

AGENDA

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, February 10, 2022 – 10:00 AM
RIO GRANDE VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RGVMPO)

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Virtual Meeting

KEN JONES BOARDROOM
301 West Railroad
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 Minute(s) for:**

December 2, 2021

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

Presenter: **JP Terrazas, TAC Chairman**

Item Summary: Approval of the December 2, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item “A” will be requested.

Background: N/A

January 16, 2022 - No Meeting Held

2. **Discussion and Update on the RGVMPO BikePed Program**

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

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

Item Summary: RGVMPO Staff will report on the current status and upcoming activities of various BikePed projects and programs. The annual update will include information regarding: CAT 9 (TASA) project developments; RGVMPO BPAC Working Groups; RGV Traffic Safety Initiative; RGV Bicycle and Pedestrian Counter Data Program; RGV Transportation Alternatives Facility Inventory; and RGV B-Cycle (BikeShare) Program.

Background: To ensure transparency with the RGVMPPO's policymakers and transportation professionals, RGVMPPO Staff will report on the status of all active transportation alternatives project funded through the RGVMPPO's Category 9 (TASA) funds/apportionment. Additionally, the RGVMPPO Technical Advisory Committee and Transportation Policy Board approved/adopted the RGVMPPO Active Transportation Plan (ATP) in December 2020. In the last year, since its adoption, several initiatives recommended for implementation within the ATP have been progressing, and new initiatives are kicking-off.

3. Discussion and Action on the FY2019-2020 TASA Program

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

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

Item Summary: RGVMPPO Staff continues to review and monitor projects that have been awarded TASA funds. To ensure regional FY 2019 funds are obligated by September 2022, staff has been working with local government agencies to collect project updates. This presentation will highlight project challenges and potential changes that may be considered to amend AFAs, or otherwise provide clarification on how to proceed.

Background: 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. After the presentation, staff will be seeking feedback and guidance from TAC members.

4. Discussion and Action on 2021 Thoroughfare Plan Amendments

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

Presenter: **Luis Diaz, Assistant Director**

Item Summary: The RGVMPPO 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 RGVMPPO performs an annual amendment process towards the Rio Grande Valley Thorough Fare Plan Map. The RGV Thoroughfare Map serves a collection of all ROW designations and reservation of facilities of a ROW of 80' or above.

5. Discussion and Action on Federal Functional Classification Requests

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.

6. Discussion and Action on Adopting Safety Targets Established by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT)

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.

7. 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.

8. 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 RGVMPO 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

9. Discussion on Updates for the FY 2023-2026 TIP Tables & 2045 MTP Amendment # 6 – Scheduling a 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 RGVMPO MTP will also need project updates and must be adjusted to account for inflation. A workshop may be scheduled to address concerns and provide guidance regarding project updates. Proposed workshop date and time: **Doodle Poll results pending - (via Microsoft Teams)**

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

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

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

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: RGVMPPO Staff

Item Summary: In coordination with TxDOT the RGVMPPO 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 15th 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 RGVMPPO is 39.76 miles.

V. RGVMPPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UPDATES

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Andrew A. Canon, RGVMPPO

Item Summary: Financial Update

Item Summary: CAT 7 Project Scoring

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

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. McAllen Metro

Action Possible Action Information
Presenter: Jon Bocanegra

E. Brownsville Metro

Action Possible Action Information
Presenter: Antonio Zubieta

F. Valley Metro

Action Possible Action Information
Presenter: Nancy Sanchez

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 "Virtual Meeting" of the RGVMPPO Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled for **10:00 am on March 10, 2022.**