

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

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 11:00 AM

Via Microsoft Teams

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held VIA Microsoft Teams and called to order by RGVMPPO BPAC Chair Rose Gowen, at 11:03 AM.

II. ROLL CALL

RGVBPAC Representatives PRESENT:

BPAC MEMBERS:	
Entity	Individual
Bicycle / Ped Health Advocate	Rose Gowen (Chair) PRESENT
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Michael McNew (Vice Chair)
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza
	Mark Lund PRESENT
	Frank Gudino PRESENT
City of Edinburg	Larry Ayala PRESENT
City of Harlingen	Andy Vigstol PRESENT
	Javier Mendez PRESENT
City of McAllen	Marlen Garza PRESENT
	Martina Mejia
	Rosvel H
City of Pharr	Cynthia Garza
	Omar Anzaldua
	Maria Rangel
Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge	Christine Donald PRESENT
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – Estero Llano Grande	Javier De Leon PRESENT
TxDOT	Craig Wuensche PRESENT
	Joseph E. Leal PRESENT
Valley Metro – B-Cycle	
Valley Metro	Frank Jaramillo PRESENT
Bicycle World RGV	
Citizen At-Large	
Museum South Texas History	Rene A. Ballesteros PRESENT
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Richard Cavin PRESENT
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	
OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT:	Rodney Gomez, UTRGV
	Kate de Gennaro, Texas Sea Grant
STAFF	
RGVMPPO	Andrew A. Canon
	Luis Diaz
	Rudy Zamora
	Melany Rodriguez
	Gloria Banda
	Miguel Arispe
	Eva Garcia

III. CITIZENS INPUT – NONE

IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of February 3, 2021

BPAC Chair Dr. Rose Gowen asked members if they wa to the Minutes of February 3, 2021. No corrections were noted to the minutes of February 3, 2021, Javier Deleon (TPWD Estero Llano Grande) made a motion to approve minutes as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Andy Vigstol (City of Harlingen) and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Presentation and Discussion on RGVMPPO Regional Data Portal

Information was presented on the purpose of a regional data portal, which is to provide easy-to-access data critical for regional multimodal planning efforts. RGVMPPO Staff, Eva Garcia and Luis Diaz, reviewed what was recommended in the ATP, the current multimodal data, and a national example of an interactive map for public engagement.

1. [RGVMPPO Active Transportation Plan](#) recommendations to create a regional data portal that includes:
 - o regional facility inventory
 - o bicycle and pedestrian counts
 - o project tracking – include phases, funding sources, etc.
 - o pilot project locations
 - o bicycle-friendly businesses
2. [RGVMPPO U.M.A.P.](#) current multimodal data
 - o existing infrastructure layer - trails, sharrow, cycle track, and bike lanes
 - o off-street attributes data - city, trail name, length
 - o on-street attributes data - street name, direction, length, distance, type
 - o planned – Caracara Trails network
 - o other layers - city limits, colonias, food deserts, transit system
3. National Example: [Capital Trails Coalition Map\(s\)](#)
 - o types of maps – interactive, diagrammatic, and printable maps of every jurisdiction
 - o existing infrastructure – area notices, description, length, details information link and notes
 - o planned infrastructure – name, length, status, and 'learn more' link with network info
 - o [priority projects](#) – [advocacy pages](#) or 'get involved' pages

BPAC Members discussed the presented information and shared ideas to:

- Quality check the current database
- Assess what revisions are needed, potential for new shapefiles
- Cities should be responsible for giving MPO data
- Later add destinations to schools, hospitals – the more data, the better

Overall, the BPAC is interested developing guidelines for the evolution of the regional multimodal data portal that will allow municipalities to easily upload, maintain, access, and download key pedestrian and bicycle data from across the region. The BPAC will provide feedback, via survey, for proceeding with a phased development plan. No action was taken.

C. Presentation and Discussion on RGVMPPO Transit Development Plan

RGVMPPO Staff, Eva Garcia, provided BPAC members with an overview of the [RGVMPPO Transit Development Plan](#) and specifically highlighted a map existing transit services in the RGVMBAB, a visual of the regional transit travel patterns, information on route classification, market analysis and phased maps of the implementation plan. Eva also shared a map of the RGVMPPO Railroad Assets. Frank Jaramillo, ValleyMetro, further informed members that their transit services cover all 5 counties and includes a route running from Zapata to Laredo. Additionally, micro-transit services are being provided to the region through the RGV B-Cycle BikeShare and they're expanding services for persons living with a disability and the elderly. BPAC Members further discussed the interest to provide more connections between bike routes/trails to existing transit points and for data collection to count the number of transit users that mount their bikes on buses. No action was taken.

D. Presentation and Discussion on Bicycle and Pedestrian Design Best Practices

The RGVMPPO ATP explains that bicycle and pedestrian facility design standards are developed, researched, and proven recommendations that provide clear direction for developing an accessible, well-connected, and safe active transportation network throughout the Rio Grande Valley. RGVMPPO Staff, Eva Garcia, reviewed federally recognized design standards:

- [NACTO's Urban Street Design Guide](#)
- [NACTO's Urban Bikeway Design Guide](#)

- [AASHTO's Guide for Development of Bicycle Facilities](#)

Additionally, visuals were provided that offered a high-level comparison of different facility types, comfort levels, relative costs and ease of implementation. Eva shared that TxDOT BPAC is working with the Design Division to develop improved state guidance for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. BPAC members discussed the potential for a resource-sharing hub and idea to teach ourselves by developing regional design standard trainings. No action was taken.

E. Presentation and Discussion on Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA)

Eva shared that RGVMP staff was working with TxDOT staff to finalize the details for the FY2021-2022 TASA Program Call for Projects. Program Call dates and more information will be available at the April BPAC meeting. Additionally, for agencies managing TASA-funded projects, revised project schedules and cost estimates were due to TxDOT Project Management staff yesterday. Requests were sent to local project sponsors, but information on a few projects were still pending. No action was taken.

V. PROJECT UPDATES

It was announced that the West Rail Trail public input period is open until March 10, 2021 at 5pm

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration for the potential of future in-person meetings, to better network with other advocates and agency staff, was discussed. Recommendations to wait longer were also made.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the BPAC Committee, Craig Wuensche (TxDOT PHR) made a motion to adjourn meeting at 12:01 PM. The motion was seconded by Andy Vigstol (City of Harlingen), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.