

FULL POLICY BOARD AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, September 28, 2022 – 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

Judge Eddie Trevino (Cameron County) called the TPB meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.. The TPB Meeting was held in person at the Ken Jones Board Room.

II) ROLL CALL

RGVMPO TPB Representatives in attendance were as follows:

Members Present:	
Entity	Individual
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Chairman) Com. David Garza (Alternate)
Hidalgo County	Comm. David L. Fuentes (Vice-Chairman) Comm. Ellie Torres (Alternate)
Starr County	Judge Eloy Vera (Designee) Comm. Raul Pena, III (Alternate)
City of Brownsville	Mayor Trey Mendez (Designee) Nurith Galonsky-Pinana (Alternate)
City of Edinburg	Mayor Ramiro Garza (Designee) Comm. Daniel “Dan” Diaz (Alternate)
City of Harlingen	Mayor Chris Boswell (Designee) Gabriel Gonzalez (Alternate)
City of McAllen	Mayor Javier Villalobos (Designee) CM Roy Rodriguez (Alternate)
City of Mission	Mayor Armando O’Caña (Designee) Comm. Jessica Ortega- Ochoa (Alternate)
City of Pharr	Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez (Designee) Comm. Daniel Chavez (Alternate)
City of San Benito	Mayor Ricardo “Rick” Guerra (Designee) Manuel De La Rosa (Alternate)
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr. (Designee) Arturo A. Nelson (Alternate)
Hidalgo County RMA	S. David Deanda Jr. (Designee) Ramon Navarro, V. (Proxy)
Valley Metro	Maribel Contreras (Designee) Jose Luis Silva (Alternate)
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro “Pete” Alvarez (Designee) Rex A. Costley (Alternate)
EX-OFFICIO	
RGV Partnership	Daniel Silva
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
GUEST	
Others Present:	
RGVMPO	Andrew Canon
RGVMPO	Staff

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of:

- **August 31, 2022**

Judge Trevino Chairman (Cameron County) asked if there were any corrections to the TAC minutes of August 31, 2022.

No corrections were noted to the minutes of August 31, 2022 TxDOT Item carried unanimously.

2. Presentation on the Executive Summary for the Spring 2022 CMP Multimodal Transportation Performance and Assesses Alternative Strategies

Steve Taylor with CoPlan, LLC provide a brief update presentation of the Spring 2022 CMP. The CMP is a regionally accepted approach for measuring congestion that provides accurate, up-to-date information on multimodal transportation performance and assesses alternative strategies or mitigating congestion that meets state and local needs. While a CMP is required in urbanized areas of over 200,000. The CMP Analysis has been underway since March 2022.

CoPlan will be providing an update to Policy Board on study development and update as well as providing possible additional actions the RGVMPPO may wish to undertake to address identified areas of concern and operational improvement updates.

After some discussion on this item, Chairman Trevino, along with TPB members present acknowledged and thanked Mr. Taylor for his presentation and insight on how to proactively improve Multimodal Transportation Performance and Assesses Alternative Strategies.

3. Discussion and Action to Extend the Winter Congestion Study Contract

Andrew Canon presented the contract extension from October 24, 2022, to September 29, 2023 to perform analysis of the 172 priority intersections identified at a contract cost of \$383,936.00.

After discussion and clarification from Mr. Canon and committee members present on the scope of work the item was motion made by Chairman Trevino and second by City of Edinburg item unanimously approved.

4. Discussion and Action on Category 7 Funding Requests for Highway Projects

Rudy explained how prioritized requests for Category 7 funding have been previously reviewed by TAC & TPB members. It was recommended by our chairman that staff meet with planning partners that still needed to do so. Staff met and finalized pending requests and have selected the highest priority projects for additional funding. Rudy added that staff is available to address any concerns regarding the projects listed within the TPB meeting packet, or any other projects in concern. MPO staff will conduct the required 30-day public involvement during the month of October. MPO staff is kindly requesting TPB members' final review and approval before preparing drafts of our short and long-range planning tables.

