

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

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 10:30 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The RGVMPPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by David Hernandez, Chair, at 10:30 A.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		Nancy Sanchez
UTRGV	Rodney Gomez	Pablo Aguilar
TPWD	Javier De Leon	Orlando Carranco
Bike/Ped Citizen	Nina Torkelson	Robert Ordaz
Bike/Ped Citizen	Richard Cavin	
Bike/Ped Citizen	Michael McNew	Jon Ray Bocanegra

Other Attendees:

- Javier Mendez, City of Harlingen
- Evelyn Garza, VBLF
- Herbert Camacho, City of McAllen

RGVMPO Staff:

- Luis Diaz, Interim Director
- Melany Rodriguez, GIS Specialist/Planner I
- Rudy Zamora, Planner II
- Miguel Arispe, Planner III
- Klarissa Gonzalez, Planner I
- Eva Garcia, Planner III Bike/Ped Program Coordinator

III. CITIZENS INPUT

No comments were made.

BPAC Minutes Approved
March 6, 2024

IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of November 1, 2023

The Minutes of the November 1, 2023, RGVMPPO BPAC Meeting was presented. Chris Nelson, City of Brownsville, made the motion to approve the Minutes of November 1, 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 RGVMPPO BPAC Bylaws Amendments

Eva reviewed the proposed BPAC Bylaw Amendments, the BPAC Membership Amendments, and the BPAC Membership Application Amendments. Javier Medez, City of Harlingen, asked if the current applications will need to be tossed aside due to the amendments, Eva responded with the consideration of currently submitted application will still be used but will take on the new bylaw membership definition amendments. Javier Mendez continues with considerations to change TxDOT BPAC current membership to ex-officio instead of voting member. Jon Bocanegra, Citizen at-large, asked about TxDOT's membership status in the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and Luis, RGVMPPO, mentioned TxDOT is a voting member in TAC. Richard Cavin, Citizen at-large, mentioned he would like TxDOT to stay as a voting member. David Hernandez, Chair, asked for an update on the geographic equitable representation across the region for the BPAC. David Hernandez, Chair, made a motion to approve the bylaw amendments as is, and come back later with the correction to the last sentence in the bylaws, the geographic equal representation update, and the potential ex-officio agencies. The motion was seconded by Alma Salinas, Sullivan, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

C. Presentation and Discussion regarding the Hidalgo County Active Transportation and Active Tourism Plan

Emmanuel Escobedo, Valley Metro, presented the updates for the Hidalgo County Active Transportation and Active Tourism Plan. This plan will be composed of the current and proposed network within Hidalgo County, and the main purpose of this plan is to attract tourism. There will be a steering committee to assist with the engagement process for the plan. Eva mentioned some stakeholders to include would be VORB and USFWS. Velinda Reyes, Hidalgo County, will contact Eva and Emmanuel with the names for the other county offices to be included in the steering committee. **No action was taken.**

D. Presentation and Discussion on RGVMPPO Active Transportation Plan Initiatives

Eva reviewed the RGVMPPO Active Transportation Plan Initiatives, which included:

1. Planning & Design

- 1.1 New initiative of Design Standards led by Klarissa Gonzalez, RGVMPPO,
- 1.2 The Active Transportation Facility Inventory, led by Melany Rodriguez, RGVMPPO,
- 1.3 RGV Bicycle & Pedestrian Counter Data Program, Lead by Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO,
- 1.4 Regional Data Portal, Led by Miguel Arispe, RGMVPO,

Rose Gown, Caracara Trails, commented that there should be another priority initiative to connect the proposed routes from Hidalgo County to Cameron County's active transportation network after the Hidalgo County active plan is set.

2. Policy & Program

- 2.1 Complete Streets, led by Klarissa Gonzalez, RGVMPPO
- 2.4 Advisory Committee, led by Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO with assistance from Melany Rodriguez, RGVMPPO, Chirs Nelson, City of Brownsville, commented, the eligibility for other cities to apply for demonstration funds, since the MPO has the complete streets, initiatives incorporated within the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan. Chris further commented on the City of Brownsville success in securing a demonstration grant. Also, once the SS4A plan is complete, cities within our region will be eligible to apply for implementation funding.

3. Education & Encouragement

- 3.1 Bikeshare, led by Tom Logan, Valley Metro,
 - 3.3 New initiative Walk & Bike Month, led by Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO,
 - 3.4 Media Awareness Campaign, led by Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO,
- Rose Gown, Caracara Trails, advised to bring awareness to the need to report bike/ped accidents for more accurate data on crashes.

4. Safety

- 4.1 Law Enforcement Trainings, led by Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO,

4.3 Safe Streets for All Action Plan, led by Melany Rodriguez, RGVMPPO,
5. Active Tourism

5.1 USBRS Designation, led by Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO,
Eva also presented the BPAC Priorities and planned schedule for discussion on each initiative. David Hernandez, Chair, mentioned some cycling events that will be occurring this year. Rose Gowen, Caracara Trails mentioned counter data of 200,000 trips on the City of Brownsville trails which will benefit future application to grants. **No action was taken.**

V. PROJECT UPDATES

- FY19-20
 - Updates on the reimbursement phase for the TASA projects for the FY 2019-2020 Program Call.
- FY21-22
 - Updates on the Ready to Let phase updates for the TASA projects for the FY 2021-2022 Program Call.
- FY23-24
 - Updates on the execution of AFA's initial project development phase updates for the TASA projects for the FY 2023-2024 Program Call.

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Jon Bocanegra, Citizen at-large, commented on McAllen's Vision Zero Plan.
- Rose Gowen, Caracara Trails, expressed the BPAC presentation is a lot of work and clear way to set the tone for the year.
- David Hernandez, VORBA, asked how municipalities would apply for bike/ped counters? VORBA is affiliated with Eco-Counters and can get temporary counters if needed. Eva explained we currently do not have a budget for the counters. City of Mission and Edinburg has expressed interest in securing counters for their trails. Eva stated, this topic will be brought back up for the March BPAC meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, David Hernandez, VORBA, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:38am. The motion was seconded by Rose Gowen, Caracara Trails, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously.**