

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

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 11:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The rgvmop Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held in-person at RGVMPPO Conference Room, 617 University Drive, Edinburg, TX and virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO, at 11:01 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	
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	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 Ordaz
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

III. CITIZENS INPUT

BPAC Minutes Approved
January 10, 2024

No comments were made.

IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of August 17, 2023

The Minutes of the August 17, 2023, RGVMPPO BPAC Meeting was presented. Nancy Sanchez, LRGVDC, made the motion to approve the Minutes of August 17, 2023. The motion was seconded by Rodney Gomez, UTRGV, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

B. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of October 4, 2023

The Minutes of the October 4, 2023, RGVMPPO BPAC Meeting was presented. Rodney Gomez, UTRGV, made the motion to approve the Minutes of October 4, 2023. The motion was seconded by Craig Wuensche, TxDOT, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

C. Presentation and Discussion on TxDOT's Active Transportation Plan

Jeff Whitacre presented on TxDOT's Active Transportation Plan, TxDOT is seeking public input on the comprehensive Statewide Active Transportation Plan. A series of statewide virtual, and public open house meetings will be held for the open comment period of October 4 to November 30. The plan will provide collaborative efforts to advance walking, biking, and rolling as viable options toward a safe, accessible, connected, and fully integrated multimodal system statewide.

TxDOT asked for feedback from BPAC regarding the 14 priorities that were established for the plan. Jon Bocanegra mentioned there are communities within our region reaching for federal funds and requesting functional classification of road projects for widening of the roads in oppose of multi-modal facilities. An Active transportation group under the UTRGV spoke up about the importance of community need, accessibility, safety, and connectivity.

TxDOT proceeded to open discussion regarding further questions on successful implementation of projects, largest opportunities, network improvement, challenges within our community. Comments were mentioned suggesting the importance on improving ADA accessibility and easy to use facilities on existing infrastructure, and opportunities for large void of bike lanes in the mid-valley. Eva mentioned a successful road diet project in Brownsville that led to an improvement in active transportation. Jon also mentioned opportunities within McAllen that will also assist with economic development. Other comments about successful projects such as: Precinct 2 hike and bike trail (San Juan, Alamo), Brownsville Bike trails (Palo Alto and West Rail Trail), Harlingen trail (McKelvey and Arroyo Parks) were discussed. **No action was taken.**

D. Discussion and Possible Action regarding the approval of a RGVMPPO BPAC 2024 Meeting Schedule

Eva reviewed the final survey results regarding the RGVMPPO BPAC initiatives and the meeting schedule. 3 options were presented based on the survey results. Option A was 2 hours, Quarterly, In-Person meetings; Option B was 1.5 hours, every other month, Virtual or In-Person meetings; and Option C was 1 hour, every month, virtual meetings. Jon Ray Bocanegra, Citizen at-Large, made the motion to approve Option B for 2024 BPAC meeting schedule with the in-person meetings in Weslaco. The motion was seconded by Chris Nelson, City of Brownsville, and upon a vote; the **motion was passed unanimously**.

V. PROJECT UPDATES

- RGVMPPO Maps
 - Transit Data Collection Map drafted.
 - U.M.A.P
 - Active Transportation Map
 - Richard Cavin, Citizen at-Large, mentioned new trail extensions to be added to the map.
- Passenger Rail Feasibility Study
 - New subcommittee for 2024
- 5310 Program FY2024 Call for Projects
 - McAllen Urbanized Area apportionment
- Regional Events
 - Eva mentioned TPWP will hold an Outdoor Family Fiesta at Estero Llano Grande State Park on November 18th. Jon Ray mentioned a pedestrian and bike friendly Art Walk

Event will be held on November 10th at Main Street in McAllen Incubator.

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chris Nelson, City of Brownsville, made a motion to adjourn meeting at 11:54am. The motion was seconded by David Hernandez, VORBA, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.