

**FULL POLICY BOARD AGENDA**

**POLICY BOARD MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 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**

**II. Roll Call**

**III. Public Comments** – Maybe submitted online or maybe submitted in paper form specifying the matter you wish to address.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

**1. Approval of Minutes:**

**January 19, 2022**

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

**Presenter:**                      **Judge Eddie Trevino, Jr., Chairman**

**Item Summary:**                      Approval of the January 19, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item “A” will be requested.

**Background:**                      N/A

**2. Discussion and Action on Adopting Safety Targets Established by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) and Resolution 2022-03**

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

**Presenter:**                      **Miguel Arispe, GIS Specialist II**

**Item Summary:**                      Staff is seeking approval to support the 2022 Safety Targets as adopted by TXDOT

**Background:**                      Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act requires the implementation of Performance Measures to assist in the transportation planning process. TXDOT has adopted its Strategic Highway Safety Plan and has established targets for 5 Safety Performance measures. The RGVMPO TPB has chosen to support the State’s safety performance previously for 2018 through 2021. Staff is seeking approval to continue to do so for the 2022 TXDOT Safety Performance Targets.

**3. Discussion and Action on 2021 Thoroughfare Plan Amendments and Resolution 2022-04**

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

**Presenter:**      **Luis Diaz, Assistant Director**

**Item Summary:** The RGVMPO is presenting the received 2021 Annual Thoroughfare Plan Amendment process submittals for approval supported by a resolution contained in the packet for consideration

**Background:** The RGVMPO performs an annual amendment process towards the Rio Grande Valley Thoroughfare Plan Map. The RGV Thoroughfare Map serves a collection of all ROW designations and reservation of facilities of a ROW of 80' or above.

**4. Discussion and Action on Federal Functional Classification Requests and Resolution 2022-05**

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

**Presenter:**      **Luis Diaz, Assistant Director**

**Item Summary:** The RGVMPO is presenting projects requesting Federal Functional Classification of East Loop CSJ.

**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.

5. **Discussion and Action on the FY2019-2020 TASA Program and Resolution 2022-06 to Approve Amendments to PSLA Tri-City Pedestrian Safety Improvements Phase II (CSJ 0921-02-432).**

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

**Presenter:**      **Eva Garcia, Planner III: BikePed Program Coordinator**

**Item Summary:** To ensure regional FY 2019 funds are obligated by September 2022, Staff recommends the approval of Resolution 2022-06. The City of Pharr, as the project sponsor, has been coordinating with the cities of San Juan and Alamo. Both communities support the changes to the project.

**Background:** RGVMPPO Staff continues to review and monitor projects that have been awarded TASA funds. Through the project development process, some challenges and changes have been discussed. RGVMPPO Staff, and our TxDOT partners, intend to continue to ensure transparency with the RGVMPPO's policymakers and transportation professionals.

6. **Discussion and Action on the Draft 2023 UTP CAT 2 Projects**

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

**Presenter:**      **Melba Schaus, TxDOT**

**Item Summary:** A number of Cat 2 Projects in the 2022 UTP have shifted out a year due to fiscal constraint and/or project development. These changes are represented by the red text **(See Attachment)**.

**Background:** Funding used was based off the 2022 UTP since 2023 UTP funding targets have not yet been provided. Updated information may be available mid to late February.

7. **Discussion on GIS Data Requests**

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

**Presenter:**      **Fernando Cantu, GIS Specialist II**

**Item Summary:** We are looking to update our City Limit and ETJ boundary data. We would like to take this opportunity to request all planning partners please provide the most up to date data preferably in GIS Format if not available please provide in PDF format. Deadline to submit: March 4th, 2022

**Background:** These vital data sets will allow the MPO to plan for the RGV's future transportation needs. Please take a moment to visit our online interactive mapping tool RGVMPPO UMAP and please keep in mind that if any data discrepancies are identified; please notify our office to allow us to work amending data to reflect most accurately.

