

**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:

BPAC Minutes Approved
June 1, 2022

- 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, RGVMPPO 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 RGVMPPO 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.

RGVMPPO 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.