year Plan) CAT 7 Off System Projects. He added that this process is being brought forth as a collaborative venture with all local governments to produce the most comprehensive scores for approval at the next TPB meeting.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked if there were any questions, after no questions were presented, he confirmed that the item was an update only, and no action was required. Chairman Trevino noted that the scores while obviously important, they do not drive the selection. They provide a metric and it's ultimately up to the board to decide.

5. FY2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program

Fernando Cantu presented the UPWP two-year budget. He highlighted that the budget is currently at 4 million and three hundred and eighty-one thousand and that this new budget includes 3 new contracts submitted to the MPO. Contracts include the new MTP, which is just the 25-year plan. The Weslaco Loop corridor study and a rail study to update the Hidalgo County rail study.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked if there were any questions and confirmed that the item is a routine MPO budgetary item and the recommendation from staff is for approval. Motion for approval was made by the City of Mission and seconded by the City of Pharr. Item approved unanimously.

6. **Contract Extension of CoPlan – Congestion Management Process Planning Level Operations Study**
Fernando Cantu provided an update on the Congestion Management Process (CMP). He highlighted that staff is seeking approval from the board for a one-month extension and an additional \$10,000 to further enhance the Congestion Management Process Planning Level Operations Study. Mr. Cantu provided an overview of the latest details; at the beginning of the year CoPlan came and did a traffic study or network study and they identified some lights that could be improved in timing. So, they synchronized the lights for the City of Edinburg. A week after that there were some problems with the roadway and the loops were broken, consequently, the timing placed by CoPlan has not been reimplemented. The \$10,000 month extension would take care of that issue.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked Mr. Cantu to repeat what CoPlan did or did not do. Mr. Cantu responded that at the beginning of the year, Steve Taylor with CoPlan came in and installed a light synchronization model in the City of Edinburg. A week later the roads were milled, and the loops and all the timings were broken, consequently, the work done has not been reimplemented. Judge Trevino asked if Steve Taylor was aware of the maintenance work and Mr. Cantu confirmed that he was not aware of it.

The City of Edinburg Mayor Ramiro Garza chimed in to ask for the approval citing that is needed by the city. Mr. Canon added that the MPO has been working with TxDOT to make sure to improve the communication with each other on those roadways when they are going to go, we know that sometimes it can become a surprise to everyone, so they have been doing due diligence to let us know more. This was just an unfortunate situation where the timings were done and it was overlaid for 107, it was a mix-up and an opportunity to be able to delay that and not have to come back.

After no more questions or comments were presented, Chairman Judge Trevino asked for a motion to approve the item. The motion was made by the City of Edinburg, and it was seconded by the City of Pharr. Item approved unanimously.

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

Miguel Arispe reviewed the table included within the agenda packet that demonstrates a set of performance measures and targets (PM2/PM3 (Pavement/Bridge condition and System Reliability)). Mr. Arispe added that every two years the MPOs are required to either adopt the TxDOT targets or create their own for each one of these measures. He also pointed out that the federal performance measures focus mainly on the national highway system and interstate highways. As part of the development of the performance management framework with the MPOs consultant Alliance Transportation group, we have analyzed our current conditions and are happy to report that the highway system in our area is currently meeting all targets. Mr. Arispe finalized this by informing the board that staff is recommending continuing to adopt TxDOT targets for the PM2/PM3 performance measures.

After no questions or comments were presented, Chairman Judge Trevino asked for a motion to approve the item. The motion was made by Starr County, and it was seconded by Cameron County RMA. Item approved unanimously.

8. **Action on the RGV MPO Complete Streets Policy**

Klarissa Gonzalez provided an update on the Complete Streets Policy. The item was presented to TAC and the Policy Board in May. The Technical Advisory Committee saw the policy as an action item at the meeting on June 8th and voted on recommending the approval of it. Ms. Gonzalez confirmed that staff is now seeking the board for the adoption of this regionwide complete streets Policy. Ms. Gonzalez also provided an overview of the Complete Streets Policy as stated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and an overview of the timeline of the policy. She reiterated that the goal after the adoption of the policy is to work with the local governments that do not have a Complete Streets Policy about coordination efforts to try to bring on board more Complete Streets strategies for the RGV.

Mrs. Gonzalez informed the Board that included in the packet is the five-page Complete Policy and a proposed resolution recommending approval.

