

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON MEETING  
May 9, 2024 - Minutes**

**I) CALL TO ORDER**

Benjamin Worsham – Chairman (Cameron County) called the TAC Meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The TAC Meeting was held in person.

**II) ROLL CALL**

**RGVTAC Representatives in attendance were as follows:**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	
<b>ENTITY</b>	<b>VOTING MEMBERS</b>
Cameron County	Benjamin Worsham, Chairman
Hidalgo County RMA	Ramon Navarro
Hidalgo County	Armando Garza, Jr.
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza
City of McAllen	Rene Gonzalez
City of Edinburg	Mardoqueo Hinojosa
City of Harlingen	Roberto Hernandez
City of Mission	JP Terrazas
City of Pharr	Absent
City of San Benito	Johanna Maldonado
Starr County	Absent
TxDot Pharr District	Dora E. Robles
Valley Metro	Nancy Sanchez
Cameron County RMA	Eric Davila
Brownsville Metro	Simon Ortiz
McAllen Metro	Jon Ray Bocanegra
Port of Brownville	Absent
Port of Harlingen	Absent
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	Jose Morales
Cameron County Spaceport Dev Corp.	Absent
<b>GUESTS</b>	
RGVMPO Interim- Executive Director	
LRGDVC	Javier Dominguez
RGVMPO Staff	

**III) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments

**IV) CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of April 11, 2024

Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any corrections to the minutes and no corrections or comments were noted to the minutes.

**Chairman Benjamin Worsham to approve the minutes.**

**Johanna Maldonado from the City of San Benito made a motion to approve the minutes as presented,**

which was seconded by Eric Davila from the Cameron County RMA.

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

Rudy Zamora presented an overview of the FY 2025-2028 Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document and programming tables; the following are key points from the presentation.

Public Involvement:

- Public involvement period scheduled from May 1st to May 31st.
- Public involvement kickoff event scheduled for today from 2 to 4 pm.
- The goal is to gather feedback and bring a finalized draft to the policy board for approval.

Amendments and Updates:

- Summary of amendments includes two projects from the City of McAllen requesting additional Category 7 funds:
- Bentsen Road: Requesting an additional \$10 million.
- Nolana Loop: Requesting an additional \$8.62 million.

Discussion on reallocating funds or moving other projects to accommodate these requests.

Eric Davila inquired if the discussion should take place now or during the workshop.

Rodolfo Zamora explained that it can be discussed now or during the project readiness meeting and highlighted the need to identify matching Category 7 funds.

Ramon Navarro suggested moving forward with the project readiness process and keeping projects prepared in case funding becomes available.

Rene Gonzalez (City of McAllen): Noted that both projects are on schedule and emphasized the city's commitment to moving them forward.

Chairman Ben Worsham asked if the City of McAllen has a contingency plan (Plan B) if the funding is not secured. Rene Gonzalez: Confirmed they have a plan B.

Chairman Ben Worsham requested clarification on recommendations and alternatives for voting. Rodolfo Zamora suggested approving the TIP with the current amendments and monitoring available funding, with the possibility of adjusting if necessary.

Jose Morales asked if there is a list of projects not moving forward for today's vote. Rodolfo Zamora clarified that today's vote is on the proposed summary sheet for the new TIP, and adjustments can be made before the policy board meeting.

Eric Davila requested information on the financial constraints and the amount needed to be adjusted. Rodolfo Zamora explained the need to address carryover funds and provided an estimate of the funding gap based on the previous TIP and current allocations.

Chairman Ben Worsham confirmed there are no adverse effects to the rest of the projects on the TIP if approved. Rodolfo Zamora reassured that all projects on the TIP need to be programmed and are crucial for fiscal constraint concerns.

Eric Davila suggested that information be shared sooner for better decision-making. Rodolfo Zamora explained the benefits of grouping certain projects to streamline the approval process and avoid STIP revision cycles.

**Armando Garza Jr., motioned to approve from Hidalgo County. Eric Davila seconded the motion from Cameron County RMA. Chairman Ben Worsham acknowledged the motion and second to approve the FY 2025-2028 Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Document & Programming Tables. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Rudy Zamora provided an overview of the federal requirements for Transit Asset Management (TAM) and Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) targets for the upcoming TIP fiscal years 2025-2028; the following are key points from the presentation.

- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) mandates the inclusion of Transit Asset Management and safety performance targets in the TIP for fiscal years 2025-2028.
- A template has been shared with regional transit providers to gather the necessary information for publication in the comprehensive document.
- Final numbers from transit providers are still pending but are expected before the document's publication.

**Chairman Ben Worsham opened the floor for questions regarding the TAM and PTASP targets, no questions were raised. Armando Garza Jr. motioned to approve from Hidalgo County. Nancy Sanchez seconded the motion from Valley Metro. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Rudy Zamora Rodolfo Zamora presented the proposal to group Category 10 CRP funded projects into the existing project group list, which includes safety, bicycle, and pedestrian projects. This grouping would streamline the approval process and avoid STIP revision cycles while awaiting federal approval. Supportive literature was provided from the upcoming TIP/STIP guidance for 2025-2028, explaining the rationale behind project grouping and qualification criteria. A summary sheet was provided detailing the projects to be grouped and any amendments to existing grouped projects. All CRP projects currently listed in the fiscal year 2023-2026 TIP qualify for grouping and will be added to the new TIP in their programmed years.

Examples of CRP projects include:

- Stenger Street share use path (FY2025)
- Signal improvement projects in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties (FY2025)
- Southmost Nature Trail phases 3, 4, and 5 (FY2025, FY2026, FY2027)
- Los Fresnos hiking bike trail (FY2026)
- Bus curve cuts project in Brownsville (FY2027)
- Weslaco hike and bike trail phase one (FY2028)

**Chairman Ben Worsham opened the floor for questions and no questions were raised. Dora E. Robles (TxDOT) motioned to approve the grouping of Category 10 CRP projects. Joel Garza from the City of Brownsville seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Eva Garcia began with an overview of the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), also known as Category 10, and the process of receiving and allocating these funds. She provided a quarterly update on the status of CRP projects, emphasizing the importance of obligating funds before they lapse. Garcia mentioned the Pharr International Bridge commercial vehicle parking project, which required obligating its FY22 funds by FY24.

Dora E. Robles provided an update, confirming that the project had received an FPAA and bids would be opened on May 30th. Eva Garcia thanked Dora Robles for the update, noting the importance of timely obligation to avoid lapsing funds. She continued with updates on other projects, including the Stanger Street project with FY24 funding, and various projects programmed for FY25-26, such as the Southmost Nature Trail, Los Fresnos Hike and Bike Trail, and two signalization projects. She highlighted the need for continued coordination and development for these projects.

Dora E. Robles confirmed an executed AFAA for the Stanger Street project. Eva Garcia acknowledged the update and provided an overview of the later year projects for FY27-28 in the MTP. She explained the process of securing federal concurrence for the Hidalgo County & City of Weslaco Hike & Bike Trail Phase I project, which was shortlisted in March. Garcia requested action to approve the programming of \$1.18 million of FY28 CRP funds for this project.

**Chairman Ben Worsham opened the floor for questions and no questions were raised. Chairman Worsham called for a motion to approve the programming of funds. Armando Garza, Jr. from Hidalgo County motioned to approve the allocation. Ramon Navarro with Hidalgo County RMA seconded the motion.**

#### **F. TASA Update**

Eva Garcia provided an overview of the TASA funding process, explaining the three phases: programming, obligation, and reimbursement. She detailed the status of various project groups:

- 2019-2020 Projects: These are the oldest group and should be working towards reimbursement to bring federal dollars back.
- 2021-2022 Projects: These projects are programmed and should be working towards obligating the funding to secure the FPAA and advertise their projects.
- 2023-2024 Projects: Recently programmed and should be working towards executing advanced funding agreements to kick off project development.

Garcia noted that three projects had been rebid and received concurrence to award the contract.

Dora Robles clarified that the three projects are pending rebidding and set to open bids on May 30th.

Eva Garcia acknowledged the update and emphasized the importance of receiving the concurrence to award contracts before requesting reimbursements. She highlighted the progress of several projects that had received concurrence to award contracts and are moving towards reimbursement. Garcia also mentioned the termination of one 2021-2022 planning project, with funds reallocated to two other planning projects pending AFA amendments. She urged the City of Harlingen to work on their PIF to ensure timely amendments, noting that the remaining construction projects are actively progressing.

Armando Garza Jr. provided additional context on the terminated Hidalgo project, explaining that Hidalgo County Precinct Two had absorbed the project and would extend the hike and bike trail from Hidalgo to the City of Mission. He emphasized the county's commitment to supporting and developing hike and bike trails.

Local government representatives presented project updates. Eva Garcia expressed gratitude for the thoroughness of the updates and confirmed that they would be shared with the Policy Board during the next meeting.

Chairman Worsham asked if there were any motions to acknowledge the report. Mardoqueo Hinojosa from the City of Edinburg motioned to acknowledge the update. Johanna Maldonado from the City of San Benito seconded the motion.

#### **I) REPORTS AND UPDATES**

##### **A. RGVMPO Executive Director's Report and Updates**

Fernando Cantu presented an overview of the current budget status. Expenses through March have been recorded, with April's figures expected within the next two weeks. Year-to-date spending is 32.87% of the total budget, significantly under the projected 50% mark. Three contracts have been executed, and the corresponding invoices are anticipated to bring spending closer to projections.

Mr. Cantu opened the floor for questions or comments, and hearing none, Ben Worsham moved the meeting to the next agenda item.

##### **B. TxDOT Project Status Report**

Dora Robles provided a comprehensive overview of recent and upcoming TxDOT project lettings:

**City of Pharr DAP 16:** Three projects were bid on in late March and will be re-letting in late June.

**'I' Road:** The concurrence-to-award process is ongoing.

**Pharr International Bridge:** Bids were opened in April.

**May Lettings:** Three TASA projects (one with the City of Pharr, two with Cameron County) and the Nolana and Liberty Blvd projects (accelerated into FY2024) opened for bids on May 29th.

**Upcoming Lettings:** An on-system project is scheduled for early July, with additional projects planned for August.

Ms. Robles acknowledged the diligent efforts of all involved in maintaining the project schedules.

Chairman Ben Worsham opened the floor for questions, and hearing none, moved the meeting forward.

#### **III) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**IV) ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business to come before the RGVMPO TAC Members, Chairman Ben Worsham called for a motion to adjourn. Mardoqueo Hinojosa with the City of Edinburg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:37am. The motion was seconded by Roberto Hernandez with the City of Harlingen, meeting was adjourned.**