

**FULL POLICY BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, May 29, 2024 – 1:30 PM**

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RGVMPO)**

*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 specifying the matter you wish to address.

**IV. Action & Discussion Items**

**A. Approval of minutes for: April 24, 2024.**

**Action**

**Possible Action**

**Information**

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

**Summary:** Approval of the April 24, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes

**B. Discussion and Possible Action to Select a Professional Consulting Firm to Assist with the Recruitment and Hiring Process for the RGVMPO Executive Director Position**

**Action**

**Possible Action**

**Information**

**Presenter:** RGVMPO Hiring Committee & Manny Cruz, LRGVDC Executive Director

**Summary:** The Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO) Policy Board members are seeking approval to hire an executive recruiting firm for the purpose of filling the vacant leadership and management role of the executive director position for the RGVMPO.

**Background:** The RGVMPO Hiring Committee has been meeting periodically and most recent recently held meetings on Friday, May 24th to review potential firms listed on BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing and once again on Tuesday, May 28th to conduct interviews of the firms. The consensus of the RGVMPO Hiring Committee is that executive recruitment agencies tend to recruit for senior positions and would understand the needs of the RGVMPO. Unlike typical recruiting methods, which have not produced a positive outcome or candidates with the right skills sets and experience, executive recruiting will allow the organization to access a more qualified and diverse pool of candidates within the transportation industry. The focus will be on locating individuals who have the potential to have a positive impact on the entire RGVMPO region and make the changes necessary to sustain competitive advantages with other MPOs in Texas. They aim in finding a candidate that matches the role opening exactly to the RGVMPO's needs. Due to the meeting scheduled for May 28th and notice and posting of the board meeting agenda taking place prior, documentation on the recommendation from the hiring committee will be provided on the day of the RGVMPO Policy Board meeting.

**C. Discussion and Action on the FY 2025-2028 Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Document & Programming Tables**

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

**Presenter:**      **Rudy Zamora Jr., RGVMPPO Transportation Planner II**

**Summary:**      The FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program is under review and a 30-day public involvement process has begun. A comprehensive document has been prepared by RGVMPPO staff, including programming tables and supporting materials required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) & Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Both Technical Advisory Committee & Transportation Policy Board members' approval is needed before uploading documentation & programming tables to the E-STIP Portal.

**Background:**      Every two years, MPO's and Departments of Transportation prepare a new TIP with supporting materials including federal compliance, performance measures, resolutions, and programming tables for both TIP & MTP years. Public involvement for the FY 2025-2028 TIP will be held from May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Both in-person and online/social media outreach will be conducted by MPO staff. The deadline to upload our comprehensive document is June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**D. Discussion and Action regarding the Transit Asset Management (TAM) & the Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Targets**

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

**Presenter:**      **Rudy Zamora Jr., RGVMPPO Transportation Planner II**

**Summary:**      Transit Asset Management & Transportation Agency Safety Plan targets are required for TIP fiscal years 2025-2028. Our regional transit providers submit these targets to MPO staff to report as part of the FY 2025-2028 Comprehensive TIP submittal. FTA requires these targets be submitted to approve federal funding for listed projects. Both Technical Advisory Committee & Transportation Policy Board members' approval is needed before publishing these targets.

**Background:**      TAM & PTASP targets are reported by transit providers with the requirement from FTA that transit agencies and MPO's coordinate to the maximum extent practicable in selecting targets. MPO's are encouraged to provide resources and grant support where plausible in support of transit agencies achieving their targets. These measures will undergo public involvement during the month of May 2024 as part of our new FY 2025-2028 TIP development.

**E. Discussion and Action regarding Grouping of Category 10 – Carbon Reduction Program funded projects.**

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

**Presenter:**      **Rudy Zamora Jr., RGVMPPO Transportation Planner II**

**Summary:** RGVMPPO's Carbon Reduction projects qualify for grouping and MPO staff is asking for approval to program these allowable projects more efficiently. Grouped project categories for both Safety and Bicycle & Pedestrian will be utilized for TIP years, but projects will still be listed on our MTP programming tables for reference. TAC, TPB, and TXDOT TP&P approval are needed prior to execution of grouping.

**Background:** FHWA allows STIP/TIP projects to be grouped. Within the allowances, groupable projects are those of a common type/scope and those not considered to be appropriate for individual identification in a given program year. Grouped projects are not individually listed on STIP/TIP tables but are regularly monitored by MPO & TXDOT staff. Amendments to grouped projects are carried out administratively without need for public involvement or federal approval.

**F. Discussion and Action to Program FY28 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds to the Hidalgo County & City of Weslaco Hike & Bike Trail Phase I.**

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

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

**Summary:** RGVMPPO Staff, in coordination with TxDOT Pharr District, is recommending the programming \$1,179,724 of Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP; also known as Category 10) Funds to Hidalgo County & City of Weslaco's Hike & Bike Trail Phase I project. If approved, this project will be listed under the Grouped Project List in the RGVMPPO's FY2025-2028. This project should be prepared to be Ready-to-Let prior to FY2028. This discussion will be prefaced with an update on all programmed RGVMPPO CRP projects.

**Background:** In March, RGVMPPO Staff presented a shortlist of projects as potential candidates for FY28 CRP Funds, and the Hike & Bike Trail Phase I project was submitted to Federal Highway Administration for concurrence on eligibility. Since March, FHWA has notified TxDOT (who subsequently notified the RGVMPPO) that the project is eligible and may be programmed with the RGVMPPO's governing body's approval.

**G. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA)**

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

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

**Summary:** RGVMPPO 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 RGVMPPOs policymakers and transportation officials. Members may take action by acknowledging the update as presented or members may choose to recommend awards/funding changes on one, or more, of the Transportation Alternatives (TASA) projects.

**Background:** RGVMPPO Staff continues to communicate with RGVMPPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Transportation Policy Board (TPB) Members regarding TASA project 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) projects sponsors to provide these updates to RGVMPPO Members. Thank you to all those involved for their continued communication and coordination.

## V. Presentations & Reports

### A. Utilization & Carryover Updates

Action                                       Possible Action                                       Information

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

**Summary:**        Continuation of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 16 revisions discussion. RGVMPPO Staff will share new estimates.

**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 prevent the transfer of Category 7 funds exceeding the 200% fiscal year allocation threshold.

### B. RGVMPPO Executive Director's Report and Updates

Action                                       Possible Action                                       Information

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

**Summary:**        1. Budget Update  
                         2. Legal Services

### C. TxDOT Project Status Report

Action                                       Possible Action                                       Information

**Presenter:**        **TxDot Phar 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 1:30pm on June 26, 2024.