After no questions or comments were presented, Chairman Judge Trevino asked for a motion to approve the item. The motion was made by the City of Edinburg, and it was second by the City of Pharr. Item approved unanimously.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA; also known as Category 9) Projects.**

Eva Garcia provided an update to the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA; also known as Category 9) Projects. She started by informing the board that the presentation includes a list of key terms and commonly used acronyms for project delivery and the various phases that we need to meet. Mrs. Garcia reminded the board that fiscal year 2019, and 2020 TASA projects are the years that are currently being reviewed. All the projects are moving forward and proceeding except for one from the City of Brownsville and the list of the other projects is within the agenda packet.

Mrs. Garcia went ahead and provided an overview of the latest actions of the project from the City of Brownsville that is not moving forward; Brownsville to Los Fresnos, Phase II. Since the last policy meeting the MPO was notified by the City of Brownsville that Phase II of their projects would be terminated due to design re-alignment issues.

The City of Pharr Mayor Ambrosio asked if such termination would affect the AFA and Mrs. Garcia confirmed that it would terminate it. Mayor Ambrosio also asked if there would be time to relocate the funds to another project and Mrs. Garcia answered that there is not enough time to reprogram it or move it to another project.

Mrs. Garcia handed the floor to Joel Garza from the City of Brownsville to provide the details of the project termination.

Joel Garza reviewed the maps and pictures provided within the agenda packet with the following highlights.

- Initial project alignment agreement failed with private property owners.
- Re-alignment along Paredes Line Rd was established to keep end limits the same.
- The cost estimate for the new alignment exceeded the funding the City of Brownsville had available for this project.
- The total project cost exceeded the expected budget primarily due to significant elevation changes throughout the proposed trail route.
- The elevation changes necessitated extensive site preparation, earthwork, and specialized construction techniques, leading to significantly higher construction costs.
- TASA Funds: \$512,000
- Engineer's Estimate:
- Option 1: \$5,253,351
- Option 2 (Wall Deck): \$11,291,972

The City of Pharr's Mayor asked for clarification on the original proposed amount and the final amount.

Judge Trevino asked for clarification on the ownership of the property and the issues with them.

Joel Garza and City of Brownsville's Manager Helen Ramirez addressed the questions.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked to confirm that basically five hundred twelve thousand that have been dedicated to this project now, you can't reprogram it and we can't move it somewhere else, and those funds would be lost. Joel Garza confirmed the information is correct.

City of Edinburg, City of Pharr, City of McAllen along with Andrew Canon and Chairman Judge Trevino participated in a dialogue about preventing losses like this from happening again and ways it could have been prevented.

Eva Garcia continued with the presentation on the remaining TASA projects listed within the agenda packet.

City of Pharr Mayor Ambrosio asked if any of the projects are on the verge of losing funds or anything like the City of Brownsville, and Mrs. Garcia responded no and that quarterly updates would be done.

After no questions or comments were presented, he asked for a motion to acknowledge the report. The motion was made by the City of Pharr, and second by TxDOT Pharr District.

V)

Executive Session at 2:12

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

Motion to proceed to executive session was made by the City of Pharr's mayor Ambrosio Hernandez and was seconded by TxDot.

Motion to reconvene into Open Session was made by the City of Mission's mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza and was seconded by San Benito's mayor Ricardo "Rick" Guerra.

B. Reconvene into Open Session for **NO ACTION** for the Executive Session as described above.

Reconvene into an open session at 2:55 PM

VI) RGVMPPO Executive Director's Reports and Updates

RGVMPO Executive Director Andrew Canon reviewed the RGVMPPO FY 2022-2023 UPWP Budget and reminded everyone about the deadline to register for the MPO101 Workshop. Mr. Canon also reviewed the H.B. 3444 bill analysis.

Chairman Judge Trevino Chairman asked if there were any questions, after no questions were presented, he went ahead and proceeded to Status Reports.

VII) Status Reports

A. TxDOT Project Status Report (Action Taken as Required)

TxDOT Area Office Staff provided an updated presentation on current projects and activities within Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

B. Cameron County RMA

Mr. Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Mr. Navarro provided an updated presentation on projects that are currently within the Hidalgo County RMA. All projects are continuing to move forward. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

D. Regional Transit (Metro)

Transit representative not available. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

No questions were presented.

VIII) New or Unfinished Business

Andrew Canon reminded everyone about the upcoming Border Trade Advisory Committee taking place at the McAllen Performing Arts Center on August 22, 2023.

IX) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the RGVMPPO TPB Members, Chairman Judge Trevino called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by TxDOT Pedro "Pete" Alvarez and second by City of Edinburg Mayor Ramiro Garza.

ATTEST:



RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN