

**Meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**RGVMPO POLICY BOARD MEETING**  
**Friday, July 21, 2023 – 10:00 AM**  
**Virtual**

**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 10:00 P.M., and a quorum was established. The TPB Meeting was held virtually with members present.

**II) Roll Call**

**RGVMPO TPB Representatives in attendance were as follows:**

<b>Members Present:</b>	
<b>Entity</b>	<b>Individual</b>
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Chairman) - PRESENT Com. David Garza (Alternate)
Hidalgo County	Comm. David L. Fuentes (Vice-Chairman) - PRESENT Comm. Everardo Villarreal (Proxy)
City of Brownsville	Mayor John Cowen (Designee) Commissioner Pedro Cardenas (Alternate) - PRESENT
City of McAllen	Mayor Javier Villalobos (Designee) Roel “Roy” Rodriguez (Alternate) – PRESENT Engineering Director Eduardo Mendoza (Proxy)-PRESENT
City of Edinburg	Mayor Ramiro Garza (Designee) Comm. Daniel “Dan” Diaz (Alternate) - PRESENT
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) - PRESENT Assistant City Manager Juan Pablo “JP” Terrazas - PRESENT
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)
<b>EX-OFFICIO</b>	
RGV Partnership	Daniel Silva – ABSENT
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz – PRESENT
<b>GUEST</b>	
<b>Others Present:</b>	
RGVMPO	Andrew Canon
RGVMPO	Staff

**III) PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**NONE**

#### IV) CONSENT AGENDA

##### 1. Approval of Minutes

Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of June 28, 2023

Chairman Judge Trevino (Cameron County) asked if there were any corrections to the Policy minutes of June 28, 2023.

**No corrections were noted to the minutes of June 28, 2023. Motion to approve by Mayor Norie Gonzalez-Garza from the City of Mission and it was seconded by Pedro "Pete" Alvarez from TxDOT. The item was unanimously approved.**

##### 2. Discussion and Approval of Category 2 funds for the International Bridge Trade Corridor (IBTC) Project.

Andrew Canon provided a review of the latest regarding the approval of CAT 2 funds, highlighting the following: Last Friday the MPO offices were contacted by TxDOT, the Governor's office, Terry Canales's office, and Commissioner Meade. And the Governor is requesting that the MPO considers acting on approving \$20 million of category 2 funds that were identified by TxDOT Pharr District offices to go to IBTC before the approval of the IBTC project as part of the 10-year UTP on August 16<sup>th</sup>. It is the understanding of the MPO through communications and discussion with Pharr District that these are new funds that are the DELTA between the approximated funds at the beginning of the year and what category two turns out to be currently. These funds are not taken from any other project that is identified within the planning area of the MPO and staff is recommending approval.

Hidalgo County Commissioner David L. Fuentes made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Starr County Reyna Guerra. Chairman Judge Trevino interjected by stating that before he entertained the motion to approve, he wanted to ask Pete Alvarez from TxDOT to provide additional details on how this came to be and what exactly we're doing, and the impact it has on our future operations, understanding that this is not taking away from any pending Category 2 projects.

Pete Alvarez stated by confirming what Andrew Canon had described and added that he received a call on Thursday night and then other calls on Friday morning to schedule this meeting. TxDOT is looking at funding allocations for Category 2. As everybody knows, there was an additional \$150 million of Category 12 Commission discretion that was allocated to IBTC. The goal from the Governor's office and TxDOT, Commission, and administration is to fully fund this project as part of this 2024 UTP. And so, with that said, several steps will be taken between now and then and so there is a proposal to bring IBTC to an on-system. This means that it'll be part of the State roadway system that'll be the minute order is scheduled to be done on August 16<sup>th</sup> before the UTP adoption. Therefore, once the project becomes on-system, it would become eligible for Category 2 funding and other funding at TxDOT funding Category 4. Pet Alvarez summarized that basically, IBTC becomes on-system as part of the August 16<sup>th</sup>, meeting, and then after that, TxDOT anticipates that the 2024 UTP will be adopted, and at that point, it will reflect \$20 million of Category 2 to help supplement the gap that's needed to make this project a whole.

Chairman Judge Trevino asked if in the event, that for whatever reason the project IBTC does not become approved as an on-system project, then these funds cannot be allocated to that project. Pete Alvarez confirmed and added that the likelihood of that happening is slim to none.

Chairman Judge Trevino added that he asked because it was made clear that there are other projects that are off-system that are not eligible for CAT 2 and now IBTC is still off-system, but that's supposed to be remedied prior to the adoption of the UTP 2024.

City Manager from McAllen asked Pete Alvarez for the status of the project as far as design, environmental assessment, and so on. Pete Alvarez confirmed that the project is environmentally clear and moving forward with Hidalgo County RMA taking the lead on that.

City of Pharr's Mayor Hernandez asked about the funding-a breakdown of it. Pete Alvarez summarized the funding as follows; The total project cost is estimated to be \$237.8 million, so there are other funding sources that would be required to make this project whole. The proposed 20 million of Category 2 funds. In previous meetings, 20 million of CAT 7 funds had been approved. Then an allocation of the Pharr District of Category 4 of 10.3 million, then an additional 20 million of Category 10, and finally the 167,000,000 of Category 12 have been identified. All bring the project total to 237.8.

City Manager from McAllen Roy Rodriguez asked Pete Alvarez if there is a map available of the location of the project. Pete Alvarez informed the board that a map is available on the Hidalgo County RMA website, and it can also be forwarded by Ramon Navaro from such an entity.

**Chairman Judge Trevino (Cameron County) confirmed the motion to approve the item. Motion to approve was made by Hidalgo County Commissioner Fuentes and it was seconded by Reyna Guerra from Starr County. Item approved unanimously.**

V) **New or Unfinished Business**

Andrew Canon reminded everyone that TxDOT would be acting on the UTP on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for anyone available and interested.

Pete Alvarez reminded everyone that we are at the open comment period we are at the open comment period for the 2024 UTP and letters of support are greatly appreciated for this \$3.6 billion anticipated for the Pharr District.

VI) **ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business to come before the RGVMPPO TPB Members, Chairman Judge Trevino adjourn the meeting at 10:13 AM.*

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

  
RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE  
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN