



RIO GRANDE VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RGVMPO BPAC Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, June 1, 2022

Join In-Person:

UTRGV Center for Innovation & Commercialization
307 E. Railroad St., Weslaco, TX

Or Virtually: [Microsoft Teams Meeting Link](#)

VOTING MEMBERS:

**COMMISSIONER DR. ROSE
GOWEN BPAC CHAIR
CARACARA TRAILS**

**MICHAEL MCNEW
BPAC VICE CHAIR
BIKE/PED CITIZEN AT-LARGE**

CITY OF BROWNSVILLE

CITY OF EDINBURG

CITY OF HARLINGEN

CITY OF McALLEN

CITY OF PHARR

CITY OF WESLACO

TxDOT (PHARR DISTRICT)

VALLEY METRO

TPWD ESTERO LLANO GRANDE
STATE PARK

USFWS SANTA ANA NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

VALLEY OFF-ROAD BICYCLING
ASSOCIATION

RENE A. BALLESTEROS

RICHARD CAVIN

ANA ADAME

EUDENIA "EUDY" CARRILLO

MICHAEL PADGETT

RGVMPO STAFF:
EVA LIZETTE GARCIA
PLANNER III: BIKE-PED
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. CITIZENS INPUT/PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. PRESENTATION, ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of April 6, 2022

B. Consideration and Action to support a Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) project proposal for the Bahia Grande Trail

C. Consideration and Action regarding the RGV Active Transportation Facility Inventory

D. Consideration and Action regarding the RGV Traffic Safety Initiative

E. Presentation and Discussion regarding Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program Updates

V. PROJECT UPDATES

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 11:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held in-person* at the UTRGV Center for Innovation & Commercialization, and virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by Eva Garcia, Planner III: BikePed Program Coordinator, at 11:01 A.M.

II. ROLL CALL

RGVBPAC Representatives **PRESENT:**

Organization/Agency	Voting Membership	Alternate Voting Member
Caracara Trails	<i>Chair Commissioner Dr. Rose Gowen</i>	
At-Large	<i>Vice-Chair Michael McNew*</i>	
City of Brownsville	Frank Gudino	<i>Joel Garza</i>
City of Edinburg	Larry Ayala*	<i>Valentin Sanchez</i>
City of Harlingen	<i>Andy Vigstol</i>	Javier Mendez
City of McAllen	<i>Marlen Garza</i>	Rosvel Hinojosa
City of Pharr	<i>Omar Anzaldua</i>	Maria Rangel
City of Weslaco	Omar Rodriguez	<i>Rebecca de la Fuente</i>
TxDOT Pharr District	Joseph Leal	Craig Wuensche
VORBA	David Hernandez	
Museum of South Texas History	<i>Rene A. Ballesteros</i>	
Bicycle World RGV	Ana Adame	
TPWD Estero Llano Grande SP	<i>Javier de Leon</i>	<i>Kelly Malkowski</i>
USFWS Santa Ana NWR	<i>Christine Donald</i>	<i>Imer de la Garza</i>
At-Large	<i>Eudenia "Eudy" Carrillo</i>	
At-Large	<i>Richard Cavin</i>	
At-Large	<i>Michael Padgett*</i>	

Other Attendees:

- Rodney Gomez, UTRGV
- Horacio Garza, RGV BCycle
- Alberto Espinoza, VBLF
- Octavio Salazar, City of Brownsville
- Sarah Dierlam, LRGVDC
- Jim Carillo, TTAT Conf.

RGVMPO Staff:

- Luis Diaz, Assistant Director
- Melany Rodriguez, Planner I
- Nick Cousineau, GIS Specialist I
- Juan Pena, GIS Specialist I
- Miguel Arispe, GIS Specialist II
- Eva Garcia, Planner III Bike/Ped Program Coordinator

III. CITIZENS INPUT – NONE.

IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

• **Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of March 2, 2022**

Eva Garcia, RGVMPO BikePed Program Coordinator, presented the Minutes of March 2, 2022. BPAC Member Javier Mendez (City of Harlingen) made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 2, 2022. The motion was seconded by David Hernandez (VORBA) and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

• **Presentation and Discussion regarding Federal Funding Opportunities**

Eva Garcia, presented apportioned program changes and new federal funding opportunities/program. Eva advised BPAC members that there is potential to develop/propose a regional multimodal project application for next year's program call(s). Additionally, Eva encouraged members to consider eligible project, the needs of the project(s), and potential match sources. Presentation highlights include:

- The RGVMPO has been apportioned \$7.5 million, significantly higher than before.
- The RAISE grant has an award minimum of \$5 million, up-to \$25 million for eligible projects.

RGVMPO BPAC Members discussed potential regional projects to consider for a potential future application.

- An East-West connection – potentially from Harlingen/San Benito to San Juan/Sullivan City
- Consider an abandoned railway from Santa Rosa to Edinburg on the northside of the RGV
- Recommendation was made to vet the proposed routes of the LRGV Active Plan/Caracara Trails
- Leverage the Hidalgo Co. Mobility Plan to do vet routes in the Hidalgo County area

No action was taken.

