

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

Wednesday, August 17, 2023, at 1:30 PM

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The RGVMPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) held a Special Meeting in-person at the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Ken Jones Executive Board Room, 301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco, TX. The meeting was called to order by Eva Garcia, RGVMPO, at 1:34 P.M.

**II. ROLL CALL**

RGVMPO BPAC Representatives **PRESENT:**

Organization/Agency	Voting Membership	Alternate
Valley Off-Road Bicycling Association	David Hernandez, Chair	
Caracara Trails	Rose Gowen, Vice-Chair	
Hidalgo County	Velinda Reyes	Nick Perez
City of Sullivan City	Alma Salinas	Ana Mercado
TxDOT Pharr District	Craig Wuensche	Augustin Ramirez
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	Orlando Carranco
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

**RGVMPO Staff:**

- Andrew Canon, Executive Director (virtual)
- Luis Diaz, Assistant Director
- Melany Rodriguez, GIS Specialist/Planner I
- Javier Dominguez, Planner I
- Miguel Arizpe, Planner III
- Fernando Cantu, Planner III
- Alma Provencio, GIS Specialist
- Klarissa Gonzalez, Planner I
- Rudy Zamora, Planner II
- Eva Garcia, Planner III

BPAC Minutes Approved  
November 1, 2023

III. **CITIZENS INPUT:** No comments were made.

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

As a preface, Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO, summarized the FY2023-2024 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) applications that were requesting funding. She reviewed the evaluation scores for the planning project proposals, which were presented at the prior BPAC meeting. Additionally, Eva described the contents each of the voting members received to use during the Special meeting for their evaluation of the construction project proposals. The contents included: 1. BPAC Special Meeting Agenda; 2. Evaluation Criteria Data Worksheet; 3. Construction Project Proposal; 4. Construction Project Scoring Sheets for submittal to RGVMPPO Staff to tally the total project scores. Eva introduced the RGVMPPO staff that would be helping with the process and provided an overview of the flow of the 3-hour meeting, highlighting the need to initial sheets and the only action item on the agenda.

**A. Presentation and Discussion regarding the Old Alice Road Sidewalks Project Proposal**

Eric Davila, CCRMA, presented on the proposed construction project and how the requested \$3,189,622 in TASA funds would be used to construct sidewalks on both sides of Old Alice Road.

**After some discussion, no action was taken.**

**B. Presentation and Discussion regarding the Dennet Road Gap Project**

Chris Nelson, Brownsville, presented on the proposed construction project and how the requested \$1,308,300 in TASA funds would be used to build a 10-foot-wide shared use path from Stagecoach Trail to Paredes Line Rd. (about 0.79 miles).

**After some discussion, no action was taken.**

*This Item was swapped with Item E due to McAllen needing to leave early. Brownsville accommodated the request and Item B was presented later.*

**C. Presentation and Discussion regarding the Arroyo Colorado Hike & Bike Trail Safety Improvements Project Proposal**

Javier Mendez, Harlingen, presented on the proposed construction project and how the requested \$890,836 in TASA funds would be used to add solar lighting and emergency call stations to the Arroyo Colorado Trail, from Dixieland Rd. to McKelvey Park (about 3.9 miles).

**After some discussion, no action was taken.**

**D. Presentation and Discussion regarding the Hidalgo County Precinct 1 and City of Weslaco Hike & Bike Trail Phase I Project Proposal**

Jorge Pena, Hidalgo County, presented on the proposed construction project and how the requested \$3,558,129 in TASA funds would be used to create a new shared use path from Mile 10 N. to the future Weslaco City Park North near FM88 and Mile 11 N.

**After some discussion, no action was taken.**

**E. Presentation and Discussion regarding the FM2220 Underground Bike/Ped Crossing at Houston and Ware Project Proposal**

Rene Gonzalez, McAllen, presented on the proposed construction project and how the requested \$2,237,711 in TASA funds would be used to build an underground pedestrian tunnel crossing under FM2220 (Ware Rd.) to connect the McAllen Convention Center to the Bentsen Rd. Hike & Bike Trail.

**After some discussion, no action was taken.**

*This Item was swapped with Item B due to McAllen needing to leave early. Brownsville accommodated the request and Item E. was presented earlier on the agenda.*

- F. Presentation and Discussion regarding the I Road/Hike & Bike Phase I Project Proposal**  
 Maria Rangel, Pharr, presented on the proposed construction project and how the requested \$952,224 in TASA funds would be used to build a 10-foot-wide shared use path (SUP) from the Regional Linear Park to Ranch Blanco Rd. (about 1.2-miles-long).  
**After some discussion, no action was taken.**
  
- G. Presentation and Discussion regarding the Cano St. & Veterans Blvd. Trail Improvements Project Proposal**  
 Roberto Hernandez, Edinburg, presented on the proposed construction project and how the requested \$886,025 in TASA funds would be used to build an 8-foot-wide trail with ADA ramps.  
**After some discussion, no action was taken.**
  
- H. Presentation and Discussion regarding the Downtown Port Isabel Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Project Proposal**  
 Jared Hockema, Port Isabel, presented on the proposed construction project and how the requested \$1,124,628 in TASA funds would be used to create or improve a 1.58-mile loop of sidewalk around the Downtown Historic District and Garriga Elementary School from the Queen Isabella Causeway.  
**After some discussion, no action was taken.**
  
- I. Consideration and Action to Recommend Planning and Construction Projects for FY2023-2024 RGVMPPO Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) Funds**  
 RGVMPPO Staff entered the collected project evaluation scores into an excel sheet that was developed to formulate the project averaged score and showcase the project ranking. Staff presented to voting members each project’s total federal request, total project cost, total points, and overall rank. It was reiterated that a minimum of 10% of the available \$9M must be for planning.

