

FULL POLICY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 – 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. Action & Discussion Items

A. Approval of minutes for: January 31, 2024. [Page 7](#)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Commissioner David L. Fuentes, Chairman

Summary: Approval of the January 31, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes

B. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 2024-03 Concurring with the TxDOT Initiative to Prevent Federal Fund Lapse [Page 12](#)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: RGMPO/TxDOT

Summary: The RGMPO is working with TxDOT and is presenting a TxDOT initiative to ensure carryover federal funds are obligated and successfully reimbursed for the RGV. Therefore, TxDOT is proposing a swap of FY 2024 STP MM to STP Flex.

Background: TxDOT currently has a remaining balance of MPO apportionment. These funds are referred to as Carryover which risk lapsing if they are not obligated. Therefore, TxDOT is proposing swapping STP MM funds on FY 2024 projects within MPO boundaries to STP.

C. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 2024-07 Programing 5310 Program Funds [Page 21](#)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Eva Garcia, RGMPO Planner III

Summary: RGMPO Staff recommends awarding the full funding request of two (2) Metro McAllen projects and partially funding to one (1) Valley Metro. Staff will present the project scores and coordination prior to requesting action.

Background: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides formula funding in the form of the 5310 Program to states and designated recipients to meet the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs. The RGVMPPO follows the LRGVDC's 5310 Program Management Plan (PMP) which describes the process for administering, managing, programming, selection, and overseeing the implementation of the projects.

D. Discussion and Action on FY 24-25 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment # 2 [Page 34](#)

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

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

Summary: Revising the UPWP to incorporate language pertaining to legal services from attorneys and engaging in hiring firm services.

Background: A UPWP is a biennial statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within the 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, timeframes for completing the work, the cost of the work, and the source(s) of funds.

E. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 2024-06 2023 Throughfare Plan Amendments [Page 75](#)

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

Presenter: **Alma Provencio, RGVMPPO GIS Specialist**

Summary: The RGVMPPO is presenting and seeking adoption of the 2023 Thoroughfare Plan Process amendments received. (Resolution 2024-06 to be presented to Policy Committee for Approval on February 28, 2024) The Amendments will be presented to County Commissioner's Courts in March upon Transportation Policy Board adoption.

Background: The RGVMPPO performs a yearly Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Process. Where planning partners throughout the region are asked to compare their jurisdiction's Right of Way (ROW) data with the RGVMPPOs UMAP Interactive Map Thoroughfare Plan Data and provide any amendments to the data reflected.

F. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 2024-04 regarding Federal Functional Classification of East Loop CSJ 0921-06-315 & Surrounding Facilities [Page 75](#)

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

Presenter: **Luis Diaz, RGVMPPO Interim Executive Director**

Summary: The RGVMPPO is presenting amendments to the current Federal Functional Classification network in support of East Loop. In addition, after thorough coordination with TxDOT and FHWA various facilities surrounding East Loop amendments are also being presented to accommodate FC amendments to East Loop. (Resolution 2024-04 to be presented to Policy Committee for Approval on February 28, 2024) Official Federal Functional Classification Packet is being developed by RGVMPPO staff in coordination with the CCRMA and TxDOT.

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.

G. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 2024-05 regarding the Federal Functional Classification of Russell Road [Page 82](#)

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

Presenter: Luis Diaz, RGVMPD Interim Executive Director

Summary: The RGVMPD is presenting FHWA Recommendation to further expand the Federal Functional Classification to plan for future developments. From Rooth Road Avenue To: Sugar Road (Resolution 2024-05 to be presented to Policy Committee for Approval on February 28, 2024) Official Federal Functional Classification Packet is being developed by RGVMPD staff in coordination with TxDOT.

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.

H. Discussion and Possible Action on Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA; also known as Category 9) Projects [Page 85](#)

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

Presenter: Eva Garcia, RGVMPD Planner III

Summary: RGVMPD Staff will report the status of FY2019-2020 projects (working to reimburse funds), FY2021-2022 projects (working to obligate funds) and FY2023-2024 projects (recently programmed) to ensure transparency with the RGVMPD's policymakers and transportation officials. Members may take action by acknowledging the update as presented or members may choose to recommend award changes on one or more of the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) projects.

Background: RGVMPD Staff has been regularly communicating with RGVMPD TAC & Policy Members regarding TASA projects to ensure the timely obligation and reimbursement of programmed funds. Staff continues to work with the Texas Department of Transportation Pharr District (TxDOT) and Local Government (LG) project sponsors to provide these updates to RGVMPD Members. Thank you to all those involved for their continued communication and coordination.

V. Presentations & Reports

A. Presentation and Discussion regarding Greenhouse Gas Emissions Deadline [Page 96](#)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Klarissa Gonzalez, RGVMPPO Transportation Planner I

Summary: As the result of a newly established performance measure intended to improve environmental sustainability, all MPOs (attainment and nonattainment) are now required to measure and report 4-year declining targets of tailpipe CO2 emissions resulting from transportation on the National Highway System. The RGVMPPO will establish a regional target based off the set statewide target no later than August 1st. Performance measurement and reporting will utilize the calculated annual tailpipe CO2 emissions from the year 2022 as a baseline. This process will be repeated with new baseline calculations and set targets in four years.

Background: On December 7th, 2023, FHWA released a final rule to amend the Code of Federal Regulations establishing a new performance measure related to tailpipe greenhouse gas emissions resulting from transportation on the National Highway System. MPOs must adopt targets no later than 180 days after the State targets are adopted. There are no specific penalties for failing to achieve GHG targets, but if it is determined that significant progress is not made, the state DOT must document actions that will be taken to achieve its target in the future.

B. Presentation and Discussion regarding the Congestion Management Process Subcommittee [Page 104](#)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Klarissa Gonzalez, RGVMPPO Transportation Planner I

Summary: The RGVMPPO is inviting stakeholders to join a subcommittee consisting of 5 to 10 members aimed at contributing insight and feedback towards the development of a Congestion Management Process. This subcommittee will convene virtually once a month in March, April, and May, totaling three meetings. Discussions will revolve around establishing regional goals for alleviating traffic congestion, assessing congestion challenges and requirements, and pinpointing strategies for implementation. To participate in this subcommittee, please send your contact details to kgonzalez@RGVMPO.org.

Background: The Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a federally mandated document sustained by Metropolitan Planning Organizations with populations over 200,000. The purpose of a CMP is to identify, analyze, and monitor traffic congestion in urban areas to provide data-driven implementation strategies that are to be evaluated for effectiveness over time. The RGVMPPO is required to have this document completed by August for the 2024 certification review.

C. RGVMPPO Executive Director's Report and Updates [Page 109](#)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Luis Diaz, RGVMPPO Interim Executive Director

Summary:

1. Budget Update
2. RGVMPPO individual meeting request (aestrada@rgvmppo.org)
3. Project Readiness Subcommittee Meeting Scheduled for Thursday, March 14th at 11:30AM (In-person; following regular TAC meeting.
4. MPO101 Follow Up

D. TxDOT Project Status Report [Page 111](#)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: TxDOT Pharr Area Office Staff

E. Cameron County RMA [Page 145](#)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Eric Davila, Cameron County Chief Development Engineer

F. Hidalgo County RMA [Page 196](#)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Ramon Navarro, Hidalgo County RMA Chief Construction Engineer

G. Transit Report [Page 217](#)

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Jon Jay Bocanegra, McAllen Metro

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

- A. The next RGVMPPO Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm on March 27, 2024.