• **Presentation and Discussion on the Quarterly RGV BCycle Program**

Horacio Garza, RGV BCycle Coordinator, presented an update regarding the regional bikeshare program:

- January, February, and March 2022 kiosk sales were shown
- A new system was incorporated for the bikeshare stations in Brownsville in Harlingen
- Pending 3 systems in McAllen to be updated and returned – shipping causing delays
- Signage is placed at the stations informing users about the temporary closure for system updates
- Update improves visibility of the screen/agreements to the users to reduce confusion
- Review of the customer complaints that have been received and how they were addressed

Horacio reported that from May 21, 2021 (expansion launch) to March 18, 2022 a total of 2,989 memberships were purchased, generating a total of \$7,579 in membership sales. The average price paid for membership was \$2.54, with memberships being paid with promo codes.

The top 12 performing kiosks in the RGV BCycle bikeshare program reflected 867 total trips. The duration of these trips total 50,515 minutes, with the average duration of a trip being 55.42 minutes. A total of 5,943 miles were covered through these trips, with the average trip distance of 6.725 miles.

No action was taken.

• **Presentation and Discussion on the Quarterly RGV Bicycle and Pedestrian Counter Data Program**

Eva Garcia presented the update of the regional bike/ped count data program on behalf of Chris Nelson:

- Review of the TxDOT Bike/Ped Count Exchange Program (BP|CX).
- Discuss accessing counter data and cumulative statistics.
- Consider next steps for future counter data.

Eva reported that bike/ped count data is available from counter installation date (Fall 2021) through March 8, 2022 on the TxDOT BP|CX website. A graph from Eco-Visio was shared with the Committee. The fourth quarter of calendar year 2021 saw a total average daily count of 2,413 across the regional program, while the first quarter of calendar year 2022 saw a total average daily count of 1,873.

No action was taken.

- **Consideration and Action regarding the RGV Active Transportation Facility Inventory**

Eva Garcia presented an update on regional active transportation facility inventory with Nick Cousineau:

- Review draft RGV Active Transportation webmap of existing facilities and current data.
- Discuss the attribute tables related to the data in the initial facilities inventory dataset.
- Consider the need and process for quality checking the data in the draft webmap.

Eva reported what the active transportation facility data currently looked like, highlighting areas where data was needing to be gathered/collected and other areas where data existed but clarification/revisions could be made. The process of quality checking the RGV AT Facilities Inventory was described as:

- Using an excel sheet of the attribute tables/datasets, go through your organization's active transportation facilities.
- Confirm/correct/add data to each facility by editing the excel sheet directly.
- Use the 'Notes' or 'Comments' columns to include any questions or clarify information, if needed.
- Email your Quality Checked document to Nick Cousineau or Eva Garcia.

Nick added that once the facility inventory is complete there could be a variety of different types of analysis that could be completed for planning purposes. Additionally, a comprehensive inventory of the hike and bike network can be paired with the RGV BikePed Count Data Program and used for grant writing narratives. Eva explained that ultimately the RGV MPO is working to develop a dataset that works for everyone and is consistent throughout the region. Lastly, Eva shared the Facility Inventory Update Form that should be used for:

- Missing facilities in the inventory.
- Recently constructed or added facilities.
- Changes/updates to existing facilities.

Staff recommends attaching a map or other visual of the 'new' route. If one is not available, Staff will contact for confirmation of the facility location/data prior to adding to the webmap.

No action was taken.

- **Consideration and Action regarding the RGV MPO BPAC Membership**

Eva Garcia once again reviewed the RGV MPO BPAC Bylaws and highlighted:

- Public Agency Members shall serve a two-year term to allow for other public agency staff from other entities a chance to participate.
- Public Agency Members may not serve consecutive terms unless other entities do not wish to participate.
- Non-Public Agency Staff may choose to serve either a one-year or two-year term, with no restrictions regarding consecutive terms.
- Voting members will be in ex-officio status after missing three (3) consecutive meetings. Members with ex-officio status wishing to regain voting privileges must attend three (3) meetings before voting privileges are reinstated for the remainder of their term.

Eva shared that most of the BPAC members were reaching the end of their term (began April 2020) except for:

- **City of Weslaco** – term began August 2021; **term ends August 2023**
- Valley Off Road Bicycling Association – term began November 2021;

Eva shared that she had not revised the membership application to reflect changes at the MPO and clarify membership bylaws. A BPAC Member recommended having staggered terms or rolling appointments.

No action was taken.

V. PROJECT UPDATES

- Due to the meeting running late, no project updates were given.

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

- Texas Active Transportation Plan Inventory – Eva shared that she would be uploading plans from the region.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Crag Wuensche (TxDOT) made a motion to adjourn meeting at 12:07 P.M. The motion was seconded by David Hernandez (VORBA), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.



