

FULL POLICY BOARD AGENDA

POLICY BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, August 31, 2022 – 1:30 PM

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RGVMPO)

Pursuant to Chapter 551, Title 5 of the Texas Government Code, the Texas Open Meeting Act, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the RGVMPO POLICY BOARD will be held In Person at the LRGVDC Main Campus, 301 W. Railroad Street, Building B, Ken Jones Executive Board Room in Weslaco, TX.

I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

III. Public Comments – May be submitted online or may be submitted in paper form specifying the matter you wish to address.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minute(s) for:

June 29, 2022

July 27, 2022 (Meeting Canceled)

Action  Possible Action  Information

Presenter: Judge Eddie Trevino, Jr., Chairman

Item Summary: Approval of the June 29, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes will be requested.

Background: N/A

2. Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Category #7 Funding Caps – Resolution 2022-15.

Action  Possible Action  Information

Presenter : Andrew A. Canon, Executive Director

Item Summary: RGVMPO staff are presenting for consideration and possible adoption an updated resolution supporting the long-adhered policy of Category 7 funding being capped at the amounts approved by the TPB upon adoption.

Background: Category 7 funds are limited and only updated at the annual Unified Transportation Plan (UTP) adoption. With the adoption of the FY 2023 UTP it seems apparent to update the Resolution for the RGVMPO stating and identifying that Category 7 funds are capped at the amount approved by the RGVMPO, TPB at the time the project is approved as part of the Long-Range Plan which is inclusive of the 4 year TIP and 10 year UTP.



**5. Discussion and Possible Action on the RGVMPPO Self – Certification Document: An Administrative Modification**

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

**Presenter:**      **Rudy Zamora Jr., Transportation Planner II**

**Item Summary:** TXDOT Planning & Programming reached out to MPO staff requesting modifications to our self-certification. This recommendation is regarding compliance with federal regulations and staff is requesting approval of modifications made. Signatures will be required from the TXDOT District Engineer and RGVMPPO Policy Board Chairman.

**Background:** For all Metropolitan Planning Agencies, concurrent with the submittal of the entire proposed TIP to FHWA and FTA as part of the Statewide TIP approval, the State and the MPO shall certify at least every 4 years that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements. TXDOT TP&P notified all MPO's that revisions within verbiage may need addressing. RGVMPPO staff has made the necessary corrections and presented the document within the meeting packet.

**6. Discussion regarding Category 7 Funding Requests for Highway Projects**

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

**Presenter:**      **Rudy Zamora Jr., Transportation Planner II**

**Item Summary:** Prioritized projects are listed within tables combining current programming and proposed requests for Category 7 funding. The proposed programming combines annual allocation from the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) and carryover funds from FY 2022. RGVMPPO staff is seeking discussion on proposed priority project funding for the next amendment to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) & Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

**Background:** RGVMPPO staff initially received numerous, ample requests for new & additional Category 7 funding for highway projects. The requests included funding for Construction, Construction Engineering, Right of Way Acquisition, and Preliminary Engineering. Our planning partners prioritized their projects and re-submitted requests for additional Category 7 funding. The tables included within the Policy Board packet list funding requests by fiscal year, current & proposed programming, and a financial comparison of proposed programming to funding availability. The annual allocation for RGVMPPO will be added to unobligated, carryover funds from FY 2022. Programmed projects within the ten-year horizon must be fiscally constrained.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on the Adoption of the RGVMP Public Participation Plan (PPP) – Resolution 2022-17)

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Chris Nelson, Transportation Planner

**Item Summary:** RGVMP Staff has updated its Public Participation Plan. Significant updates include the addition of Starr County, which is now part of the MPO's Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB), the updating of the Title VI Complaint form, which is now in English and Spanish, and the inclusion of language solidifying the RGVMP's commitment to Virtual Public Involvement (VPI) as an additional method to receive public comments. For the public involvement process for the PPP, a link to the document and a comment card were sent out via email to all TAC members and a notice was posted on the RGVMP's social media platforms on July 14th. RGVMP Staff also contacted ten homeowner's associations, six apartment complexes, and three manufactured housing parks by July 15th for notification.

**Background:** Per the Public Participation Plan, adopted on September 25, 2022, the plan is to be reviewed and amended, if necessary, every three years. The document itself is also required to undergo a 45-day public involvement period. In order to meet this deadline, RGVMP Staff has updated the plan and it can be considered for adoption by the RGVMP's Policy Board at the August 31st, 2022, Regular Meeting. The Public Participation Plan guides the mandatory public involvement process that the MPO must undergo for the approval of certain documents, including the MTP and TIP (**Resolution 2022-17 to be presented to Policy Committee for Approval on August 31, 2022**).