Vice Chairman Fuentes mentioned the meetings held and projects proposed as being very helpful but there are still concerns regarding projects that did not receive additional funding. It would have been nice to fund all projects, but it is also important to avoid delaying projects from going to construction. AFA's need to be created and with an investment of millions of dollars per project, it is frustrating to place project's completion on hold for years at a time. The chairman also mentioned that moving forward with the projects proposed is acceptable but we as an organization should continue to find ways to fund our projects and move them into construction.

Rudy communicated that a listing of all projects requiring additional funding was included within the packet and Chairman Trevino elaborated that it is imperative to remember all projects listed as priorities and to continue to address these needs as time progresses. Mayor Hernandez commended TPB members for working together to establish these priorities with regional connectivity and overall improvement in mind.

TxDOT chose to abstain from voting but a motion to approve was made by the City of Pharr, Mayor Hernandez and was seconded by the Mayor of Mission. The item was unanimously approved.

5. Discussion on the RGV Thoroughfare Plan Amendment

Luis Diaz provided an overview of the yearly thoroughfare plan amendment process.

All amendments are reflected on the RGVMPPO UMAP Interactive Map for viewing by developers and planners. All amendments are to be accompanied by a city ordinance when coming from a city, amendments submitted by county are to be accompanied by a letter signed by county commissioner as RGVMPPO resolution of amendments is presented to County Commissioner's Courts. The Deadline for Thoroughfare Plan Amendments is December 21, 2022.

Mr. Canon mentioned the importance of updating the thoroughfare plan was presented as early right of way acquisition is key for cost saving for future projects.

Item was approved unanimously by board.

6. Presentation and Discussion on RGVMPPO Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (Category 9) Funds

Eva Garcia presented shared visuals of the RGV Bicycle and Pedestrian Counter Program, the RGV Active Transportation Facility Inventory, and the Transportation-Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program. Eva shared a map showing where all the bike/ped counters were in the region, highlighting that the highest trail user counts were seen at San Benito's Resaca Heavin Trail. She also stated that the goal of the facility inventory was to create a regional standard for the data, to include attributes like trail width and surface material. Additionally, for the planning of future trails for the development of a truly multimodal transportation system, proposed active transportation routes and transit routes will be added to the RGV Active Transportation Map. Commissioner Fuentes encouraged RGVMPPO Staff to contact his office as they had recently completed a large inventory of data that would likely complement the facility inventory. Eva then focused the conversation to the TASA projects, stating that there is a growing concern that the FY2019-2020 projects may not obligate their funds by the August 2023 deadline, even after RGVMPPO and TxDOT staff had worked with Project Sponsors to reduce barriers identified during project development. She also shared that there were only three of the six FY2021-2022 projects that had executed their Advanced Funding Agreements (AFA) in the last year since they were awarded. Eva concluded that there is an estimate of over \$11-million coming for the FY2023-2024 program, but the region has struggled to obligate \$2-4million in projects over the last five years. After some discussion, the Policy members asked Eva to return with more information regarding each project so they can determine if they need to potentially terminate projects or re-program funding.

V. RGVMPPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UPDATES

Financial Update

Andrew provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a (24.74%) positive trend. Report filed with the August 11, 2022, RGV TAC Packet.

Item Summary: Category 7, Metropolitan Mobility (STBG) Funding - for the selection of regionally significant Off-System Projects in consultation with TxDOT - RGVMPPO staff are presenting for consideration and possible adoption an updated resolution supporting the long-adhered policy of Category 7 funding being capped at the amounts approved by the TPB upon adoption at the August 31, 2022, Policy Meeting.

Item Summary: Policy Meetings November and December 2022 - Staff is recommending to the Policy Board to combine the Policy meetings for (November and December) and that it be held on December 14, 2022.

VI) STATUS REPORTS

A. TxDOT Project Status Report

(TxDOT) provided an updated TxDOT Project Status Report within the RGVMPPO area.

B. Cameron County RMA

Eric Davila (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. All projects are moving forward as scheduled.

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Ramon Navarro, (Hidalgo County RMA) provided an updated presentation on projects that are currently within the Hidalgo County RMA.

D. Regional Transit Report

Nancy Sanchez with Valley metro provided ridership statistics for the region

VII) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recommendation made by Commissioner Fuentes for the Region to consolidate thoughts and approach for the 88th Annual Legislative Session

VIII) ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the RGVMPPO TPB Members, Vice Chairman Fuentes called for a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN