

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RGVMPO)  
FULL TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024 – 1:30 PM**

*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 RGVMPO 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.
- IV. **Action & Discussion Items**

**A. Approval of Minute(s) for: February 28, 2024.**

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

**Presenter:**      **Commissioner David L. Fuentes, Chairman**

**Summary:**              Approval of the February 28, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes

**B. Discussion and Action on the May 2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Revision Cycle.**

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

**Presenter:**      **Rudy Zamora, RGVMPO Transportation Planner II**

**Summary:**      RGVMPO staff are amending our short-range and long-range planning & programming tables: TIP & MTP. A 30-day Public Involvement period will be held during the month of March. All revisions/modifications require TAC & TPB members' approval.

**Background:**      The Statewide TIP is updated quarterly and RGVMPO staff is revising the short-range Transportation Improvement Program, and long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (TIP & MTP). Public Involvement, both virtual and in-person, is scheduled from March 1 – March 31, 2024. All revisions and modifications require approval by our TAC & TPB members during the scheduled March meetings. Modifications have been identified on both TIP & MTP tables, and a summary sheet has been provided.

**C. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 16 Revisions**

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

**Presenter:**      **Eva Garcia, RGVMPO Planner III**

**Summary:**      RGVMPO staff will present a synopsis of the TAC Chapter 16 revisions and its potential impacts. Project details were discussed with Technical Advisory Committee members and Project Managers during the Project Readiness Workshop held on March 14, 2024. Transportation Policy Board members will be presented with a summary of the Workshop's outcomes and proposed next steps.

**Background:** The Texas Transportation Commission approved [Minute Order \(MO\) 116630](#) on January 17, 2024, officially amending the TAC. This MO impacts Transportation Allocation Funding Formulas for the Unified Transportation Program (UTP). The new TAC rules will require the RGVMPPO to increase allocation utilization and decrease carryover to avoid the transfer of Category 7 funds exceeding the 200% fiscal year allocation threshold.

**D. Discussion and Action to approve Resolution 2024-09 Re-programming of FY2021-2022 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA; Category 9) Funds**

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

**Presenter:**      **Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO Planner III**

**Summary:** RGVMPPO Staff continues to review and monitor TASA projects to ensure regional funds are successfully obligated and, ultimately, reimbursed in a timely manner. One of three planning projects that were awarded TASA funds has been forfeited. Staff recommends splitting the award amount between the two other planning projects, which are active and in good standing.

**Background:** The FY2021-2022 TASA Program Schedule of Activities was developed by RGVMPPO Staff to clearly communicate milestones expected to be met by Local Governments (LGs) that have been awarded funds. March 2024 is the final deadline for RGVMPPO's decision-makers to consider funding/project changes. Recommendations for re-programming of funds will require Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) amendments.

**V. Presentations & Reports**

**A. Presentation and Discussion regarding the RGVMPPO's Bike/Ped Program (Annual Update)**

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

**Presenter:**      **Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO Planner III**

**Summary:** RGVMPPO Staff will present a synopsis of the various Bike/Ped programs and 2023 activities. This annual update will include information regarding the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee; regional Complete Streets Policy; and planned 2024 activities such as the development of the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan.

**Background:** The RGVMPPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Transportation Policy Board (TPB) adopted the RGVMPPO Active Transportation Plan (ATP) in December 2020. Several initiatives recommended for implementation within the ATP have been progressing and there is interest to kick off new initiatives.

## B. Presentation and Discussion regarding Carbon Reduction Program Projects

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:** Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO Planner III

**Summary:** RGVMPPO Staff will provide an update on the FY2024-FY2027 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Projects. Additionally, RGVMPPO Staff is working closely with TxDOT Pharr District Staff to determine a short-list of projects for future fiscal years of funding. This short list will be presented for transparency and discussion purposes at this time. Recommendation and Action will likely be requested in May pending FHWA concurrence on eligibility of the proposed short list.

**Background:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) authorized a new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) codified as 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) 175 in November 2021. The purpose of the CRP is to reduce transportation emissions through the development of State carbon reduction strategies and by funding projects designed to reduce transportation emissions. In addition to State apportionments, CRP funds are allocated for each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and are available for obligation for a period of 3 years after the last day of the fiscal year for which the funds are authorized (23 U.S.C. 118(b)). Any amounts apportioned or allocated that remain unobligated at the end of that period shall lapse.

## C. Presentation on RGVMPPO Attainment Status

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:** Klarissa Gonzalez, RGVMPPO Transportation Planner I

**Summary:** The Lower Rio Grande Valley continues to be designated as an attainment zone by the Environmental Protection Agency. According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), sensors in Mission and Harlingen are reporting a three-year current average of 53ppb and 54ppb respectively for Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) pollutant. Other MPOs that are in nonattainment areas, such as Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB), Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW), Beaumont-Port Arthur (BPA), El Paso (ELP), and San Antonio (SAT) are reporting three-year averages in the 60ppb-70ppb range.

**Background:** Clean Air Act set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the specific pollutants of Ozone, Particulate Matter, Carbon Dioxide, Sulfur Dioxide, and Lead. MPOs designated as being in a nonattainment area have strict rules to abide by regarding federal funds for transportation. Discussion at the February Policy Board Meeting during the GHG Measure presentation led to an expressed interest in the status of Air Quality in the Rio Grande Valley.

**D. Federal Functional Classification Status Update**

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

**Summary:** The RGVMPPO is providing a status update of recent Federal Functional Classification submittals and upcoming submittals.

**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.

**E. RGVMPPO Executive Director's Report and Updates**

Action                                       Possible Action                                       Information

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

**Summary:** 1. Budget Update

**F. TxDOT Project Status Report**

Action                                       Possible Action                                       Information

**Presenter:** TxDOT Pharr Area Office Staff

**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 **1:30 PM on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**