8. Discussion on the RGVMP Requests for Proposal (RFP's) for FY 2022-2023

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Chris Nelson, Transportation Planner

**Item Summary:** RGVMP Staff has drafted Requests for Proposal (RFP's) for three projects: The FY 2022-2023 Corridor Study of FM509, the Performance Management Framework Development and Implementation Study, and the Comprehensive Sustainability and Resilience Analyses for MPO's. Items for the Corridor Study shall include Traffic Data and Projections, Safety Analysis, Traffic and Operational Analysis and Evaluation of Constraints and Feasibility of Implementation. For the Performance Management study, the consultant should be prepared to perform the following tasks: assessment of current scoring process and program policies, review and synthesis report of regional, state, and federal performance goals and targets, assessment of tools, data, and capacity needed for performance target development and reporting, and assessment of eligible funding categories and projects that can be submitted to the RGVMP. For the Comprehensive Sustainability and Resilience Analyses for MPO's, the consultant should be prepared to create a resulting report that will outline the methodology used to develop a scalable framework within the MTP update process that allows the MPO to leverage existing processes to analyze sustainability and resilience moving forward.

**Background:** The release date for these RFP's is scheduled for Sunday, September 4th, 2022. The anticipated award date is Thursday, December 15th, 2022. The projects are intended to be completed by the end of FY 2023. If a project extends beyond this period, it will require that the obligated funds from the FY 2022-2023 UPWP be carried over into the FY 2024-2025 UPWP.

#### 9. Discussion and Update on the RGV Traffic Safety Initiative Activities

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Chris Nelson, Transportation Planner I

**Item Summary:** RGVMPPO Staff would like to advise the Policy Board Members that bike lights and helmets are being distributed in their communities and will continue to be distributed until September 30, 2022. Currently RGVMPPO Staff is accepting registrations for:

- RGV Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Trainings
- RGV Project Manager Traffic Safety Trainings

**Background:** The RGV Traffic Safety Initiative is funded through TxDOT Traffic Safety funds. As part of the grant award, the RGVMPPO shall: 1) distribute 1,505 bike helmets throughout the RGVMPPO jurisdiction; 2) distribute 5,000 BikeTexas bike lights throughout the RGVMPPO jurisdiction; 3) to administer hybrid trainings for 100 law enforcement officers from the RGV on traffic safety problems/goals; and 4) administer hybrid trainings for 50 project managers on safety strategies and project development.

#### 10. Discussion and Possible Action on IJJA Infrastructure BIL, specifically on the Safe Streets for All Grant Program

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Javier Dominguez Jr., Transportation Planner I

**Item Summary:** Presentation is based on updates on the notice of funding opportunities for the Infrastructure BIL and the upcoming application opportunity for Safe Streets for All Grant that is due on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Background:** The US Department of Transportation has released a schedule of when the Notice of Funding Opportunities can be expected to be opened for the various program grants under the IJJA Infrastructure BIL. The RGVMPPO Staff will go over updates on these programs and discuss the Safe Street for All Grant application which has an application deadline of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

#### 11. Discussion on the Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Javier Dominguez Jr., Transportation Planner I

**Item Summary:** Presentation of TxDOT Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan that is going through its approval process with the Federal Highway Administration.

**Background:** In partnership with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the State Energy Conservation Office, TxDOT is developing an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan which lays out the next several years of EV charging station infrastructure deployment that will provide charging stations across the state. The RGVMPPO will present on a preliminary plan that includes a partnership with TxDOT and the MPO's across the state.

**V. RGVMPPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UPDATES**

Action     Possible Action     Information

**Presenter:**    **Andrew A. Canon, RGVMPPO**

**Item Summary:**    Financial Update

**Item Summary:**    **Policy Meetings November and December 2022 -**  
Staff is recommending to the Policy Board to combine the Policy meetings for (November and December) and that it be held on December 14, 2022.

**Item Summary:**    **2023 TxDOT UTP Public Comment –** Letter was mail out on behalf of Chairman – Judge Trevino to Mr. Bugg, Chairman of Tx Department of Transportation on July 25, 2022, regarding the Development of the 2023 TxDOT UTP (**See Attachment**).

**Item Summary:**    **Donna Project - TASA Update:** The RGVMPPO and TxDOT have been formally notified of the City of Donna's decision to terminate their TASA Project, the Donna Sidewalks - South International Boulevard Project (**See Attachment**).

**Item Summary:**    **2022 Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Process -** Staff will be updating the 2022 Annual Thoroughfare Plan Amendment. Staff will be requesting from LG's to submit any updated Thoroughfare/ROW Amendments by December 21, 2022. Kick-off meeting was held virtually on August 25, 2022.

**VI. STATUS REPORTS**

**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:**    **Ramon Navarro**

**D. Regional Transit Metro**

Action     Possible Action     Information

**Presenter:**    **Simon Ortiz**

**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 RGVMPPO Policy Meeting is scheduled in Person **September 28, 2022 at 1:30 PM at Ken Jones Boardroom.**