**8. Discussion on Updates for the FY 2023-2026 TIP Tables & 2045 MTP Amendment # 6 – Project Update Workshop**

Action       Possible Action       Information

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

**Item Summary:** The FY 2023-2026 Highway & Transit TIP tables will undergo development prior to submitting to TXDOT TP&P for review. All projects selected for inclusion within the new TIP will require an update. The RGVMPPO MTP will also need project updates and must be adjusted to account for inflation. A workshop has been scheduled to generally inform, address various concerns, provide guidance on updates, and review scoring of projects. Workshop date and time: March 17th @ 2:00 PM (via Microsoft Teams)

**Background:** Existing projects (whether programmed into TIP or MTP years) and new projects will require submission of an update. The RGVMPPO Project Update Form can be found on our website and a link will be provided via the TPB meeting packet. Now that TAC members approved a date and time for conducting a workshop, the following material will be covered: The Project Update Form, Letting Year vs. Current Construction Cost, Advance Funding Agreements, Functional Classification, Funding Projects as they Advance into TIP fiscal years, Scoring of Projects, and a timetable for the FY 2023-2026 TIP approval.

**9. Discussion on Updates from Federal Highway Administration for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Overview of Highway, Transit, and Other**

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Javier Dominguez, Transportation Planner I

**Item Summary:** This is the first of many updates from RGVMPPO Staff regarding the newly signed Infrastructure BIL and the verbiage from FHWA and dollar amounts that are allocated on the national and state level to each of the new, expanded, and existing programs.

**Background:** On August 10th, 2021, the Senate passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, and it was later passed by the House of Representatives on November 5th, 2021. Ten Days later President Biden signed the BIL into Law and this is the first update from the Federal Highway Administration with numbers on the national and state level.

## 10. Discussion on a Regional Complete Streets Policy

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Chris Nelson, Transportation Planner I

**Item Summary:** RGVMPPO Staff is seeking feedback on a prospective Regional Complete Streets Policy. The Regional Complete Streets Policy is intended to focus on the incorporation of Complete Streets language into MPO planning documents, including the MTP and TIP. Project scoring criteria related to Complete Streets can be developed and incorporated into the scoring system for proposed projects, thus ensuring projects are more equitable to all users of the transportation network.

**Background:** According to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), SEC. 11206, MPO's must use "not less than 2.5% of the amounts made available to the metropolitan planning organization under Section 104(d) of Title 23, United States Code" to carry out Complete Streets planning activities. Complete Streets Policies have shown to decrease the number of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities, increase the number of bicycle and pedestrian users on streets, and increase connectivity to key destinations for all users.

## 11. Discussion on MPO Resources for Municipal Complete Streets Policies

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Chris Nelson, Transportation Planner I

**Item Summary:** RGVMPPO Staff is also seeking feedback on providing resources to municipal partners to assist with the development of their own Municipal Complete Streets Policies. Municipal Complete Streets Policies directly contribute to the safety of all transportation system users by improving the design of streets within the city's limits and ETJ.

**Background:** As previously mentioned, MPO's are required to participate in Complete Streets planning activities. Thus far in the region, only two municipalities have adopted Complete Streets Policies, with a third municipality currently working towards doing so. Providing resources, such as a Complete Streets Handbook, can facilitate the adoption of Municipal Complete Streets Policies.

**12. Discussion on Critical Urban Freight Corridor (CUFC) Re-Designations**

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:**                      **RGVMPO Staff**

**Item Summary:** In coordination with TxDOT the RGVMPO is reviewing designated Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFC). CUFC listing is included in meeting packet. Re-designations of current CUFC have a deadline of March 15<sup>th</sup> to TxDOT.

**Background:** As part of the 2023 Texas Freight Mobility Plan development, an opportunity to update the Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFC) which become part of the National Highway Freight Network. For the 2018 freight plan, Hidalgo submitted a total of 30.61 miles; in addition, Brownsville was selected for 9.15 miles. The combined mileage figure for the RGVMPO is 39.76 miles.

**V. RGVMPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UPDATES**

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:**                      **Andrew A. Canon, RGVMPO**

**Item Summary:**                      **Financial Update**

**Item Summary:**                      **CAT 7 Project Scoring**

**Item Summary:**                      **Texas Transportation Forum  
February 6-8, 2022  
San Antonio**

**2022 TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference  
May 2-5, 2022  
Houston**

**VI. Status Report**

**A. TxDOT Project Status Report**

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:**                      **TxDOT**

**B. Cameron County RMA**

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:**                      **Pete Sepulveda**

**C. Hidalgo County RMA**

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:**                      **Eric Davila**

**D. Regional Transit Metro**

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:**                      **Antonio Zubieta**

**VII. Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

**VIII. Next Meeting:** The next RGVMPO Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at **1:30 pm**.