

## **AGENDA**

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, June 9, 2022 – 10:00 AM**  
**RIO GRANDE VALLEY**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RGVMPO)**

### **IN - PERSON MEETING**

- 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:**  
**May 12, 2022**

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

**Presenter:**                      **JP Terrazas, TAC Chairman**

**Item Summary:**                      Approval of the May 12, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item “A” will be requested.

**Background:**                      N/A

- 2. **Discussion and Possible Action to support the submittal of a Texas Federal Lands Access Program (TX FLAP) proposal for the design and partial construction of the Bahia Grande Trail.**

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

**Presenter:**                      **Eva Garcia, Planner III**

**Item Summary:**                      U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has offered to provide ~\$1.5 million to use as match for the full design (all ~20 miles) and partial construction (~3-5 miles) of the Bahia Grande Trail. RGVMPO Staff politely requests the support of the RGVMPO Technical Advisory Committee to submit a TX FLAP Application.

**Background:**                      The Bahia Grande Trail is approximately 20-miles long and will connect the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park (National Park Service) and the Bahia Grande Unit of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) to the South Texas Eco-Tourism Center and communities of Brownsville, Los Fresnos, Laguna Vista, and Port Isabel. By improving access to two federal land management agencies, the Bahia Grande Trail is eligible to receive funding from the Texas Federal Lands Access Program (TX FLAP). The TX FLAP recently opened their 2022 Call for Projects. Completed submissions are due August 1, 2022.

### 3. Discussion and Possible Action on Updates on the IJJA Infrastructure BIL, Specifically on Safe Streets for All Grant Program

Action       Possible Action       Information

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

**Item Summary:**      Presentation on the release of the schedule of 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 the schedule as well as dive deeper into the Safe Street for All Grant opportunity which has an application deadline of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### 4. Discussion and Possible Action of Section 5310 Applications

Action       Possible Action       Information

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

**Item Summary:**      Presentation of FTA Section 5310 program and recommended applications scored and ranked by RGVMPPO Staff.

**Background:**      The FTA Section 5310 Program aims to assist operators of public transportation, local government authorities, and private nonprofit organizations support transportation services and expand transportation mobility options for seniors and individuals with disabilities in all areas.

### 5. Discussion and Possible Action on Category 7 Funding Requests for Highway Projects

Action       Possible Action       Information

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

**Item Summary:**      A list of CAT 7 funding requests from various local governments have been included within the meeting packet. Results from the suggested meeting times & dates poll will also be shared. This is an informational item therefore no action is required at this time.

**Background:**      RGVMPPO staff received numerous requests for additional Category 7 funding for highway projects. The requests included additional funding for Construction, Construction Engineering, Right of Way Acquisition, and Preliminary engineering. A table displaying totals of these requests was presented during the Project Update workshop, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, and Transportation Policy Board meeting. RGVMPPO staff will be meeting with our region's entities to prioritize projects and requests for additional funding.

**6. Discussion on and Possible Action on the RGVMPPO Regional Complete Streets Policy Update**

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

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

**Item Summary:**                      RGVMPPO Staff has continued to engage regional stakeholders to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of existing and potential Complete Streets Policies. Staff has begun planning outreach events to engage Stakeholders and discuss the potential benefits of implementing Complete Streets Policies, to ascertain the necessary buy-in to ensure the efficacy of the policy. RGVMPPO Staff intends to complete an inventory of existing Complete Streets Policies adopted by Municipalities in the Region.

**Background:**                      Since the authorization to begin work on a Regional Complete Streets Policy by the Transportation Policy Board on February 23, 2022, RGVMPPO Staff has continued to research the Complete Streets Policies of agencies both inside and outside of the region. UPWP Amendment #2, which included an added Complete Streets subtask, allotted a total of \$120,000 in PL funds over the remainder of the two-year period towards Complete Streets planning activities, as mandated by the BIL. UPWP Amendment #2 was adopted by the Transportation Policy Board during the May 25, 2022, Regular Meeting, and is pending approval by TxDOT and FHWA.

**7. Discussion on and Possible Action on the Updated CAT 7 Scoring and Evaluation Form**

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:**                      **Luis Diaz, Assistant Director**

**Summary:**                      The RGVMPPO is presenting amendments to the current Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP 25 Year Plan) Off System Project Evaluation Form with a recommendation for replacement by the Unified Transportation Program (UTP 10 Year Plan) CAT 7 Project Evaluation Form.

**Background:**                      Through an iterative discussion, the RGVMPPO staff and TAC refined a scoring for Category 7 projects to both leverage the technical expertise embodied in the TAC and reference performance criteria and regional goals to provide a robust scoring process for vetting and promoting projects geared to contribute towards targets. This scoring process likewise provides a platform to communicate with project sponsors and decision makers about project implications. The process also investigates what conditions a proposed project is improving and asks the sponsor to reflect on why they are submitting the project being reviewed. The continuity of this process invariably will refine and improve the process by which projects are submitted for consideration as well as the projects themselves. The latest version of the RGVMPPO Off System Project Evaluation Form is reflective of 3 TAC workshops and TPB approval May 27, 2020.

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

Action       Possible Action       Information

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

**Item Summary:**      Financial Update

**Item Summary**      **RGVMPO Policy Board Retreat – Friday, June 3, 2022, Cameron County Amphitheater and Event Center - 53550 Dolphin Cove – SPI -Update**

The RGVMPO Policy Board Retreat was held on Friday, June 3rd at the Cameron County Amphitheater and Event Center. A big “Thank You” to Cameron County for providing this facility to RGVMPO.

**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:**      **Eric Davila**

**D. McAllen Metro**

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:**      **Jon Bocanegra**

**E. Brownsville Metro**

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:**      **Antonio Zubieta**

**F. Valley Metro**

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:**      **Nancy Sanchez**

**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 RGVMPO Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled “VIRTUAL” at **10:00 am on July 14, 2022.**