**2023-2024 RGVMPPO TASA Total Project Scores**

Project Type	Project Name (or street name)	TASA 80% Federal Request \$	Total Project Cost	Total Project Score (Average)					
				Project Readiness (max 25pts)	Safety Benefits (max 25pts)	Equity (max 20pts)	Connectivity (max 30pts)	Total Points (Average)	Overall Rank
Construction	I Road/ Hike & Bike Phase I	\$952,224	\$1,713,822	22.28571429	21.07142857	17.92857143	28	89.43	1
Construction	Cano St. & Veterans Blvd. Trail Improvements Project	\$886,025	\$1,107,531	21.35714286	20.28571429	18.5	28.35714286	88.50	2
Construction	Arroyo Colorado Hike and Bike Trail Safety Improvements	\$890,836	\$1,113,545	22.73333333	22.13333333	17.33333333	25.93333333	88.13	3
Planning	Dixieland Reservoir/Park Corridor Preliminary Engineering	\$276,000	\$345,000	19.375	21.625	18.875	28.25	88.13	4
Construction	FM2220 Underground Pedestrian & Bicycle Trail Crossing at Houston & Ware	\$2,237,711	\$2,843,688	18.92857143	23	17.85714286	27.35714286	87.14	5
Construction	Downtown Port Isabel Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety	\$1,124,628	\$1,405,785	20.13333333	21.53333333	18.66666667	26.2	86.53	6
Planning	Mission Comprehensive Transportation Alternative Assessment	\$200,000	\$250,000	15.5	23.625	18.9375	27.6875	85.75	7
Construction	Old Alice Road Sidewalks	\$3,189,622	\$3,459,622	22.9	20.46666667	14.53333333	26.8	84.70	8
Construction	Hidalgo County Precinct 1 & City of Weslaco Hike & Bike Trail - Phase I	\$3,558,129	\$4,447,661	19.21428571	20.21428571	16.85714286	25.64285714	81.93	9
Planning	West Rail Trail to Brownsville Sports Park	\$325,820	\$407,275	14.8	22.2	18.13333333	26.73333333	81.87	10
Planning	Morrison Road to Monte Bella Park	\$153,457	\$191,821	14.86666667	22.53333333	17.06666667	26.13333333	80.60	11
Construction	Dennet Road Gap	\$1,308,300	\$1,875,047	12.71428571	19.78571429	12.71428571	26.71428571	71.93	12

Total TASA Request Amount:	\$15,102,752
Planning Request Total	\$955,277
Construction Request Total	\$14,147,475

Above, for the record, is the outcome of the BPAC evaluation of proposed TASA projects, their scores by scoring criteria and the overall rank. Voting members whose agencies submitted projects did not receive evaluation sheets for those projects and, thus, were not able to score their own projects.

After some discussion on the FY2023-2024 RGVMPPO TASA projects, Jon Ray Bocanegra, Citizen At-Large, made a motion to approve/recommend the full funding request of the four (4) planning projects (a total of \$955,277 of the minimum \$900,000). The motion was seconded by Dr. Rose Gowen, Caracara Trails, and upon a vote, **the motion passed unanimously.**

After further discussion, with a remaining amount of \$8,044,723 available for construction, Jon Ray Bocanegra, Citizen At-Large, made a motion to approve/recommend the full funding request of the top five ranked construction projects (\$6,091,424) and the remaining balance for the sixth ranked project. The motion was seconded by Mayor Alma Salinas, Sullivan City, and upon a vote, **the motion passed unanimously.**

Recommended Federal Funding Awards for RGVMPO 2023-2024 TASA Program Call		
Project Type	Project Name	TASA Federal Award Total
Planning	Dixieland Reservoir/Park Corridor Preliminary Engineering	\$276,000
Planning	Mission Comprehensive Transportation Alternative Assessment	\$200,000
Planning	West Rail Trail to Brownsville Sports Park	\$325,820
Planning	Morrison Road to Monte Bella Park	\$153,457
Construction	I Road/ Hike & Bike Phase I	\$952,224
Construction	Cano St. & Veterans Blvd. Trail Improvements Project	\$886,025
Construction	Arroyo Colorado Hike and Bike Trail Safety Improvements	\$890,836
Construction	FM2220 Underground Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail Crossing at Houston and Ware	\$2,237,711
Construction	Downtown Port Isabel Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety	\$1,124,628
Construction	Old Alice Road Sidewalks	\$1,953,299
Planning Awarded Total		\$955,277
Construction Awarded Total		\$8,044,723
Total TASA Award Amount:		\$9,000,000

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:29pm.