

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

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, February 3, 2021  
AT  
11:00 A.M.**

**AGENDA**

**VIA – Microsoft Teams**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. CITIZENS INPUT / PUBLIC COMMENT**

**IV. PRESENTATION, ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of January 6, 2021

B. Discussion on Implementation of the RGVMPO Active Transportation Plan

- Review survey responses

**V. PROJECT UPDATES**

**VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

# Meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

At  
11:00 AM

## Microsoft Teams Minutes

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held VIA WebEx and called to order by RGVMPPO BPAC Chair Rose Gowen, at 11:00 AM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

<b>BPAC MEMBERS:</b>	
<b>Entity</b>	<b>Individual</b>
Bicycle / Ped Health Advocate	Rose Gowen (Chair) PRESENT
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Michael McNew (Vice Chair) PRESENT
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza PRESENT
	Mark Lund PRESENT
City of Edinburg	Larry Ayala PRESENT
City of Harlingen	Andy Vigstol PRESENT
	Javier Mendez PRESENT
City of McAllen	Marlen Garza PRESENT
	Martina Mejia PRESENT
City of Pharr	Cynthia Garza PRESENT
	Omar Anzaldua PRESENT
Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge	Christine Donald
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – Estero Llano Grande	Javier De Leon PRESENT
TxDOT	Craig Wuensche PRESENT
	Joseph E. Leal PRESENT
Valley Metro – B-Cycle	Juan Macias PRESENT
Valley Metro	Frank Jaramillo PRESENT
Bicycle World RGV	Ana Adame
Citizen At-Large	Eudenia “Eudy” Carrillo
Museum South Texas History	Rene A. Ballesteros PRESENT
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Richard Cavin PRESENT
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Michael Padgett
<b>STAFF</b>	
RGVMPPO	Andrew A. Canon
	Luis Diaz
	Rudy Zamora
	Crystal Gonzalez
	Gloria Banda
	Eva Garcia

### III. CITIZENS INPUT – NONE

### IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of December 2, 2020

BPAC Chair Rose Gowen asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes of December 2, 2020. No corrections were noted to the minutes of December 2, 2020, Michael McNew (Vice Chair) made a motion to approve minutes as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Joel Garza (City of Brownsville) and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

#### B. Discussion on TxDOT Traffic Safety Program

Eva Garcia (RGVMPO) informed BPAC Members that the Rio Grande Valley Traffic Safety Initiative proposal included three key deliverable in the application:

- Law enforcement officers training on CRIS data, safety needs and CR-3 reporting best practices;
- Project manager (planners and engineers) training on the existing active transportation network, intersection safety hazards, and state/federal design best practices/standards;
- Distribution of printed materials/helmets/lights and a regional public service announcement videos on traffic laws and safety tips for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.

BPAC Chair Rose Gowen asked about where the printed materials would come from and if they would be “out-of-the-box” materials that speak directly to the people and be more fun/lively. Eva explained that the application requested printed materials would come from TxDOT, though the public service announcement could be more unique and fun to better inform the public. Commissioner Gowen explained that she saw it in phases with the trainings occurring first and the public education/outreach as a targeted educational campaign. Eva replied that we could still edit the timeline of the grant so the first two quarters would focus on the training with the last two quarters focused on the development and execution of the public education campaign. BPAC Vice Chair Michael McNew shared that this would be a good time to utilize social media to promote the safety campaigns.

Mr. Richard Cavin brought up the regularity of stray or unleashed dogs being a safety concern throughout the region, bringing up an example that caused him to swerve into the vehicular lane and put into danger. He asked if there was any inclusion of this safety hazard in the application, to which Ms. Garcia replied that the public service announcements could include more on this subject when the content gets further developed. Mr. McNew then advised that [Bike Law](#) is a nonprofit that does not charge for assisting with these kind of safety issues.

#### C. Discussion on Implementation of the RGVMPO Active Transportation Plan

Eva Garcia reminded the BPAC members that the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the Transit Development Plan (TDP), and the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) were all adopted at the last RGVMPO Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting held on December 10, 2020. With that update, Ms. Garcia wanted to get the ball rolling with the BPAC for implementation priorities for the region. She highlighted the three key principals and supporting goals that came from the ATP’s Chapter 3, which identified several recommendations. Eva further explained that she was working on a Microsoft Forms survey for BPAC members and was asking for feedback on how to move forward on the newly adopted regional ATP.

Mr. McNew stated that we had the most cities that had the complete streets ordinances in the state of Texas and it was good to continue pushing all cities to have the same laws/ordinances. Commissioner Gowen agreed and thought maybe we could challenge communities to find ways to retrofit areas that are developed and not designed for walkability, but how can we find alternative means or identify other routes in those areas.

#### D. RGV BikeShare Update

Juan Macias, Valley Metro, provided an update on the RGV BikeShare program. Mr. Macias reported that dock stations have been installed in Brownsville (5) and Harlingen (4). All PCs have recently been updated by BCycle headquarters. Mr. Macias shared that he has all the bicycles in Harlingen, but he is having difficulty finding inner tubes for the bikes – due to the high demand and common tube size. Chairperson Commissioner Gowen inquired about the tube size needed and advised she will inquire through her network for tubes. Mr. Macias

continued that RGV BCycle decals are being printed for the bikes. Additionally, a van for maintenance is currently on loan from Valley Metro and a trailer is being built for more efficient transportation of the bike.

**V. PROJECT UPDATES**

Eva Garcia reviewed the last meeting's project updates with maps and visual aids. Vice-Chair Michael McNew recommends asking for a Precinct 2 Trail map and would like an update on the progress. Richard Cavin shared that the trail is very popular and recommended visiting at night to see how well the lights along the trail work, and stated that bike patrol (Sheriff's Department) is present every evening between ~6pm~9pm. It was announced that the West Rail Trail project is planning a virtual public meeting, but more will be announced next month. Joel Garza shared that Phase II of the Southmost Nature Trail project is at the 90% design phase and there is hope for an August 2021 construction kick off.

Members were recommended to participate in the It's Time Texas Challenge going on from now until April.

**VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Andrew Canon advised the BPAC Members that the RGVMPPO is examining the possibility of two offices to have a footprint in both Counties and staff to serve everyone better regionally.

Recommendations were made for group rides to visit and learn from other trails/projects, but the pandemic was acknowledged, and plans will be re-evaluated after more of the community receives vaccines.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business to come before the BPAC Committee, Vice-Chair Michael McNew made a motion to adjourn meeting at 11:57 AM. The motion was seconded by Andy Vigstol (City of Harlingen), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.**