

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

Wednesday, May 5, 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 Commissioner Rose Gowen, Chair, at 11:00 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	
	Frank Gudino PRESENT	
City of Edinburg	Larry Ayala	
City of Harlingen	Andy Vigstol PRESENT	
	Javier Mendez PRESENT	
City of McAllen	Marlen Garza PRESENT	
	Martina Mejia	
	Rosvel Hinojosa PRESENT	
City of Pharr	Cynthia Garza	
	Omar Anzaldua PRESENT	
	Moises Beas	
USFWS Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge	Christine Donald PRESENT	
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 PRESENT	
OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT:	Kerry Irons, Adventure Cycling Association	
	Adrienne Wheatly, Carcara Trails Project	
	Omar Rodriguez, City of Weslaco	
	Kate de Gennaro, Texas Sea Grant	
	Rick Carrera, LRGVDC	
STAFF		
RGVMPO STAFF PRESENT:	Javier Dominguez	Nick Cousineau
	Melany Rodriguez	Miguel Arispe
	Rudy Zamora	Gloria Banda
	Luis Diaz	Juan Pena
	Christopher Nelson	Eva Garcia

III. CITIZENS INPUT – NONE

IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of April 7, 2021

BPAC Chair, Commissioner Gowen, as asked members had a chance to review the Minutes of March 3, 2021. No corrections were noted to the minutes of April 7, 2021, Omar Anzaldua (City of Pharr) made a motion to approve minutes with a date correction. The motion was seconded by Javier de Leon (TPWD) and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Review and discussion of RGVMPPO BPAC Membership

RGVMPO Staff reviewed the current list of Committee members as posted on the RGVMPPO Website. Eva Garcia then presented some information regarding membership composition from the BPAC's Bylaws and demonstrated a revised list of members. Per the bylaws, Eva confirmed the potential to consider more members for the Committee. Commissioner Gowen, Chair, expressed the importance of having people or a person with disabilities to avoid ableism and expand representation from different communities. Commissioner Gowen asked for a call for recommendations or suggestions. The City of Harlingen expressed they may have a contact who would be interested in joining. Joseph Leal, TxDOT Pharr Dist., recommended another interested individual. After some more discussion it was decided that Eva would email the Committee on the call for recommendations and include the BPAC Membership Form. No formal action was taken.

C. Review and Discussion of the FY2021-2022 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program Call for Projects

RGVMPO Staff reminded members of the TASA timeline of activities, announced the final date for the TASA Workshop (May 25, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams). Eva then proceeded to review the revised TASA application. She shared that she had converted the PDF version into a Microsoft Form. She explained the additional questions that were added into the application and noted other revisions. A BPAC Member asked if the scoring criteria was going to change. Eva explained that the scoring criteria previously approved by the Committee would remain the same and that the additional questions simply provided more information regarding the project. No action was taken.

D. Review and Discussion on RGV BikePed Funding Matrix – FY2021

RGVMPO Staff, Melany Rodriguez, provided BPAC members with an overview of the [RGV BikePed Funding Matrix](#). Melany explained how the Microsoft Excel document organized local, state, and federal funding opportunities. She reviewed different considerations the matrix took into consideration and asked Committee Members for feedback. No action was taken.

E. Review and Discussion on the RGV Traffic Safety Initiative

RGVMPO Staff presented to Members the revisions made to the objectives of the RGV Traffic Safety Initiative. The final four objectives are:

1. To administer 2 hybrid trainings for 50 project managers on safety strategies and project development.
2. To administer 2 hybrid trainings for 100 law enforcement officers from the RGV on traffic safety problems/goals.
3. To distribute 2,725 bike helmets throughout the RGVMPPO jurisdiction.
4. To distribute 5,000 bike lights throughout the RGVMPPO jurisdiction.

Eva further explained the activities necessary to execute the four objectives per the grant guidelines. She asked that the BPAC consider creating a subcommittee to help guide the development of the trainings and to come to a consensus on how the lights and help will be distributed. No action was taken at this time.

F. Review and Discussion on the United States Bicycle Route System (USBRS)

RGVMPO Staff gave a brief overview of the U.S. Bicycle Route System and introduced Kerry Irons with Adventure Cycling Association. Mr. Irons provided more insight to the history and status of the USBRS network. He also explained his role and the preliminary conversations that have been had with TxDOT. He made himself available for questions and opened the discussion. BPAC Member Richard Cavin brought up a re-route consideration in the Harlingen area due to changing traffic patterns that may make cycling uncomfortable as currently proposed. Eva

discussed the potential of looking at Strava data and current roadway conditions. Mr. Irons offered his assistance to make any changes to the route online, for the designation application, and recommended moving forward with official support – in the form of a letter or resolution – from all the pavement owners on USBR 55 and USBR 255. No action was taken.

V. PROJECT UPDATES

- [Bicycle Accommodation Design Guidance](#) posted on the TxDOT Bike/Ped webpage
- Looking for resources/grants/programs to get a public bike repair station at the Museum of South Texas History.

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- For June agenda: update on RGV BikeShare and Count Data Program.
- [BikeLid](#) is a product for public bike lockers at trailheads or transit park-and-ride locations.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the BPAC Committee, Javier de Leon (TPWD) made a motion to adjourn meeting at 11:53 AM. The motion was seconded by Omar Anzaldua (City of Pharr), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

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