May 2, 2022

12300 West Dakota Avenue
Suite 380B
Lakewood, CO 80228

To:

Federal Land Management Agencies
Texas DOT
State Agencies
Regional, County, and Local Governments
Tribal Governments

Request for Project Applications Texas Federal Lands Access Program

The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) presents an exciting opportunity for improvements to state, county, tribal, and local government owned or maintained transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within federal lands.

The Texas Programming Decisions Committee (PDC) is currently soliciting project applications to develop the federal fiscal year 2024 to 2026 program of transportation projects. The total estimated federal program funding availability for Texas is between \$9.0 - \$11.0 million.

Deadline for submittals: August 1, 2022

Link to Project Application: <https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs-access/tx>

Eligibility

- Any public transportation facility that is owned or maintained by any state, county, local government, or tribe and that provides access to federal lands.
- The project proposes improvement to any public highway, road, bridge, trail or transit system located on or adjacent to federal lands, typically no farther than 10 miles away.
 - Federal lands are lands in the United States owned by the federal government. Land leased to a Federal Land Management Agency is not eligible
 - Tribal roads maintained by the tribe are eligible, but the roadway must access federal lands other than tribal (i.e. a NPS, FWS site, etc.).
- No local match requirement
- Confirm support from the Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) site accessed by the project.
- Must meet the project eligibility under U.S.C. Title 23 such as:
 - Rehabilitation / Restoration / Construction / Reconstruction Projects
 - Engineering and Environmental Compliance
 - Operation & Maintenance of Transit Facilities
 - Planning & Research related to Transportation

Project Preference

Per legislation, preference must be given to transportation facilities providing access to federal high-use recreation sites and economic generators.

Applicant Information Webinar

This webinar is not mandatory but prospective applicants are encouraged to attend. A recording of the webinar will be available at the state's FLAP website.

Information for live webinar:

- Date: June 1st, 2022
- Time: 2:30 – 4:00 Central Time
- Join Zoom Meeting
[Zoom Video Link](#)
Meeting ID: 161 327 5417
Passcode: 486964
Telephone (Audio Only): 669 254 5252

Texas Programming Decisions Committee (PDC):

- Jill Locken, Federal Lands Access Program Manager, FHWA
- Jessica Butler, Texas Department of Transportation
- Judge Sydney Murphy, Polk County Judge

Program Contact Information:

Questions about the application process or the Federal Lands Access Program can be directed to:

- Jeff Sanders, FHWA-CFLHD Transportation Planner, (720) 963-3329, jeffrey.sanders@dot.gov

Federal Land Management Agency Specific Contacts:

Agency	Name	Email
National Park Service	Sena Wiley	Sena_Wiley@nps.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Bruce Hickson	bruce_hickson@fws.gov
U.S. Forest Service	Paul Morgan	paul.a.morgan@usda.gov
Bureau of Land Management	Alex Kwan	akwan@blm.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Jeff Boutwell	Jeff.T.Boutwell@usace.army.mil
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Cody McCrackin	cmccrackin@usbr.gov
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Tom Simpson	Tom.Simpson@bia.gov

Tentative Schedule*:

Phase	Applicant Action Items
<p>Call for Projects Open for Submittals: <i>May 2022-August 2022</i></p>	<p>Prepare and submit applications. Coordinate with FLMA sponsor. See checklist at https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs-access/tx to ensure submittal includes all required forms and supporting materials.</p> <p>Final Date to Submit: August 1, 2022</p>
<p>PDC & FLMA Review of Application: <i>Fall 2022</i></p>	<p>Respond to requests from PDC for additional clarification to assist in review.</p>
<p>Project Selection & Applicant Notification: <i>Fall 2022</i></p>	<p>Applicant is notified of selection or non-selection. Shortlisted applicants execute a Memorandum of Agreement for project scoping effort.</p>
<p>Scoping of Short-listed Projects: <i>Winter 2022-Summer 2023</i></p>	<p>Engage with FHWA-CFLHD in scoping, including providing requested documents and information. Typically, a site visit and meetings will occur.</p>
<p>Final Program Decisions: <i>Fall 2023</i></p>	<p>Following scoping, the PDC will make a final program decision. Selected applicants will receive a notification letter that the project was accepted into the final program of projects. CFL will prepare a Memorandum of Agreement for the applicant’s signature.</p>
<p>Project Implementation <i>Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Clearance 2023 and beyond Construction 2024 – 2026</i></p>	<p>Assign project representative to coordinate with FHWA-CFLHD throughout project.</p>

* All dates except the Call for Projects Final Date to Submit are approximate. See website for updates.

How do I submit a project application?

1. Complete the Texas Federal Lands Access Program Application found at <https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs-access/tx>.
2. Obtain endorsement from the appropriate Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA)
3. Send your completed project application via E-Mail to cfl.planning@dot.gov

Attachments:

Frequently Asked Questions