

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

Wednesday, April 7, 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 Bike/Ped Program Coordinator, Eva Garcia, at 11:04 AM

**II. ROLL CALL**

**RGVBPAC Representatives PRESENT:**

<b>BPAC MEMBERS:</b>		
Entity	Individual	
Bicycle / Ped Health Advocate	Rose Gowen (Chair)	
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Michael McNew (Vice Chair)	
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza PRESENT	
	Mark Lund	
	Frank Gudino PRESENT	
City of Edinburg	Larry Ayala	
City of Harlingen	Andy Vigstol PRESENT	
	Javier Mendez	
City of McAllen	Marlen Garza PRESENT	
	Martina Mejia	
	Rosvel Hinojosa PRESENT	
City of Pharr	Cynthia Garza	
	Omar Anzaldua	
	Moises Beas PRESENT	
USFWS Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge	Christine Donald	
TPWD Estero Llano Grande State Park	Javier De Leon PRESENT	
TxDOT Pharr District	Craig Wuensche PRESENT	
	Joseph E. Leal PRESENT	
Valley Metro	Frank Jaramillo PRESENT	
Museum South Texas History	Rene A. Ballesteros PRESENT	
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Richard Cavin	
OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT:	Crystal Gonzalez, Cameron County	
	Omar Rodriguez, City of Weslaco	
	Kate de Gennaro, Texas Sea Grant	
	Rick Carrera, LRGVDC	
<b>STAFF</b>		
RGVMPPO STAFF PRESENT:	Andrew A. Canon	Eva Garcia
	Melany Rodriguez	Miguel Arispe
	Rudy Zamora	Gloria Banda
	Luis Diaz	Juan Pena
	Christopher Nelson	Javier Dominguez

**III. CITIZENS INPUT – NONE**

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

BPAC Minutes Approved  
May 5, 2021

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

Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO BikePed Program Coordinator, asked members had a chance to review the Minutes of March 3, 2021. No corrections were noted to the minutes of March 3, 2021, Andy Vigstol (City of Harlingen) made a motion to approve minutes as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Rene Ballesteros (Museum of South Texas History) and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

**B. Consideration and Action to Approve the FY2021-2022 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program Call for Projects**

Information was presented a list of projects, previously awarded TASA funds, that are currently in development. Eva Garcia informed members that a total of \$2.3M was available for the FY2021-2022 TASA Program Call for Projects. A timeline of activities for the program call was presented:

- **May** – Host FY2021-2022 TASA Program Call for Projects Workshop, *May 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30p.m.*
- **June + July** – Call for Projects opens June 1<sup>st</sup> and closes July 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00p.m.
- **August** – BPAC reviews, evaluates and scores submitted project applications for TAC consideration
- **September** – TAC and TPB will review the scored projects and take action to award projects with TASA funding
- **October** – 30-day public involvement period for November 2021 STIP Revisions (*tentative*)
- **November** – Selected projects will be included in the November 2021 STIP Revision (*tentative*)

Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO BikePed Program Coordinator asked members if they wanted to make any revisions to the timeline of activities. With no corrections needed, Rene Ballesteros (Museum of South Texas History) made a motion to approve the FY2021-2022 TASA Program Call for Projects. The motion was seconded by Javier de Leon (TPWD Estero Llano Grande SP) and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

**C. Review and Discussion on TxDOT's Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails Study**

RGVMPO Staff, Eva Garcia, provided BPAC members with an overview of [TxDOT's Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails Study](#) and specifically highlighted the resources available. No action was taken.

**D. Review and Discussion on Active Transportation Legislation**

Eva Garcia provided BPAC members with information on proposed Active Transportation Legislation:

1. [HCR 65](#) – Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails Study
2. [HB 442](#), [HB 3877](#), [SB 221](#) – Safe Neighborhood Streets
3. [HB 443](#) – Stop for Pedestrians
4. [HB 3325](#), [SB 1945](#) – Crash Not Accident
5. [SB 42](#) – Consistent, Statewide Hands-Free
6. [H.R. 5696](#), [S.684](#) Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act
7. [H.R. 463](#), [S.614](#) Transportation Alternatives Enhancements Act
8. [H.R. 1864](#) Recreational Trails Full Funding Act
9. [H.R. 1289](#), [S.425](#) Complete Streets Act of 2021
10. [H.R. 1483](#) The REHAB Act
11. [H.R. 159](#) Community Parks Revitalization Act
12. [H.R. 1678](#) Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act

No action was taken.

**E. Review and Discussion on RGV Bike/Ped Count Data Program**

Eva Garcia provided an overview on the status of the RGV Bike/Ped Count Data Program. She shared that a total of eighteen counters will be installed regionally in nine cities and eleven trails. There were some questions and discussion among members. No action was taken.

**F. Review and Discussion on the RGV Traffic Safety Initiative**

Eva Garcia informed members that the RGVMPPO's proposal was being considered for funding. Some amendments to the project's objectives were requested from the State and will be submitted by RGVMPPO Staff on April 16<sup>th</sup>. No action was taken.

**V. PROJECT UPDATES**

- The City of Brownsville is currently in the public engagement phase in the development of their Sidewalks and

- Trails Master Plan. There is a digital survey and two open houses scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- FHWA is putting on a Value Capture Webinar Series.

#### **VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Question regarding BPAC Memberships and following the bylaws.
- Native landscaping consideration with the development of the regional design standards/guidelines.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the BPAC Committee, Rene Ballesteros (Museum of South Texas History) made a motion to adjourn meeting at 11:58 AM. The motion was seconded by Andy Vigstol (City of Harlingen), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.